
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 968 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY KINSEY, FITZGERALD, D. WILLIAMS, SANCHEZ, ROTHMAN,
HILL-EVANS, SCHWEYER, SCHLOSSBERG, KINKEAD, FREEMAN, NEILSON,
LONGIETTI, FRANKEL, CIRESI, DEASY AND ROZZI, MARCH 18, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 18, 2021

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 certification of teachers, further
6 providing for continuing professional development; providing
7 for access to advanced placement courses for all students;
8 establishing the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program;
9 and imposing duties on the Department of Education and on
10 school entities.

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

13 Section 1. Section 1205.1(c.1)(3) of the act of March 10,
14 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
15 is amended to read:

16 Section 1205.1. Continuing Professional Development.--* * *

17 (c.1) The continuing professional education plan shall
18 specify the professional education needs that will be met by
19 completion of each continuing professional education option and
20 how it relates to areas of assignment and certification or
21 potential administrative certification. The options may include,

1 but shall not be limited to:

2 * * *

3 (3) Other programs, activities or learning experiences taken
4 for credit or hourly, to include:

5 (i) curriculum development and other program design and
6 delivery activities at the school entity or grade level as
7 determined by the school entity and approved by the board of
8 directors;

9 (ii) participation in professional conferences and
10 workshops;

11 (iii) education in the workplace, where the work relates to
12 the professional educator's area of assignment and is approved
13 by the board of directors;

14 (iv) review, redesign and restructuring of school programs,
15 organizations and functions as determined by the school entity
16 and approved by the board of directors;

17 (v) in-service programs that comply with guidelines
18 established by the department;

19 (vi) early childhood and child development activities for
20 professional educators whose area of assignment includes
21 kindergarten through third grade;

22 (vii) special education activities for professional
23 educators whose area of assignment includes students with
24 special needs;

25 (viii) successful completion of department training for
26 service as a Distinguished Educator if the professional educator
27 participates in and completes at least one assignment in the
28 Distinguished Educators Program;

29 (ix) other continuing professional education courses,
30 programs, activities or learning experiences sponsored by the

1 department; [or]

2 (x) visits by educators to a manufacturing workplace for
3 orientation and demonstrations to give the professional educator
4 a greater understanding of job opportunities in manufacturing
5 for students; or

6 (xi) access to the advanced placement courses for all
7 students program.

8 * * *

9 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

10 ARTICLE XVII-D

11 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT

12 COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS

13 Section 1701-D. Scope of article.

14 This article relates to access to advanced placement courses
15 for all students.

16 Section 1702-D. Definitions.

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

20 "Advanced placement course." A program authorized by the
21 college board that allows a student to study college-level
22 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced
23 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on
24 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

25 "Department." The Department of Education of the
26 Commonwealth.

27 "Eligible school entity." A school entity that does not have
28 at least one advanced placement course in the four core academic
29 areas or computer science, or will no longer have an advanced
30 placement course in one of the four core academic areas or

1 computer science due to the retirement or loss of a teacher who
2 teaches an advanced placement course.

3 "Eligible teacher." A professional employee who is certified
4 in the subject area of the advanced placement course that the
5 professional employee will be teaching. In the case of a
6 computer science course, the term means an individual who has
7 received professional development to teach computer science even
8 if the individual is certified in a different subject area.

9 "Four core academic areas." Mathematics, English language
10 arts, science and social science.

11 "Poverty level." The percentage of students in a school
12 district eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

13 "Program." The Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

14 "School entity." A public school district, intermediate
15 unit, area career and technical school, charter school or cyber
16 charter school operating in this Commonwealth.

17 "Teacher training entity." An institution of higher
18 education, intermediate unit or organization endorsed by the
19 college board to train teachers to teach advanced placement
20 courses.

21 "Virtual learning instruction." The provision of academic
22 courses and instruction to students through the Internet or the
23 use of technology.

24 Section 1703-D. Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

25 (a) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to provide
26 access to advanced placement courses in the four core academic
27 areas and computer science for students by eligible teachers at
28 all high schools that do not currently provide the courses. The
29 Pennsylvania School Performance Profile, established in 2012,
30 includes advanced placement participation and performance in a

1 high school as an indicator of academic achievement that
2 determines a high school's academic performance score.

3 (b) Establishment.--The Advanced Placement Teacher Training
4 Program is established in the department to train teachers in an
5 eligible school entity to teach advanced placement courses in
6 the four core academic areas and computer science.

7 (c) Teacher training.--A school entity that has an advanced
8 placement course in one or more of the four core academic areas
9 or computer science but not in all five areas shall be eligible
10 only to have a teacher trained in those academic areas in which
11 the school entity does not currently have an advanced placement
12 course.

13 (d) Limitation.--No more than one teacher in an academic
14 area of an eligible school entity shall be trained under the
15 program.

16 (e) Joint application.--More than one eligible school entity
17 may apply jointly to the program to train a teacher in an
18 advanced placement course instruction if the teacher will
19 provide instruction in more than one school entity through
20 classroom instruction, virtual learning instruction or a blended
21 learning model.

22 (f) Publication.--A school entity that offers advanced
23 placement courses to students because of the program shall
24 publish on the school's publicly accessible Internet website the
25 advanced placement courses offered and notify parents of the
26 availability and guidelines.

27 Section 1704-D. Application.

28 (a) Requirements.--The application for an eligible school
29 entity seeking funding for the program must include the
30 following:

1 (1) The subject areas that currently have advanced
2 placement courses in the school entity.

3 (2) The four core academic areas or computer science
4 that do not have advanced placement courses in the school
5 entity.

6 (3) The following information:

7 (i) The names of the eligible teachers.

8 (ii) The high school where the teachers are
9 teaching.

10 (iii) The advanced placement academic subject area
11 the teacher would provide instruction.

12 (iv) Whether the instruction will be in a classroom,
13 virtual learning or through a blended learning model.

14 (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities
15 that would provide training to teach advanced placement
16 courses.

17 (5) An agreement to offer the advanced placement courses
18 for high school students for at least three years.

19 (6) Guidelines the school entity will use to determine
20 which students may be eligible to enroll in an advanced
21 placement course, subject to the following:

22 (i) In developing the guidelines, the school entity
23 shall utilize data and information on the academic
24 performance of students, which may include the academic
25 performance of students on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude
26 Test and the Scholastic Aptitude Test in consultation
27 with the college board, shall eliminate barriers that
28 restrict access to advanced placement courses for student
29 populations that have been traditionally underserved and
30 shall make every effort to ensure that advanced placement

1 classes reflect the diversity of the student population.

2 (ii) The school entity may not unlawfully
3 discriminate on any basis in enrollment of students.

4 (7) A statement agreeing to comply with the reporting
5 requirement under section 1705-D.

6 Section 1705-D. Report to department.

7 For each of the five academic areas where an eligible
8 teacher's training was funded by the program a school entity
9 shall annually report to the department the following:

10 (1) Number of students who took advanced placement
11 courses.

12 (2) Grade levels where advanced placement courses are
13 taught.

14 (3) Number of students who took advanced placement
15 examinations.

16 (4) Number of students who scored a three or higher on
17 advanced placement examinations.

18 (5) Number of teachers who taught advanced placement
19 courses within the school entity.

20 Section 1706-D. Powers and duties of department.

21 (a) General rule.--The department shall promulgate rules,
22 regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of
23 this article, including the following:

24 (1) Certify teacher training entities, that are endorsed
25 by the college board, that may provide training to teachers
26 to teach advanced placement courses in the four core academic
27 areas or computer science. In certifying teacher training
28 entities, the department shall ensure that the training
29 locations and times are geographically accessible for
30 teachers from eligible school entities to attend or are

1 administered in a manner that is not in person.

2 (2) The department shall ensure that training provided
3 by teacher training entities provides eligible teachers with
4 the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to
5 prepare students for success in advanced placement courses
6 and examinations.

7 (b) Report.--Starting at the end of the first year of the
8 program and then annually thereafter, the department shall issue
9 a report to the General Assembly on the program that includes:

10 (1) The number of teachers who received training in
11 advanced placement instruction in school entities in each of
12 the four core areas and computer science.

13 (2) The number and percentage of high schools that offer
14 advanced placement programs in all five academic areas.

15 (3) The number and percentage of high schools that offer
16 advanced placement courses in each of the five academic
17 areas.

18 (4) The number and percentage of students who took
19 advanced placement courses at school entities in each of the
20 five academic areas.

21 (5) The number and percentage of students who scored a
22 three or higher on an advanced placement examination at
23 school entities in each of the five academic areas.

24 (6) The names of the school entities and high schools
25 that do not offer advanced placement courses.

26 (7) The number of teachers who were trained outside the
27 four core academic areas or computer science teaching other
28 advanced placement courses.

29 Section 1707-D. Funding to teacher training entities.

30 To the extent funds are available for the program, the

1 department shall allocate funds to certified teacher training
2 entities based on teacher attendance upon completion of the
3 training program.

4 Section 1708-D. Program funding.

5 (a) Funding.--Funding for the program shall be made from
6 available Federal funds and annual appropriations made by the
7 General Assembly to the department for that purpose or private
8 sources.

9 (b) Priorities.--In the event of insufficient funds in any
10 fiscal year, the department shall prioritize funding of eligible
11 school entities based on the poverty level of the school entity.

12 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.