

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 609 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY KIRKLAND, WATERS, THOMAS, BELFANTI, COY, CRUZ,
FLICK, HORSEY, JAMES, STURLA, TIGUE AND YOUNGBLOOD,
MARCH 3, 2003

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 3, 2003

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," providing for technology training for
6 professional employees; and making an appropriation.

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

10 ARTICLE XII-B.

11 TECHNOLOGY TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES

12 Section 1201-B. Establishment of program.

13 The Technology Training for Professional Employees Program is
14 established in the Department of Education. The program shall
15 provide grants to school districts and charter schools to help
16 build technology skills of professional employees, as defined by
17 section 1101, throughout Pennsylvania. The program shall
18 emphasize teaching technology skills to professional employees
19 that will assist them in providing an enhanced learning

1 environment for children.

2 Section 1202-B. Eligibility requirements.

3 (a) Eligible school districts and charter schools.--Any
4 school district receiving basic education funding through the
5 General Appropriation Act of the prior fiscal year or charter
6 school approved by the Department of Education in this
7 Commonwealth shall be eligible, upon application, to participate
8 in the Technology Training for Professional Employees Program.

9 (b) Application.--The Department of Education shall
10 establish an annual application procedure through which eligible
11 school districts or charter schools may apply on an annual basis
12 for grants established under this article.

13 (c) Reapplication.--Any eligible school district or charter
14 school may reapply for Technology Training for Professional
15 Employees program grants each fiscal year.

16 Section 1203-B. Program requirements.

17 (a) Eligible school districts and charter schools.--Eligible
18 school districts and charter schools may apply for grants as
19 prescribed by the application procedure established by the
20 Department of Education. The application must contain the
21 following:

22 (1) A proposal that explains how the school district or
23 charter school will utilize funding received from the
24 Technology Training for Professional Employees Program.

25 (2) Identification of professional employees with the
26 greatest need for enhancement of technology skills.

27 (3) Methods of current technology skills training or
28 enhancement for professional employees.

29 (4) Plan for integration of current methods of
30 technology skills training for professional employees.

1 (5) A multi-year plan that shows how the school district
2 or charter school will assume full financial and programmatic
3 responsibility for the Technology Training for Professional
4 Employees program at the conclusion of the grant period.

5 (6) The estimated budget for each specific program
6 activity.

7 Section 1204-B. Criteria for awarding grants.

8 Grants established and funded under this article shall be
9 awarded to eligible school districts or charter schools
10 complying with the application procedure and program
11 requirements according to the formula established under the
12 Federal Schools and Libraries Universal Service Fund, popularly
13 known as the "E-Rate," created as part of the Telecommunications
14 Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat. 56).

15 Section 1205-B. Technical assistance and monitoring.

16 The Department of Education shall provide technical
17 assistance and establish methods to ensure the quality of the
18 program receiving a grant, including program monitoring and
19 onsite visitation.

20 Section 1206-B. Reports.

21 (a) Program and fiscal reports.--A school district or
22 charter school participating in the Technology Training for
23 Professional Employees program shall provide program and fiscal
24 reports as required by the Department of Education.

25 (b) Submission of reports.--The Department of Education
26 shall submit a report on the status of the Technology Training
27 for Professional Employees program by December 31 of each year
28 to the chairman and the minority chairman of the Education
29 Committee of the Senate and the chairman and the minority
30 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of

1 Representatives.

2 Section 1207-B. Funding.

3 For fiscal year 2003-2004, the sum of \$10,000,000 is
4 appropriated to the Technology Training for Professional
5 Employees Program, as established by this act. The General
6 Assembly shall annually include in the appropriation to the
7 Department of Education in the General Appropriation Act an
8 appropriation from the General Fund in an amount sufficient to
9 make grants pursuant to this act.

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