

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2506 Session of 2012

INTRODUCED BY KAVULICH, TOOHL, BOBACK, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
D. COSTA, DAVIDSON, DEASY, DeLUCA, FLECK, GILLESPIE,
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, GROVE, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORNAMAN,
KILLION, LONGIETTI, MAJOR, MILLARD, MOUL, MUNDY, MURT,
READSHAW, ROSS, SANTONI, SAYLOR, SCHMOTZER, STEPHENS, TAYLOR,
GEIST AND BRENNAN, JUNE 25, 2012

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 25, 2012

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.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1302-A(b) and (c) of the act of March 10,
10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended November 17, 2010 (P.L.996, No.104), are amended to
12 read:

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

14 (b) The office shall have the power and duty to implement
15 the following:

16 (1) To coordinate antiviolenence efforts between school,
17 professional, parental, governmental, law enforcement and
18 community organizations and associations.

(2) To collect, develop and disseminate information, policies, strategies and other information to assist in the development of programs to impact school violence.

(2.1) To direct all school entities to submit annual school violence statistics and reports to the office no later than July 31 of each year.

(3) To provide direct training to school employes, parents, law enforcement officials and communities on effective measures to prevent and combat school violence.

(4) To advise school entities and nonpublic schools on the development of policies to be used regarding possession of weapons by any person, acts of violence and protocols for coordination with and reporting to law enforcement officials and the Department of Education.

(4.1) To verify the existence of corrective action plans to reduce incidents of violence as required in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425).

(5) To develop forms to be used by school entities and police departments for reporting incidents involving acts of violence and possession of weapons on school property. The forms shall be reviewed on a biennial basis and revised when necessary.

(6) To verify that each school entity has a biennially updated and reexecuted memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement and has filed such memorandum with the office on a biennial basis.

(7) To publish and post on the Department of Education's Internet website a School Safety Annual Report no later than November 1 of each calendar year outlining all incidents required to be reported under section 1303-A and any school

district that failed to submit a report under section 1303-A.

(8) Not later than January 2, 2013, to establish an antigang counseling program to provide materials, support and financial assistance to participating school districts to establish pilot programs designed to educate students and parents on the following:

(i) The extent to which criminal gang activity exists in the school district's community and the types of activity that criminal gangs engage in or promote.

(ii) The negative societal impacts that criminal gangs have on a community, including criminal activity.

(iii) Methods to discourage participation in criminal gangs.

(iv) The consequences of criminal gang activity, including consequences in the criminal justice system for participating in criminal gangs.

(9) To encourage the use of community resources not directly affiliated with the school district, including the participation of law enforcement officials in a pilot program under paragraph (8).

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(c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under subsection (b), the office is authorized to make targeted grants to school entities to fund programs which address school violence, including:

(1) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including restorative justice strategies.

(1.1) School-wide positive behavior support that includes primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and interventions in school entities.

(1.2) School-based diversion programs.

(2) Peer helpers programs.

(3) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention curricula, including, but not limited to, dating violence curricula and restorative justice strategies.

(4) Classroom management.

(5) Student codes of conduct.

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

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

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

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

(10) Institution of student, staff and visitor identification systems, including criminal background check software.

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

(12) Provision of specialized staff and student training programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team

1 members in elementary, middle and high schools in the referral
2 of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate
3 community-based services, including mental health services.

4 (13) Alternative education programs provided for in Article
5 XIX-C.

6 (14) Counseling services for students enrolled in
7 alternative education programs.

8 (15) An Internet web-based system for the management of
9 student discipline, including misconduct and criminal offenses.

10 (16) Staff training programs in the use of positive behavior
11 supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate responses to
12 student behavior that may require immediate intervention.

13 (17) Antigang pilot programs.

14 * * *

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