

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2045 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, GUENST, LEWIS DELROSSO, MIHALEK, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, SCHMITT, JAMES, GAYDOS, JOZWIAK, INNAMORATO, NEILSON AND GUZMAN, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 15, 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,
6 providing for teacher support in the Science of Reading
7 Program.

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

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1205.8. Teacher support in the Science of Reading
14 Program.

15 (a) Legislative intent.--

16 (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that
17 teachers be equipped to facilitate high-quality reading
18 instruction grounded in the science of reading and
19 intervention services to address student reading needs.

1 (2) The program provided in this section will assist
2 PARTICIPATING school entities in providing professional <--
3 development for teachers in foundational skills and
4 instructional interventions based on the science of reading
5 and providing opportunities for school personnel to serve as
6 reading coaches to support teachers in delivering high-
7 quality reading instruction.

8 (b) Program to be conducted.--

9 (1) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the
10 department shall establish a program of professional
11 development and applied practice in the science of reading
12 for school personnel that includes in-class demonstration,
13 modeling and coaching support to improve reading and literacy
14 outcomes.

15 (2) School personnel selected by the department from a
16 list of names submitted by the PARTICIPATING school entity to <--
17 serve as professional coaches for this program must have at
18 least five years of experience in teaching of reading and be
19 able to demonstrate their skills in the instruction of and
20 intervention with students, including those with dyslexia and
21 other language-related disabilities.

22 (3) The department may contract with multiple service
23 providers, including, but not limited to, local education <--
24 agencies SCHOOL ENTITIES and institutions of higher education <--
25 with demonstrated experience in science of reading, to
26 develop and implement the program so that experienced support
27 is available locally.

28 (4) A PARTICIPATING school entity or institution of <--
29 higher education that demonstrates successful implementation
30 of literacy outcomes is eligible to provide professional

1 development and onsite demonstration and coaching support in
2 the program.

3 (5) A participating school entity shall adopt high-
4 quality instructional materials grounded in scientific-based
5 reading research in accordance with the State academic
6 standards approved by the State Board of Education.

7 (c) Professional learning for prekindergarten, kindergarten,
8 first, second, third and fourth grade teachers.--The CONTINUING <--
9 professional education plan of each school entity shall MAY <--
10 include training in the science of reading for prekindergarten,
11 kindergarten, first, second, third and fourth grade teachers.
12 To ensure that school personnel have the knowledge and skill to
13 teach all students to read, including students with dyslexia and
14 other language-based learning disabilities, training shall
15 address, but shall not be limited to:

16 (1) Evidence-based intervention practices on the science
17 of reading.

18 (2) Explicit and systematic instruction in phonological
19 and phonemic awareness.

20 (3) The alphabetic principle, decoding and encoding,
21 fluency and vocabulary.

22 (4) Reading comprehension and building content
23 knowledge.

24 (d) Continuing professional education.--School employes
25 required to undergo continuing professional education under
26 section 1205.2 or 1205.5 shall receive credit toward the school
27 employe's continuing professional education requirements if the
28 training program has been approved by the department.

29 (e) Reading and literary outcomes.--The department shall
30 establish criteria by which a school entity or institution of

1 higher education can measure reading and literacy outcomes.

2 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
3 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
4 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

5 "Department." The Department of Education of the
6 Commonwealth.

7 "Institution of higher education." As defined in section
8 118(c).

9 "PARTICIPATING SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL ENTITY THAT ELECTS <--
10 TO TAKE PART IN THE SCIENCE OF READING PROGRAM.

11 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
12 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter
13 school or regional charter school.

14 "Science of reading." Evidence-based instructional and
15 assessment practices that address the multimodal approach that
16 integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling and writing in
17 the acquisition of oral and written language skills that can be
18 differentiated to meet the needs of individual students.

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