

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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# HOUSE BILL

## No. 1021

Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY LONGIETTI, ROEBUCK, BIANCUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,  
CURRY, DePASQUALE, EACHUS, FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GEORGE,  
GRUCELA, HORNAMAN, W. KELLER, KORTZ, LEACH, MANDERINO, MANN,  
MYERS, PETRARCA, McILVAINE SMITH, STURLA, SURRA, THOMAS,  
WANSACZ, YOUNGBLOOD, JAMES, McGEEHAN, HARKINS, GIBBONS AND  
SIPTROTH, APRIL 5, 2007

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AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, JUNE 20, 2007

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## 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," establishing the Common Cents  
6 Program.

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 an  
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE VIII-A

13 COMMON CENTS PROGRAM

14 Section 801-A. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
2 Commonwealth.

3 "INTERMEDIATE UNIT COUNCIL." A COUNCIL AS ESTABLISHED UNDER <—  
4 SECTION 916-A.

5 "Participating intermediate unit." An intermediate unit that  
6 has been selected to participate in the program.

7 "Participating school district." A school district that has  
8 agreed to participate in the program.

9 "Program." The Common Cents Program established under this  
10 article.

11 Section 802-A. Establishment.

12 There is established in the department the Common Cents  
13 Program. The purpose of the program shall be to encourage school  
14 districts to share services with one another in order to  
15 increase the efficient use of taxpayer resources and improve  
16 service delivery for students.

17 Section 803-A. Application.

18 (a) Decision.--At a meeting of each intermediate unit  
19 council held before ~~September~~ OCTOBER 1 of each year, the school <—  
20 districts within each intermediate unit shall decide by majority  
21 vote whether the intermediate unit shall apply to participate in  
22 this program on their behalf. Two intermediate units may apply  
23 jointly if the school districts contained within the  
24 intermediate units agree, but an intermediate unit may not apply  
25 to participate in the program more than once in each fiscal  
26 year.

27 (b) Submittal.--Applications shall be submitted to the  
28 department by ~~October~~ NOVEMBER 1 of each year. Applications <—  
29 shall be submitted on a form and in a manner as is required by  
30 the department. Each application shall include a resolution by

the board of school directors of each school district setting forth its agreement to participate in the study and certifying that it will comply with the requirements of section 807-A.

Section 804-A. Selection.

(a) Competitive basis.--Participating intermediate units will be selected on a competitive basis at the discretion of the department.

(b) Preference.--Preference for participation shall be given to applications that include all of the school districts in an intermediate unit and to joint intermediate unit applications.

(c) Regional diversity.--Participating intermediate units will be selected so as to ensure regional diversity throughout this Commonwealth.

Section 805-A. Contract with consultant.

(a) Consultation services.--The department shall enter into a contract to obtain consultant services to conduct a study of specific services or activities across school districts participating in the program and to make recommendations about combining services and activities across school districts within each participating intermediate unit in order to promote improved service delivery, efficiency and economy of operation. The scope of consultant services shall include the creation of the implementation plan referenced under section 807-A(d). The study recommendations shall include all of the following:

(1) Transportation.

(2) Food services and nutrition.

(3) Instructional services.

(4) Safety and security.

(5) Health services.

(6) Purchasing.

1           (7) Finance and payroll.

2           (8) Facilities and real estate.

3           (9) Human resources.

4           (10) Technology services.

5           (11) Administration.

6       (b) Nature of recommendations.--Recommendations of the study  
7 shall not be binding upon any participating school district.

8       (c) Scope of recommendations.--Recommendations of the study  
9 may include sharing of services or activities with a  
10 municipality.

11 Section 806-A. Advisory panel.

12       (a) Appointment.--The department shall appoint an advisory  
13 panel to review this act to determine whether any provisions of  
14 this act would be barriers to consolidating the services listed  
15 under section 805-A(a). The advisory panel shall report the  
16 results of its review to the Governor, the chairmen and minority  
17 chairmen of the Appropriations Committee and the Education  
18 Committee of the Senate and the chairmen and minority chairmen  
19 of the Appropriations Committee and the Education Committee of  
20 the House of Representatives no later than six months after the  
21 effective date of this section.

22       (b) Composition.--The advisory panel shall consist of at  
23 least two of each of the following:

24           (1) A school district superintendent.

25           (2) A school district business manager.

26           (3) A school board member.

27           (4) An intermediate unit administrator.

28           (5) A teacher.

29           (6) A consultant with experience in organizational  
30 management and gaining efficiencies within and across

1     organizations.

2     Section 807-A. Duties of intermediate units and school  
3                     districts.

4     (a) Participation in study.--Participating school districts  
5     and intermediate units shall do all of the following:

6             (1) Cooperate with the consultant during the conduct of  
7     the study.

8             (2) Provide data and information requested by the  
9     consultant if the disclosure is consistent with Federal or  
10    State laws protecting the confidentiality of certain  
11    information.

12            (3) Make staff available to be interviewed.

13    (b) Meetings.--Upon receipt of the consultant report, each  
14    school district that participated in the study shall hold no  
15    fewer than one public meeting to present the consultant's  
16    recommendations and seek public input. Each school district  
17    shall post the consultant report on its Internet website for at  
18    least 30 days and shall announce the date of the public meeting  
19    at the immediately prior public meeting of the board of school  
20    directors.

21    (c) Pursuit of recommendations.--Within six months of the  
22    receipt of the consultant report, the board of school directors  
23    shall vote separately on whether to pursue each recommendation  
24    contained in the consultant report. The board shall forward the  
25    results of each resolution to the intermediate unit and the  
26    department.

27    (d) Review.--At the intermediate unit council meeting that  
28    immediately follows the voting of each board of school directors  
29    of the school district, the intermediate unit council shall  
30    review the resolutions of each board of school directors and

1 shall request in writing that the consultant create a plan for  
2 the implementation of any recommendations approved by the school  
3 districts, regardless of whether the recommendation was approved  
4 by all of the school districts in the intermediate unit. The  
5 implementation plan may include a list of potential vendors for  
6 each of the services to be provided, INCLUDING THE INTERMEDIATE <—  
7 UNIT, but the consultant may not recommend a single vendor. Only  
8 those school districts approving the recommendation shall be  
9 part of the implementation plan. The intermediate unit council  
10 shall forward the implementation plan to the school districts.

11 (e) Cost savings.--Cost savings resulting from  
12 implementation of the consultant recommendations shall be spent  
13 for academic purposes in the schools of the school district,  
14 after deducting any one-time expenditures required for the  
15 implementation of the recommendations. Academic purposes include  
16 professional development, student supplies, textbooks, classroom  
17 technology, school safety, improvement of classroom facilities  
18 or any other instructional activity directly affecting student  
19 performance or the learning environment.

20 (f) Report.--Participating intermediate units and school  
21 districts shall report to the department in the form and at the  
22 times as determined by the department.

23 Section 808-A. Duties of department.

24 (a) Contract.--The department shall enter into a contract  
25 for consulting services as provided in section 805-A.

26 (b) Guidelines and forms.--The department shall establish  
27 guidelines and develop forms as are necessary for the proper  
28 implementation of the grant program.

29 (c) Results.--The department shall publish on its Internet  
30 website the results of each study conducted through the program

1 and any implementation plans.

2 (d) Report.--The department shall submit an annual report on  
3 the program to the chairman and minority chairman of the  
4 Appropriations Committee and the chairman and minority chairman  
5 of the Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and  
6 minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee and the  
7 chairman and minority chairman of the Education Committee of the  
8 House of Representatives.

9 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, or  
10 immediately, whichever is later.