

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 793 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY A. WILLIAMS, MELLOW, FERLO, TARTAGLIONE, KASUNIC,
MUSTO, LOGAN, LAVALLE, KUKOVICH, C. WILLIAMS, COSTA, STACK,
STOUT, HUGHES, O'PAKE, WOZNIAK, FUMO, SCHWARTZ, KITCHEN AND
WAGNER, JUNE 4, 2003

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 4, 2003

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," providing for family resource
6 networks; and making repeals.

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

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

12 ARTICLE XIV-A

13 FAMILY RESOURCE NETWORKS

14 Section 1401-A. Short title.

15 This article shall be known and may be cited as the Family
16 Resource Networks Act.

17 Section 1402-A. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Eligible school." A school with 60% or more of its students
5 eligible for the free or reduced price meal programs under the
6 National School Lunch Act (60 Stat. 230, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et
7 seq.) as of October 2002 or at any time thereafter. Once a
8 school becomes an eligible school, it shall remain an eligible
9 school.

10 "Program." A family resource network which promotes the
11 availability, coordination, integration and utilization of
12 social and health services, associated resources and ancillary
13 resources to meet the needs of children and families in
14 addressing issues that may serve to limit student academic
15 achievement which shall include, but not be limited to, the
16 components described under section 1404-A(b).

17 Section 1403-A. Programs.

18 The board of directors of a school district may develop and
19 implement a program for eligible schools within the school
20 district.

21 Section 1404-A. Family resource networks.

22 (a) Family resource networks.--A family resource network
23 shall:

24 (1) Be located within the area from which the students
25 of the school it serves are drawn and shall be readily
26 accessible to that population.

27 (2) Forge mutual long-term relationships with
28 governmental agencies and community service organizations to
29 meet the nonacademic needs of students and families.

30 (3) Assist schools, students and their families with the

1 delivery of social and health care services.

2 (4) Assist with the coordination and integration of
3 services by linking public and governmental service agencies
4 and public and private community groups and organizations
5 with schools.

6 (b) Program components.--A family resource network shall
7 develop and implement programs that, at a minimum:

8 (1) Make referrals to health care and social service
9 providers and agencies.

10 (2) Support existing family support and parent education
11 programs.

12 (3) Provide updated information about program needs,
13 availability of services and the location of such programs
14 and services.

15 (4) Promote underutilized services and programs.

16 (5) Recruit service providers and agencies to provide
17 health and social services that are needed and currently
18 unavailable to students and their families.

19 (6) Collaborate and coordinate services with local
20 nongovernmental and governmental health and social service
21 agencies.

22 (7) Provide advice, consultation, training and resource
23 information to schools about available health and social
24 service programs.

25 (8) Establish partnerships between the schools and other
26 organizations which shall include, but not be limited to,
27 community-based organizations and local civic organizations,
28 faith-based institutions, business and professional groups,
29 environmental groups, neighborhood organizations and
30 organizations or groups focusing on crime prevention issues.

1 (9) Develop and sustain community programs for school
2 volunteers to support and participate in school programs and
3 activities.

4 (10) Ensure that counseling and counselors are available
5 and accessible to students and their families which address,
6 among other things, full-time, part-time and summer
7 employment training and placement, substance abuse issues,
8 family crisis issues and mental health issues.

9 Section 1405-A. Funding.

10 (a) Payments to school districts.--Subsequent to approval of
11 an application by a school district with one or more eligible
12 schools under its authority, the department shall pay to the
13 school district for an eligible school a portion of the costs to
14 implement and continue programs under this article.

15 (b) Technical assistance.--The department shall provide
16 technical assistance to school districts in completing the
17 initial application for funding.

18 (c) Funding amount; uses.--The maximum funding award shall
19 be established by the department. Funds provided by the
20 department to a school district for an eligible school shall be
21 used to defray the costs incurred by the eligible school in
22 developing, implementing and continuing programs under this
23 article.

24 (d) Applications, review and award.--The department, in
25 consultation with the Governor's Children and Families Cabinet,
26 shall develop an application process for school districts making
27 application pursuant to this section. The application shall be
28 published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and may be placed on the
29 department's World Wide Web page.

30 (e) Guidelines.--The department shall develop guidelines for

1 the purpose of advising and assisting eligible schools in
2 establishing, operating and maintaining programs. The guidelines
3 shall be published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and may be
4 placed on the department's World Wide Web page.

5 Section 2. Articles XV-A and XV-B of the act are repealed.

6 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2003, or
7 immediately, whichever is later.