

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1695 Session of 2007

INTRODUCED BY MYERS, WALKO, PARKER, BELFANTI, GOODMAN, HERSHEY, YOUNGBLOOD, ARGALL, BRENNAN, HORNAMAN, MCGEEHAN, BLACKWELL, ROEBUCK, COHEN, JOSEPHS, THOMAS, REICHLLEY, SWANGER, ROHRER, BISHOP, FRANKEL, SCHRODER, K. SMITH, HENNESSEY AND SIPTROTH, JULY 6, 2007

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, NOVEMBER 13, 2007

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 required parental  
6 notification of certain incidents.

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 1314-A. Parental Notification.--(a) All school  
13 entities shall adopt a policy and procedures for notification,  
14 in a timely manner, of all parents, guardians or custodial  
15 parents of students involved in all incidents involving acts of <—  
16 violence or possession of a weapon on school property, behavior  
17 issues and nonviolent injuries, those occurring as a result of  
18 sports participation or on the playground. PARENTS OF STUDENTS <—

1 INVOLVED IN INCIDENTS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED IN THE  
2 SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND OF STUDENTS  
3 WHO INCUR OTHER SERIOUS INJURIES ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, ON THE  
4 SCHOOL BUS OR AT A SCHOOL ACTIVITY.

5 (b) Parents, guardians or custodial parents of students are  
6 defined for purposes of this section as parents ~~or guardians,~~ <—  
7 GUARDIANS OR CUSTODIAL PARENTS of students that are either  
8 perpetrators or victims of incidents involving acts of violence, <—  
9 possession of a weapon on school property, behavior issues and  
10 nonviolent injuries, those occurring as a result of sports  
11 participation or on the playground.

12 (c) ~~The method of parental notification shall include, but~~  
13 ~~not be limited to, telephone calls, e mails and certified mail.~~

14 (d) ~~A parental, guardian and custodial parent information~~  
15 ~~card must be maintained and updated every six (6) months. A~~  
16 ~~photograph of parent(s)/custodian must be on file along with~~  
17 ~~their respective signatures.~~

18 (e) ~~A biannual staff training on parental notification~~  
19 ~~procedures shall be conducted. Each member of the staff must~~  
20 ~~sign acknowledgment that evidences completion of the required~~  
21 ~~training.~~

22 (f) ~~All schools must report all incidents on a monthly basis~~  
23 ~~to their respective school districts. All school districts must~~  
24 ~~complete and forward monthly incident reports to the Department~~  
25 ~~of Education of the Commonwealth. WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE <—~~  
26 REPORTED IN THE SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT  
27 AND ANY OTHER INJURIES OCCURRING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, THE SCHOOL  
28 BUS OR AT A SCHOOL ACTIVITY.

29 (C) PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR CUSTODIAL PARENTS MAY BE NOTIFIED  
30 IN PERSON, BY TELEPHONE, BY E-MAIL, BY TEXT MESSAGES OR BY

1 CERTIFIED MAIL. SCHOOL ENTITIES SHALL MAKE A REASONABLE EFFORT  
2 TO NOTIFY A PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAL PARENT IN THE  
3 PREFERRED MANNER INDICATED ON THE CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE  
4 PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAL PARENT. THE PREFERRED METHOD OF  
5 NOTIFICATION MUST BE DOCUMENTED. IN THE EVENT OF A SCHOOL OR  
6 DISTRICT-WIDE EMERGENCY, THE SCHOOL ENTITY MAY USE ALTERNATIVE  
7 METHODS TO NOTIFY PARENTS, GUARDIANS OR CUSTODIAL PARENTS.

8 (D) SCHOOL ENTITIES MUST MAINTAIN CURRENT CONTACT  
9 INFORMATION FOR EACH PARENT, GUARDIAN OR CUSTODIAL PARENT. THE  
10 CONTACT INFORMATION MUST ALLOW PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CUSTODIAL  
11 PARENTS TO IDENTIFY A PREFERRED METHOD OF CONTACT IN THE EVENT  
12 THAT PARENTAL NOTIFICATION IS REQUIRED.

13 (E) EACH SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE TRAINING REGARDING THE  
14 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION TO ALL STAFF WHO COME INTO CONTACT  
15 WITH CHILDREN. THAT TRAINING SHALL INCLUDE RECOGNIZING INCIDENTS  
16 THAT TRIGGER THE NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT, THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S  
17 POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR NOTIFICATION AND ANY RECORD-KEEPING AND  
18 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY  
19 BE INCORPORATED WITH OTHER TRAINING AND IN-SERVICE ACTIVITIES OF  
20 THE SCHOOL ENTITY.

21 (F) ALL INCIDENTS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED UNDER  
22 SECTION 1303-A(B) SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
23 SECTION.

24 (g) The Secretary of Education ~~shall withhold all~~ MAY <—  
25 WITHHOLD State payments to any school district that fails to  
26 comply with this section.

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