

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 71

Session of  
2007

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, ORIE, KITCHEN, COSTA, BOSCOLA,  
RAFFERTY, FONTANA, PUNT, TARTAGLIONE, ERICKSON, O'PAKE,  
WASHINGTON, BROWNE AND STACK, JANUARY 29, 2007

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 29, 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," further providing for Office for Safe  
6 Schools; and requiring the establishment of policies relating  
7 to bullying.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1302-A(c) of the act of March 10, 1949  
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
12 amended June 26, 1999 (P.L.394, No.36), is amended to read:

13 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--\* \* \*

14 (c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under  
15 subsection (a), the office is authorized to make targeted grants  
16 to schools to fund programs which address school violence,  
17 including, but not limited to, the following programs:

18 (1) Conflict resolution or dispute management.

19 (2) Peer helpers programs.

20 (3) Risk assessment, safety-related or violence prevention

1 curricula.

2 (4) Classroom management.

3 (5) Student codes of conduct.

4 (6) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk  
5 factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among  
6 students.

7 (7) Development and implementation of research-based  
8 violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce  
9 incidents of problem behaviors among students including, but not  
10 limited to, bullying.

11 (8) Comprehensive, districtwide school safety and violence  
12 prevention plans.

13 (9) Security planning, purchase of security-related  
14 technology which may include metal detectors, protective  
15 lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency  
16 communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts and  
17 theft control devices and training in the use of security-  
18 related technology. Security planning and purchase of security-  
19 related technology shall be based on safety needs identified by  
20 the school entity's board of directors.

21 (10) Institution of student, staff and visitor  
22 identification systems.

23 (11) Establishment or enhancement of school security  
24 personnel, including school resource officers.

25 (12) Provision of specialized staff and student training  
26 programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team  
27 members in elementary, middle and high schools in the referral  
28 of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate  
29 community-based services, including mental health services.

30 (13) Alternative education programs provided for in Article

1 XIX-C.

2 (14) Counseling services for students enrolled in  
3 alternative education programs.

4 \* \* \*

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

6 Section 1303.1-A. Policy Relating to Bullying.--(a) No  
7 later than June 30, 2007, each school entity shall adopt a  
8 policy relating to bullying or amend the school entity's code of  
9 student conduct required under 22 Pa. Code § 12.3(c) (relating  
10 to school rules) to include provisions relating to bullying. The  
11 policy or amendment to the code of student conduct shall  
12 delineate discipline consequences for bullying and may provide  
13 for prevention, intervention and education programs, provided  
14 that no school entity shall be required to establish a new  
15 policy under this section if one currently exists and reasonably  
16 fulfills the requirements of this section.

17 (b) Each school entity shall distribute the policy relating  
18 to bullying with the code of student conduct required under 22  
19 Pa. Code § 12.3(c) and shall make the policy available on its  
20 publicly accessible Internet website.

21 (c) Each school entity shall review its policy every three  
22 years and annually provide the office with a copy of its policy  
23 relating to bullying, including information related to the  
24 development and implementation of any bullying prevention,  
25 intervention and education programs. The information required  
26 under this subsection shall be attached to or made part of the  
27 annual report required under section 1303-A(b).

28 (d) For the purposes of this section, "bullying" shall have  
29 the same meaning as it is given in the section related to  
30 definitions in the annual report on school violence and weapon

- 1 possession that school entities are required to complete
- 2 pursuant to section 1303-A(b).
- 3     Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.