

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 472 Session of  
2023

INTRODUCED BY BRIGGS, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, SCHLOSSBERG, GUENST,  
SANCHEZ, ZIMMERMAN, JAMES, D. WILLIAMS, KINKEAD, GALLOWAY,  
N. NELSON, CERRATO, KINSEY AND FLEMING, MARCH 16, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 16, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for mental health education.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
11 section to read:

12 Section 1512.2. Mental Health Education.--Each school under  
13 the jurisdiction of the Department of Education shall  
14 incorporate mental health education into public education  
15 curricula to ensure that the school's health education programs  
16 recognize the multiple dimensions of health by including mental  
17 health in the relation of physical health to enhance student  
18 understanding, establish parity between physical and mental  
19 health and eliminate the stigma surrounding mental health. The

1 board of school directors of each school district shall  
2 establish a mental health education curriculum to be integrated  
3 within each primary and secondary school's existing health and  
4 wellness curriculum. In establishing the curriculum, a school  
5 district may consult a mental health organization to establish  
6 age-appropriate material to be taught in mental health  
7 education.

8       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.