

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2376 Session of  
1996

INTRODUCED BY SCHULER, COY, TULLI, SATHER, EGOLF, ADOLPH AND  
YOUNGBLOOD, FEBRUARY 6, 1996

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 6, 1996

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," further providing for continuing  
6 professional development and renewability of certain  
7 professional certification.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1205.1 of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is  
12 repealed.

13 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

14 Section 1205.2. Continuing Professional Development and  
15 Renewable Certification.--(a) Each school entity shall submit  
16 to the Secretary of Education for approval a continuing  
17 professional development plan in accordance with this section.  
18 The plan shall be submitted with the strategic plan of the  
19 school entity as provided in this act and in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 5  
20 (relating to curriculum). The Secretary of Education shall

establish a schedule for intermediate units to file a professional development plan and shall specify the form in which professional development plans are to be submitted.

(1) A school entity shall develop a continuing professional development plan which shall include options for professional development including, but not limited to, activities such as the following:

(i) Graduate level coursework.

(ii) Obtaining a professionally related Master's Degree.

(iii) Department-approved in-service courses.

(iv) Curriculum development work and other program design and delivery activities.

(v) Participation in professional conferences and workshops.

(vi) Supervised peer observations of or consultations with other professional employees.

(2) The continuing professional development plan shall define terms used including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) Professionally related graduate level coursework.

(ii) Professionally related Master's Degree.

(iii) Curriculum development work and other program design and delivery activities.

(iv) Professional conferences.

(v) Supervised peer observations of or consultations with other professional employees.

(3) A continuing professional development planning committee shall be appointed by the board of a school entity. The plan shall be developed by the teachers and administrators of the school entity, parents with children attending a school in the district and individuals from the community. The plan shall describe the persons who developed the plan and how the persons

1 were selected.

2 (4) The continuing professional development plan submitted  
3 to the Secretary of Education shall be recommended by the  
4 continuing professional development planning committee and  
5 approved by the board of the school entity.

6 (5) The continuing professional development plan shall  
7 include a section which describes how the professional  
8 development plan meets the educational and staff development  
9 needs of the school entity, its professional employees, the  
10 students and the community. Each school entity shall review its  
11 plan to determine that it continues to reflect the needs of the  
12 school entity, its professional employees, the students and the  
13 community and amend the plan as necessary.

14 (b) Professional personnel, obtaining an Instructional II,  
15 Educational Specialist II, Supervisory, Vocational  
16 Administrative Director, Administrative Certificate or Letter of  
17 Eligibility on or after June 1, 1997, shall, thereafter, present  
18 to the Secretary of Education evidence of satisfactory  
19 participation in continuing professional development every five  
20 (5) years. This section will be satisfied by completing any of  
21 the following or a combination thereof:

22 (1) Twelve (12) credits of collegiate studies in the areas  
23 of assignment and certification.

24 (2) Twelve (12) credits of department-approved in-service  
25 courses in the areas of assignment and certification.

26 (3) Three hundred and sixty (360) hours of department-  
27 approved continuing professional development activities and  
28 experiences which may include: curriculum development work,  
29 program design and delivery activities and professional  
30 conferences and workshops.

Evidence of completion of these requirements shall be made at such time and in such form as the Secretary of Education may require.

(c) All professional employees of a school entity receiving their initial Pennsylvania teaching or administrative certification, as provided for in Article XI of this act, prior to June 1, 1997, shall be required at least once during every five (5) year period, commencing upon receipt of a permanent teaching certificate or initial administrative certificate, to participate in professional development activity pursuant to the professional development plan of that professional employee's school entity. A professional employee who obtains a professionally related Master's Degree shall be deemed to have complied permanently with the provisions of this subsection. The chief school administrator of every school entity shall certify annually to the Secretary of Education the names of professional employees and the professional development activities in which these employees have participated. The certification shall be made at such time and in such form as the Secretary of Education may require.

(d) The certificates of professional personnel or employees with a letter of eligibility who fail to comply with the continuing professional development plan under subsection (a) or those who fail to complete the requirements under subsection (b) or (c) shall be inactive until all requirements are met.

(e) The Secretary of Education shall establish a procedure for granting an extension to fulfill the requirements of subsection (b) or (c) due to extenuating circumstances for the holder of the certificate.

(f) School districts that employ professional personnel or

1 commissioned officers with inactive certificates or commissions  
2 are subject to penalties provided for under section 2518 of this  
3 act.

4 (g) All activities and experiences approved to meet  
5 requirements for continuing professional development shall meet  
6 the following standards:

7 (1) Having significant intellectual and practical content,  
8 the primary objective of which is to improve the participant's  
9 professional competence.

10 (2) Be organized and led by persons qualified with the  
11 practical or academic experience necessary to conduct the  
12 activity or experience effectively.

13 (3) Be approved as professional activities and experience by  
14 the continuing professional development committee of the school  
15 entity.

16 (h) A school entity may provide joint or cooperative  
17 professional development activities with another school entity  
18 or an institution of higher education.

19 (i) As used in this section, the term "school entity" shall  
20 mean a school district, joint school district, intermediate unit  
21 or area vocational-technical school.

22 Section 3. Nothing contained in the amendment of section  
23 1205.1 of the act shall supersede or preempt any provisions of a  
24 collective bargaining agreement, negotiated by a school entity  
25 and the employee organization, that is in effect on the  
26 effective date of this section. For the purpose of this section,  
27 a "school entity" shall mean a school district, joint school  
28 district, intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school.

29 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.