

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1196 Session of  
2006

INTRODUCED BY BROWNE, CORMAN, FONTANA, ERICKSON, RHOADES,  
BOSCOLA, LEMMOND, GREENLEAF, WASHINGTON, O'PAKE, D. WHITE,  
WOZNIAK AND PUNT, APRIL 17, 2006

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 17, 2006

AN ACT

1 Establishing the School-Based Mentoring Grant Program.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School-Based  
6 Mentoring Grant Program Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

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

11 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
12 Commonwealth.

13 "Program." The School-Based Mentoring Grant Program  
14 established by this act.

15 "Qualified organization." An organization which meets the  
16 qualifications set forth in this act.

17 "School-Based Mentoring Service." A relationship in which

1 both the students and mentors share everyday experiences that  
2 enrich their lives with the expectation that youth will benefit  
3 from the presence of additional caring mentors in their lives.

4 Section 3. School-Based Mentoring Grant Program.

5 (a) Establishment.--There is established the School-Based  
6 Mentoring Grant Program.

7 (b) Administration and purpose.--The program shall be  
8 administered by the department to provide grants for school-  
9 based mentoring programs to qualified organizations.

10 (c) Grants.--A qualified organization may apply for a grant  
11 if the qualified organization has an agreement with a school  
12 district to provide school-based mentoring services to students  
13 in kindergarten through grade 12 who reside within the  
14 boundaries of the school district.

15 (d) Qualifications.--In order for a qualified organization  
16 to receive grants under this act, the qualified organization  
17 must meet all of the following criteria:

18 (1) Be a nonprofit mentoring organization, which is a  
19 dues-paying affiliate with a national mentoring organization,  
20 with the primary mission of one-to-one mentoring and which  
21 qualifies as a tax-exempt organization under section  
22 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Public Law  
23 99-514, 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3)).

24 (2) Provide screening of volunteer mentors, including a  
25 personal interview with a professional paid staff member who  
26 holds a degree, reference checks, criminal and child abuse  
27 background checks and training for each potential mentor.

28 (3) Support each mentor-student relationship by  
29 professionally trained paid staff which must include contact  
30 and evaluation with the mentor, the student and the student's

1 parent or guardian within two weeks of the beginning of the  
2 relationship and monthly thereafter for the first year of the  
3 relationship. The contact and evaluation must be performed on  
4 a quarterly basis after the first year of the relationship.

5 (4) Provide school-based mentoring which consists of all  
6 of the following elements:

7 (i) Teachers or other school personnel referring  
8 students in kindergarten through grade 12 who could  
9 benefit from adult friendship and support.

10 (ii) Mentors committing to meeting with the students  
11 for at least one hour per week throughout the academic  
12 year.

13 (iii) Mentors meeting one-to-one with the students  
14 at the student's school.

15 (iv) Mentors and students spending some time on  
16 schoolwork and also engaging in other activities that  
17 help build a strong relationship, such as playing sports  
18 and games, exploring the Internet, doing artwork, writing  
19 a story, eating lunch together, talking or other similar  
20 activities.

21 (5) Utilizing program-based outcome evaluations which  
22 evaluate short-term and long-term project outcomes. In the  
23 case of school-based mentoring, teachers and mentors must  
24 fill out a program-based outcome evaluation report which will  
25 provide quantifiable data on the short-term and long-term  
26 changes in the developmental outcomes to measure the  
27 effectiveness of the program six months after being matched  
28 with a student and at the end of the school year.

29 (e) Limitations.--No grants shall be made to a qualified  
30 organization in excess of \$1,000, exclusive of matching funds,

1 for each student being provided mentoring services by a  
2 qualified organization.

3 (f) Matching requirement.--Each qualified organization must  
4 have the ability to provide up to a 50% match for department  
5 grants in financial or in-kind support from other public or  
6 private sources based upon departmental guidelines. In-kind  
7 support may not exceed half of the required match. In-kind  
8 support may consist of a donation of cash, personal property or  
9 services the value of which is the net cost of the donation to  
10 the donor or the pro rata hourly wage, including benefits, of  
11 the individual performing the services.

12 Section 10. Appropriation.

13 The sum of \$5,000,000, or as much thereof as may be  
14 necessary, is hereby appropriated to the Department of Education  
15 for the fiscal year July 1, 2006, to June 30, 2007, to carry out  
16 the provisions of this act.

17 Section 11. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.