

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 634 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, MARTIN, EICHELBERGER, FOLMER, HUGHES,
BREWSTER, SCARNATI, VULAKOVICH AND BARTOLOTTA, APRIL 17, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 17, 2017

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," in transfers of credits between
6 institutions of higher education, further providing for
7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher
8 education and for Transfer and Articulation Oversight
9 Committee.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
14 amended by adding definitions to read:

15 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

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

19 "Advanced Placement program (AP)." A program authorized by
20 the college board that allows a student to study college-level
21 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced

1 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on
2 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

3 * * *

4 "College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)." A set of
5 standardized tests developed by the college board for various
6 subjects, and on which a qualifying score can be used to earn
7 college credit.

8 * * *

9 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted
10 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for
11 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various
12 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained
13 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced
14 Placement exam, International Baccalaureate exam, a College-
15 Level Examination Program exam and Dantes Subject Standardized
16 Tests.

17 "Dantes Subject Standardized Tests (DSST)." A set of subject
18 exams approved by the American Council on Education that tests
19 knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material.

20 * * *

21 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB)." An
22 academically challenging two-year precollege diploma program
23 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject
24 areas with final examinations that prepare students, 16 to 19
25 years of age, for higher education and life in a global society.

26 * * *

27 Section 2. Section 2002-C of the act is amended by adding a
28 subsection to read:

29 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher
30 education.

1 * * *

2 (d) Credit for prior learning.--Each public institution of
3 higher education shall do all of the following:

4 (1) Adopt and make public uniform standards for
5 determining academic credit for prior learning as outlined in
6 paragraph (4) within 18 months of the effective date of this
7 subsection.

8 (2) Agree to award academic credit for prior learning,
9 which is determined to meet the standards established under
10 section 2004-C(c)(6) and apply the credit toward graduation,
11 unless prohibited by external accreditation or licensure.

12 (3) Submit to the department interim reports outlining
13 the actions that a public institution of higher education has
14 undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with paragraphs
15 (1) and (2).

16 (4) As a member of the Transfer and Articulation
17 Oversight Committee established in section 2004-C:

18 (i) Consult with the department on a process and
19 timeline, subject to approval by the department, to
20 develop uniform standards for determining academic credit
21 for prior learning, in consultation with faculty and
22 personnel.

23 (ii) Develop and implement uniform standards for
24 determining academic credit for prior learning, in
25 consultation with faculty and personnel.

26 (iii) Participate in submitting a status report to
27 the department, the Education Committee of the Senate and
28 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

29 (5) For each academic year, report to the department all
30 of the following:

1 (i) The total number of students awarded credits for
2 Advanced Placement program, International Baccalaureate
3 Diploma Program and College-Level Examination Program
4 exams and Dantes Subject Standardized Tests, if
5 available.

6 (ii) The total number of credits awarded to students
7 for Advanced Placement program, International
8 Baccalaureate Diploma Program and College-Level
9 Examination Program exams and Dantes Subject Standardized
10 Tests, if available.

11 (iii) The number of credits awarded to matriculating
12 students who present Advanced Placement program,
13 International Baccalaureate Diploma Program and College-
14 Level Examination Program exams and Dantes Subject
15 Standardized Tests that meet the standards established
16 under section 2004-C(c)(6) and, of those credits, the
17 number of credits applied toward major requirements and
18 the number of credits applied toward elective
19 requirements.

20 (iv) Any other information related to awarding of
21 credit for prior learning as requested by the department
22 or the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee,
23 including the usability of transfer credits.

24 Section 3. Section 2004-C(c) of the act is amended by adding
25 a paragraph to read:

26 Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

27 * * *

28 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight
29 Committee.--The committee shall:

30 * * *

1 (6) Within one year of the effective date of this
2 paragraph, develop and implement uniform standards for
3 awarding academic credit for prior learning, in consultation
4 with faculty and personnel for public institutions of higher
5 education and institutions that elect to participate under
6 section 2006-C.

7 Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.