
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 405 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, BOSCOLA, ERICKSON, WASHINGTON, PUNT,
O'PAKE, COSTA, RHOADES, STOUT AND BAKER, MARCH 13, 2007

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MARCH 13, 2007

AN ACT

1 Establishing the School-Based Mentoring Grant Program; and
2 making an appropriation.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School-Based
7 Mentoring Grant Program Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Program." The School-Based Mentoring Grant Program
15 established by this act.

16 "Qualified organization." An organization which meets the
17 qualifications set forth in this act.

1 "School-based mentoring service." A relationship in which
2 both the students and mentors share everyday experiences that
3 enrich their lives with the expectation that youth will benefit
4 from the presence of additional caring mentors in their lives.

5 Section 3. School-Based Mentoring Grant Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--There is established the School-Based
7 Mentoring Grant Program.

8 (b) Administration and purpose.--The program shall be
9 administered by the department to provide grants for school-
10 based mentoring programs to qualified organizations.

11 (c) Grants.--A qualified organization may apply for a grant
12 if the qualified organization has an agreement with a school
13 district to provide school-based mentoring services to students
14 in kindergarten through grade 12 who reside within the
15 boundaries of the school district.

16 (d) Qualifications.--In order for a qualified organization
17 to receive grants under this act, the qualified organization
18 must meet all of the following criteria:

19 (1) Be a nonprofit mentoring organization, which is a
20 dues-paying affiliate with a national mentoring organization,
21 with the primary mission of one-to-one mentoring and which
22 qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under section
23 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law
24 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)).

25 (2) Provide screening of volunteer mentors, including a
26 personal interview with a professional paid staff member who
27 holds a degree, reference checks, criminal and child abuse
28 background checks and training for each potential mentor.

29 (3) Support each mentor-student relationship by
30 professionally trained paid staff which must include contact

1 and evaluation with the mentor, the student and the student's
2 parent or guardian within two weeks of the beginning of the
3 relationship and monthly thereafter for the first year of the
4 relationship. The contact and evaluation must be performed on
5 a quarterly basis after the first year of the relationship.

6 (4) Provide school-based mentoring which consists of all
7 of the following elements:

8 (i) Teachers or other school personnel referring
9 students in kindergarten through grade 12 who could
10 benefit from adult friendship and support.

11 (ii) Mentors committing to meeting with the students
12 for at least one hour per week throughout the academic
13 year.

14 (iii) Mentors meeting one-to-one with the students
15 at the student's school.

16 (iv) Mentors and students spending some time on
17 schoolwork and also engaging in other activities that
18 help build a strong relationship, such as playing sports
19 and games, exploring the Internet, doing artwork, writing
20 a story, eating lunch together, talking or other similar
21 activities.

22 (5) Utilizing program-based outcome evaluations which
23 evaluate short-term and long-term project outcomes. In the
24 case of school-based mentoring, teachers and mentors must
25 fill out a program-based outcome evaluation report which will
26 provide quantifiable data on the short-term and long-term
27 changes in the developmental outcomes to measure the
28 effectiveness of the program six months after being matched
29 with a student and at the end of the school year.

30 (e) Limitations.--No grants shall be made to a qualified

1 organization in excess of \$1,000, exclusive of matching funds,
2 for each student being provided mentoring services by a
3 qualified organization.

4 (f) Matching requirement.--Each qualified organization must
5 have the ability to provide up to a 50% match for department
6 grants in financial or in-kind support from other public or
7 private sources based upon departmental guidelines. In-kind
8 support may not exceed half of the required match. In-kind
9 support may consist of a donation of cash, personal property or
10 services the value of which is the net cost of the donation to
11 the donor or the pro rata hourly wage, including benefits, of
12 the individual performing the services.

13 Section 10. Appropriation.

14 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be
15 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education
16 for the fiscal year July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008, to carry out
17 the provisions of this act.

18 Section 20. Effective date.

19 This act shall take effect in 60 days.