

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 705 Session of 2009

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, BEYER, BROWN, D. COSTA, GIBBONS, GRUCELA, HALUSKA, JOSEPHS, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, MCGEEHAN, MURT, M. O'BRIEN, SIPTROTH, STABACK, STURLA, WATERS AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 3, 2009

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 3, 2009

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," establishing parent involvement
 6 programs and policies in school districts.

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 a
 11 section to read:

12 Section 528. Parent Involvement Programs and Policies.--(a)
 13 The board of school directors in a school district of the first
 14 class, first class A, second class, third class or fourth class
 15 shall establish a parent involvement program, parent involvement
 16 policy and parent involvement committee.

17 (b) A parent involvement program established by a board of
 18 school directors shall include the following:

19 (1) Identification of existing resources, activities or

1 materials in the school district that may be used by parents to
2 improve the academic achievement of students in the school
3 district.

4 (2) Identification of existing resources, activities or
5 materials in the school district that may be used by parents to
6 improve or supplement techniques used by parents at home to
7 support and improve the academic achievement of students in the
8 school district.

9 (3) Identification of a districtwide system of communicating
10 information between parents and school officials regarding the
11 curriculum, academic goals and strategic plan of the school
12 district.

13 (4) Identification of any supplemental academic services
14 available to students whose score on any Pennsylvania System of
15 School Assessment test is below proficient.

16 (5) Identification of any mechanism through which parents
17 can provide recommendations to the board of school directors
18 regarding programs that may improve the academic achievement of
19 students in the school district.

20 (6) Identification of any mechanism through which the school
21 district can provide information to parents regarding resources,
22 activities or materials in the school district that may be used
23 by parents to improve the academic achievement of their
24 students.

25 (c) A parent involvement policy established by a board of
26 school directors shall include the following:

27 (1) Identification of goals and objectives for the
28 involvement of parents in the improvement of the academic
29 achievement of students in the school district.

30 (2) Identification of specific strategies to meet the goals

1 and objectives required under paragraph (1).

2 (3) Explanation of the resources, activities, materials and
3 mechanisms identified in the parent involvement program.

4 (4) Explanation of the role of the parent involvement
5 committee established under subsection (d).

6 (d) A parent involvement committee established by a board of
7 school directors shall consist of parents of students enrolled
8 in the school district and shall be responsible for providing
9 the board of school directors with recommendations on the school
10 district's parent involvement program and parent involvement
11 policy. If a school district currently has established a
12 committee of parents that makes recommendations on school
13 policies, the board of school directors may utilize that
14 committee to meet the requirements of this subsection.

15 (e) A board of school directors shall provide for the
16 publication and dissemination of information related to the
17 school district's parent involvement program and parent
18 involvement policy. The board of school directors shall:

19 (1) Provide a copy of the parent involvement policy to the
20 parents or guardian of each student enrolled in the school
21 district.

22 (2) Make copies of the parent involvement program and parent
23 involvement policy available for inspection in the
24 administrative office of the school district and provide copies
25 upon request.

26 (3) Provide copies of the parent involvement program and
27 parent involvement policy to the Department of Education no
28 later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this
29 section.

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