

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1530 Session of  
2012

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, BAKER, GORDNER, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE,  
SOLOBAY, COSTA, BLAKE, STACK, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, ARGALL,  
BOSCOLA, FONTANA, WASHINGTON, HUGHES, BROWNE AND FERLO,  
MAY 29, 2012

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 29, 2012

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," further providing for Office for Safe  
6 Schools.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1302-A(b) and (c) of the act of March 10,  
10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
11 amended November 17, 2010 (P.L.996, No.104), are amended to  
12 read:

13 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--\* \* \*

14 (b) The office shall have the power and duty to implement  
15 the following:

16 (1) To coordinate antiviolenace efforts between school,  
17 professional, parental, governmental, law enforcement and  
18 community organizations and associations.

19 (2) To collect, develop and disseminate information,

1 policies, strategies and other information to assist in the  
2 development of programs to impact school violence.

3 (2.1) To direct all school entities to submit annual school  
4 violence statistics and reports to the office no later than July  
5 31 of each year.

6 (3) To provide direct training to school employes, parents,  
7 law enforcement officials and communities on effective measures  
8 to prevent and combat school violence.

9 (4) To advise school entities and nonpublic schools on the  
10 development of policies to be used regarding possession of  
11 weapons by any person, acts of violence and protocols for  
12 coordination with and reporting to law enforcement officials and  
13 the Department of Education.

14 (4.1) To verify the existence of corrective action plans to  
15 reduce incidents of violence as required in the No Child Left  
16 Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425).

17 (5) To develop forms to be used by school entities and  
18 police departments for reporting incidents involving acts of  
19 violence and possession of weapons on school property. The forms  
20 shall be reviewed on a biennial basis and revised when  
21 necessary.

22 (6) To verify that each school entity has a biennially  
23 updated and reexecuted memorandum of understanding with local  
24 law enforcement and has filed such memorandum with the office on  
25 a biennial basis.

26 (7) To publish and post on the Department of Education's  
27 Internet website a School Safety Annual Report no later than  
28 November 1 of each calendar year outlining all incidents  
29 required to be reported under section 1303-A and any school  
30 district that failed to submit a report under section 1303-A.

1     (8) Not later than January 2, 2013, to establish an antigang  
2 counseling program to provide materials, support and financial  
3 assistance to participating school districts to establish pilot  
4 programs designed to educate students and parents on the  
5 following:

6     (i) The extent to which criminal gang activity exists in the  
7 school district's community and the types of activity that  
8 criminal gangs engage in or promote.

9     (ii) The negative societal impacts that criminal gangs have  
10 on a community, including criminal activity.

11     (iii) Methods to discourage participation in criminal gangs.

12     (iv) The consequences of criminal gang activity, including  
13 consequences in the criminal justice system for participating in  
14 criminal gangs.

15     (9) To encourage the use of community resources not directly  
16 affiliated with the school district, including the participation  
17 of law enforcement officials in a pilot program under paragraph  
18 (8).

19     \* \* \*

20     (c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under  
21 subsection (b), the office is authorized to make targeted grants  
22 to school entities to fund programs which address school  
23 violence, including:

24     (1) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including  
25 restorative justice strategies.

26     (1.1) School-wide positive behavior support that includes  
27 primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and  
28 interventions in school entities.

29     (1.2) School-based diversion programs.

30     (2) Peer helpers programs.

1 (3) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention  
2 curricula, including, but not limited to, dating violence  
3 curricula and restorative justice strategies.

4 (4) Classroom management.

5 (5) Student codes of conduct.

6 (6) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk  
7 factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among  
8 students.

9 (7) Development and implementation of research-based  
10 violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce  
11 incidents of problem behaviors among students including, but not  
12 limited to, bullying.

13 (8) Comprehensive, districtwide school safety and violence  
14 prevention plans.

15 (9) Security planning, purchase of security-related  
16 technology which may include metal detectors, protective  
17 lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency  
18 communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts and  
19 theft control devices and training in the use of security-  
20 related technology. Security planning and purchase of security-  
21 related technology shall be based on safety needs identified by  
22 the school entity's board of directors.

23 (10) Institution of student, staff and visitor  
24 identification systems, including criminal background check  
25 software.

26 (11) Establishment or enhancement of school security  
27 personnel, including school resource officers.

28 (12) Provision of specialized staff and student training  
29 programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team  
30 members in elementary, middle and high schools in the referral

1 of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate  
2 community-based services, including mental health services.

3 (13) Alternative education programs provided for in Article  
4 XIX-C.

5 (14) Counseling services for students enrolled in  
6 alternative education programs.

7 (15) An Internet web-based system for the management of  
8 student discipline, including misconduct and criminal offenses.

9 (16) Staff training programs in the use of positive behavior  
10 supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate responses to  
11 student behavior that may require immediate intervention.

12 (17) Antigang pilot programs.

13 \* \* \*

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