

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1501 Session of  
2012

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, GREENLEAF, STACK,  
COSTA, SCHWANK, HUGHES, ERICKSON, YUDICHAK, SOLOBAY, FERLO,  
WILLIAMS, BOSCOLA, WARD, MENSCH AND PIPPY, APRIL 16, 2012

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 16, 2012

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
2 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program within the Department of  
3 Education; and making an appropriation.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Teacher  
8 Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship  
9 Program Act.

10 Section. 2. Declaration of policy.

11 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

12 (1) Investing in quality care and early education  
13 produces long-run savings for communities and the  
14 Commonwealth by reducing the need for special education and  
15 creating fewer grade retentions, less remediation and higher  
16 graduation rates.

17 (2) Children in high-quality child care and other  
18 regulated early learning settings have better life chances if

1       there is consistency among the teachers who care for them,  
2       the teacher who cares for them has formal education beyond  
3       high school and the teachers have college courses in the  
4       field of early childhood education.

5       (3) Research has found that the single most important  
6       determinant of child-care quality is the presence of  
7       consistent, sensitive, well-trained and well-compensated  
8       child-care providers.

9       (4) The vast majority of classroom staff in child-care  
10      programs do not have a two-year or four-year degree and are  
11      paid at wage levels that lead to high turnover.

12      (5) Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
13      (T.E.A.C.H.) is a nationally licensed scholarship program  
14      built on the principles of partnership, collaboration and  
15      strengthening existing systems to offer scholarship programs  
16      and support systems that improve the education and  
17      compensation of child-care workers.

18      (6) Historically, the Pennsylvania T.E.A.C.H.  
19      Scholarship Program has worked with providers, colleges and  
20      child-care staff to obtain funding through grants from  
21      businesses, foundations and government to increase  
22      professionalism, raise wages and reduce turnover of child-  
23      care staff, which brings higher-quality care to  
24      Pennsylvania's children.

25      (7) The T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program supported more  
26      than 2,200 students in Commonwealth communities and four-year  
27      colleges and universities in fiscal year 2010-2011.

28      (8) Prior to the establishment of the Pennsylvania  
29      T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program, many higher education  
30      institutions laid off early childhood faculty and considered

1 closing their early childhood departments. The Pennsylvania  
2 T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program has contributed to fundamental  
3 education reform by requiring articulation agreements between  
4 two-year and four-year degree-granting institutions to  
5 develop and create systems and policies that better support  
6 nontraditional students.

7 (9) All Federal and State dollars to sustain the  
8 Pennsylvania T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program were eliminated  
9 in the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

10 (10) It is imperative that the General Assembly enact  
11 legislation to require the department to establish the  
12 T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program as a permanent professional  
13 development scholarship program in this Commonwealth and to  
14 appropriate stable funding to sustain the program.

### 15 Section 3. Definitions.

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

19 "Contributors." Any person, entity or government agency that  
20 appropriates or donates money to be deposited into the fund.

21 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
22 Commonwealth.

23 "Fund." The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
24 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Fund.

25 "Program." The Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
26 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program.

27 "Scholarship." A Teacher Education and Compensation Helps  
28 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship awarded under this act.

29 "Scholarship year." The year for which a Teacher Education  
30 and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship was awarded

1 under this act.

2 "Subcontractor." The subcontractor chosen by the Department  
3 of Education under section 4(b).

4 Section 4. Teacher Education and Compensation Helps

5 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Program.

6 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish the  
7 Teacher Education and Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)  
8 Scholarship Program for the purpose of providing scholarships  
9 for professional development through continuing education and  
10 credentialing to Commonwealth residents currently employed in  
11 regulated child care, Head Start, publicly funded  
12 prekindergarten programs or early learning programs accredited  
13 by national accrediting organizations recognized by Keystone  
14 STARS.

15 (b) Administration.--The department shall subcontract the  
16 administration of the program with a Statewide nonprofit  
17 organization that is licensed to administer the national  
18 T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program.

19 (c) Components.--The program shall be comprised of the  
20 following components:

21 (1) Scholarships that cover most of the cost of the  
22 following:

23 (i) Tuition and books.

24 (ii) Travel stipends for each semester they are  
25 enrolled in class.

26 (iii) Paid release time for a participant to attend  
27 class, study or take tests.

28 (2) A requirement that each scholarship year the  
29 participant must successfully complete a required number of  
30 credit hours toward a degree or credential in early childhood

1 education which is granted by a Pennsylvania-accredited  
2 institution of higher education.

3 (3) Eligibility for bonuses or for a raise for  
4 successfully completing the educational requirements at the  
5 end of the scholarship year.

6 (4) A requirement that participants working toward a  
7 credential or associate's degree agree to continue working in  
8 their child-care program for one year after each scholarship  
9 year or for two years after each scholarship year if they are  
10 enrolled in a bachelor's degree program.

11 (5) A requirement that all participants shall be  
12 assigned a counselor to assist them in scholarship management  
13 and career development.

14 (d) Development.--In consultation with the national  
15 T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program, the subcontractor to administer  
16 the program shall be responsible for developing program  
17 guidelines and funding applications and criteria.

18 (e) Award.--Scholarships shall be awarded by the  
19 subcontractor to eligible recipients to complete coursework  
20 resulting in:

21 (1) A child development associate credential or school-  
22 age care credential.

23 (2) An associate's degree or bachelor's degree in early  
24 childhood development.

25 (3) An early childhood education certification.

26 (f) Requirements.--Applicants for a scholarship shall be  
27 employed and working directly with children by a regulated child  
28 care, school-age program, Head Start, publicly funded  
29 prekindergarten program or early learning program accredited by  
30 national accrediting organizations recognized by Keystone STARS.

1 (g) Form.--Not later than 180 days after the effective date  
2 of this section, the subcontractor shall prescribe the  
3 scholarship process and the form and manner of the scholarship  
4 application. In awarding scholarships, the subcontractor shall  
5 provide lower-wage earners with priority consideration.

6 (h) Contribution.--Scholarship recipients must:

7 (1) contribute not less than 10% of the total cost of  
8 the scholarship; and

9 (2) be sponsored by their employers who, in addition to  
10 the contribution made by the scholarship recipient, must  
11 contribute not less than 10% of the total cost of the  
12 scholarship.

13 Section 5. Advisory committee.

14 Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this  
15 section, the department shall require the subcontractor to  
16 appoint a 13-member advisory committee that includes  
17 contributors, early childhood stakeholders, higher education  
18 representatives from community colleges and the Pennsylvania  
19 State System of Higher Education to provide feedback, identify  
20 funding priorities and make recommendations to the department to  
21 further enhance the program.

22 Section 6. Annual report.

23 The department shall require the subcontractor to annually  
24 review the operation of and compile a report of the program.  
25 For the first three years of the program, the subcontractor  
26 shall provide a detailed report to the General Assembly by  
27 December 31, and thereafter by December 31 of each year to the  
28 department.

29 Section 7. Teacher Education and Compensation Helps

30 (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Fund.

1 (a) Establishment.--There is established within the State  
2 Treasury a special fund to be known as the Teacher Education and  
3 Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.) Scholarship Fund for the  
4 purposes enumerated under section 4.

5 (b) Availability of funds.--A minimum number of scholarships  
6 shall be made available as follows:

7 (1) Two hundred scholarships in fiscal year 2012-2013.

8 (2) Three hundred scholarships in fiscal year 2013-2014.

9 (3) Four hundred and fifty scholarships in fiscal year  
10 2014-2015.

11 (4) Six hundred and seventy-five scholarships in fiscal  
12 year 2015-2016.

13 (5) One thousand and twelve scholarships in fiscal year  
14 2016-2017.

15 (c) Funding.--Moneys for the fund shall be provided from  
16 appropriations to carry out the purposes of this act. The  
17 department shall seek Federal matching funds as available.

18 (d) Deposit.--All money specifically appropriated by the  
19 General Assembly for the purposes of this section, and any  
20 funds, contributions or payments which may be made available to  
21 the fund by the Federal Government, the department, another  
22 State agency or any public or private source for the purpose of  
23 implementing this act, shall be deposited in the fund.

24 (e) Appropriation.--The money of the fund is continually  
25 appropriated, upon approval of the Governor, to the department  
26 for the purposes enumerated under section 4.

27 (f) Administration.--The department may use up to 2% of the  
28 moneys in the fund for the administration of the program.

29 Section 20. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect in 30 days.