

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, YUDICHAK, YOUNGBLOOD, BRIGGS AND BRADFORD, MARCH 3, 2009

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, MARCH 10, 2010

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 AND THE SCHOOL
7 HEALTH SERVICES TASK FORCE.



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~~ SECTIONS to read:



13 Section 528. Parent Involvement Programs and Policies.--(a)
14 The board of school directors in a school district of the first
15 class, first class A, second class, third class or fourth class
16 shall establish a parent involvement program, parent involvement
17 policy and parent involvement committee. No school entity shall
18 be required to establish a new program or policy under this
19 section if one currently exists and reasonably fulfills the

1 requirements of this section.

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

4 (1) Identification of existing resources, activities or  
5 materials in the school district that may be used by parents to  
6 improve the academic achievement of students in the school  
7 district.

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

13 (3) Identification of a districtwide system of communicating  
14 information between parents and school officials regarding the  
15 curriculum, academic goals and strategic plan of the school  
16 district.

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

20 (5) Identification of any mechanism through which parents  
21 can provide recommendations to the board of school directors  
22 regarding programs that may improve the academic achievement of  
23 students in the school district.

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

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

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

4 (2) Identification of specific strategies to meet the goals  
5 and objectives required under paragraph (1).

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

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

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

19 (e) A board of school directors shall provide for the  
20 publication and dissemination of information related to the  
21 school district's parent involvement program and parent  
22 involvement policy. The board of school directors shall:

23 (1) ~~Make~~ PROVIDE A COPY OF the parental involvement policy ←  
24 ~~available on its publicly accessible Internet website, if~~ ←  
25 ~~available~~ TO THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF EACH STUDENT ENROLLED IN ←  
26 THE DISTRICT.

27 (2) Make copies of the parent involvement program and parent  
28 involvement policy available for inspection in the  
29 administrative office of the school district and provide copies  
30 upon request.

1 (3) Provide copies of the parent involvement program and  
2 parent involvement policy to the Department of Education no  
3 later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this  
4 section.

5 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 180 days.~~ ←

6 SECTION 1424. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES TASK FORCE.--(A) THE ←  
7 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT:

8 (1) SCHOOL HEALTH PERSONNEL DELIVER VALUABLE SERVICES THAT  
9 ADDRESS THE PHYSICAL, MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL HEALTH OF  
10 THEIR STUDENTS.

11 (2) THE WAYS AND MEANS BY WHICH THOSE HEALTH SERVICES ARE  
12 PROVIDED VARY ACROSS SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND REGIONS ACROSS THIS  
13 COMMONWEALTH.

14 (3) WHILE STUDENT HEALTH ISSUES ARE INCREASING IN  
15 COMPLEXITY, EARLIER THIS DECADE THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL NURSE  
16 CERTIFICATES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHOWED A  
17 TREND TO DECLINE, AND STATE SUBSIDIES FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH  
18 SERVICES HAVE REMAINED RELATIVELY FLAT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

19 (4) STUDIES PROJECT A SHORTAGE OF REGISTERED NURSES IN  
20 PENNSYLVANIA AND NATIONALLY, SCHOOL DISTRICTS FACE NUMEROUS  
21 CHALLENGES IN PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES TO STUDENTS.

22 (B) (1) THERE IS ESTABLISHED A TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL HEALTH  
23 SERVICES. THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONSIST OF TEN MEMBERS COMPOSED  
24 OF THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS:

25 (I) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, ONE EACH TO BE CHOSEN BY THE  
26 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE.

27 (II) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONE EACH  
28 CHOSEN BY THE MAJORITY LEADER AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE  
29 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

30 (III) ONE MEMBER CHOSEN BY THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION FROM

1 AMONG PERSONS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

2 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 (A) AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL NURSES.

4 (B) AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL BOARD DIRECTORS.

5 (C) AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

6 (D) AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICIALS.

7 (E) AN ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.

8 (2) THE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED WITHIN THIRTY DAYS OF THE  
9 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. NAMES SHALL BE FURNISHED TO THE  
10 SECRETARY OF EDUCATION. A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK  
11 FORCE SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM FOR THE TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS.  
12 OFFICIAL ACTION BY THE TASK FORCE SHALL REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF  
13 A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE. THE TASK FORCE  
14 SHALL ELECT ONE OF ITS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON. IF THERE  
15 IS A VACANCY FOR ANY CAUSE, A REPLACEMENT SHALL BE APPOINTED IN  
16 THE SAME WAY WITH THE SAME QUALIFICATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THIS  
17 SECTION AND SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR THE UNEXPIRED PORTION OF THE  
18 TERM. MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE SHALL NOT BE ENTITLED TO  
19 COMPENSATION OR REIMBURSEMENT AND SHALL SERVE AS VOLUNTEERS ON  
20 THE TASK FORCE.

21 (3) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CONVENE NO LATER THAN SIXTY DAYS  
22 AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION. THE TASK FORCE IS  
23 AUTHORIZED TO HOLD HEARINGS, TAKE TESTIMONY AND MAKE ITS  
24 INVESTIGATIONS AT SUCH PLACES IN THIS COMMONWEALTH AS IT DEEMS  
25 NECESSARY. THE TASK FORCE SHALL MEET AT SUCH TIMES AND PLACES  
26 SPECIFIED BY THE CALL OF THE CHAIRPERSON OR OF A MAJORITY OF THE  
27 MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE. IN UNDERTAKING ITS INVESTIGATIONS  
28 REGARDING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES, THE TASK FORCE SHALL DO ALL OF  
29 THE FOLLOWING:

30 (I) ADOPT RULES NECESSARY FOR THE OPERATION OF THE TASK

1 FORCE.

2 (II) MEET AND CONDUCT HEARINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
3 PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, INCLUDING, BUT NOT  
4 LIMITED TO, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND SCHOOL HEALTH PROVIDERS,  
5 SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
6 EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND OTHER HEALTH  
7 OFFICIALS AND MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.

8 (III) IDENTIFY, EVALUATE AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON TOPICS  
9 INVOLVED WITH SCHOOL HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO,  
10 THE FOLLOWING:

11 (A) THE NUMBER OF SCHOOL NURSE CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED  
12 ANNUALLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS.

13 (B) THE NUMBER OF WAIVERS AND EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION  
14 PERMITS ISSUED FOR SCHOOL NURSES ANNUALLY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
15 EDUCATION OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS, BOTH ACROSS THIS COMMONWEALTH  
16 AND BY REGION.

17 (C) THE NUMBER OF OTHER SCHOOL HEALTH PERSONNEL EMPLOYED  
18 OVER THE LAST TEN YEARS BY DISTRICTS UNDER ARTICLE XIV.

19 (D) THE COST OF DELIVERING SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES MANDATED  
20 BY LAW AND AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THE DISTRICT.

21 (E) AVAILABILITY AND COORDINATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE  
22 FUNDING FOR SCHOOL NURSE SERVICES.

23 (F) BEST PRACTICES TO IMPROVE SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES IN THIS  
24 COMMONWEALTH'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

25 (G) ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES, PROGRAMS AND STAFFING  
26 OPTIONS THAT COULD ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN OFFERING A  
27 FLEXIBLE AND COMPREHENSIVE DELIVERY OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES IN  
28 THIS COMMONWEALTH'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

29 (IV) MAKE AND TRANSMIT A REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES, FINDINGS  
30 AND RECOMMENDATIONS, INCLUDING POSSIBLE LEGISLATION, TO THE

1 CHAIRPERSON OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE OF THE  
2 SENATE, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE  
3 SENATE, THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
4 COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CHAIRPERSON OF  
5 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITHIN  
6 ONE YEAR OF THE TASK FORCE'S FIRST MEETING.

7 (C) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
8 SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE TASK FORCE.

9 (D) THE TASK FORCE SHALL CEASE TO EXIST UPON THE RECEIPT BY  
10 ALL FOUR COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE TASK FORCE'S REPORT AS  
11 DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B) (3) (III) (D), UNLESS IT IS  
12 REESTABLISHED BY ACTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

13 (E) AS USED IN THIS SECTION--

14 "SCHOOL NURSE" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS UNDER SECTION  
15 1401.

16 "TASK FORCE" MEANS THE TASK FORCE ON SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES  
17 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

18 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AS FOLLOWS:

19 (1) THE ADDITION OF SECTION 528 OF THE ACT SHALL TAKE  
20 EFFECT IN 180 DAYS.

21 (2) THE ADDITION OF SECTION 1424 OF THE ACT SHALL TAKE  
22 EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.

23 (3) THIS SECTION SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY.