

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1424 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CLYMER, TURZAI, BARRAR, KOTIK, V. BROWN, O'BRIEN,
O'NEILL, STEPHENS, MCGEEHAN, KORTZ, PARKER, PETRI,
SCHLOSSBERG, COHEN, RAPP, YOUNGBLOOD, DENLINGER, ROCK,
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, MAHONEY, PAINTER, MICOZZIE, WATSON, HESS
AND GROVE, MAY 23, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 23, 2013

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," in terms and courses of study,
6 providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations
7 instruction.

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 to read:

13 Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights
14 Violations Instruction.--(a) (1) Beginning with school year
15 2015-2016, each school entity may offer instruction in the
16 Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to students in
17 grade six through grade twelve. If offered by the school entity,
18 the instruction shall be integrated within the social studies
19 and language arts courses of study required in accordance with

1 State Board of Education regulations. Instruction may also be
2 integrated into other appropriate courses of study.

3 (2) The Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations
4 instruction permitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall:

5 (i) Be age appropriate.

6 (ii) Be sequential in method of study.

7 (iii) Communicate the connection between national, ethnic,
8 racial or religious intolerance and the subjects described in
9 subsection (b).

10 (iv) Communicate the impact of personal responsibility,
11 civic engagement and societal response within the context of the
12 subjects described in subsection (b).

13 (3) School entities may utilize any appropriate public or
14 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing
15 and implementing the program of instruction permitted pursuant
16 to paragraph (1). The Department of Education shall make
17 available information about appropriate curriculum materials
18 upon request of a school entity. School entities that offer the
19 instruction permitted pursuant to paragraph (1) may utilize any
20 curriculum that complies with the requirements of this
21 subsection.

22 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall establish
23 curriculum guidelines no later than twelve (12) months after the
24 effective date of this section. The guidelines shall encourage
25 the inclusion of all of the following subjects where appropriate
26 in the instruction:

27 (i) The breadth of the history of the Holocaust, including
28 the Third Reich dictatorship, concentration camp system,
29 persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish
30 resistance and post-World War II trials.

1 (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in
2 the face of genocide, including the Holocaust and any other
3 genocide perpetrated against humanity.

4 (iii) Human rights violations.

5 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
6 rights.

7 (2) The Department of Education may work in consultation
8 with organizations that provide educational resources related to
9 the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to develop
10 the curriculum guidelines.

11 (c) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, the Department
12 of Education shall make available, to all school entities, in-
13 service training programs based upon the instruction permitted
14 pursuant to subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines
15 established pursuant to subsection (b).

16 (d) (1) Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each
17 school entity that offers the instruction permitted pursuant to
18 subsection (a) shall provide, as part of its in-service
19 training, programs on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights
20 violations for all instructors whose teaching responsibilities
21 include courses of study in which instruction concerning the
22 Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations is integrated. A
23 school entity may utilize the programs made available by the
24 Department of Education or use other alternative programs that
25 are consistent with the provisions of this section.

26 (2) Employees required to complete continuing professional
27 education under section 1205.2 shall receive credit toward the
28 continuing professional education requirements where the
29 training program provided pursuant to paragraph (1) has been
30 approved by the Department of Education.

1 (e) The Department of Education shall provide the
2 guidelines, in-service training and any other materials
3 developed in accordance with this section to any nonpublic
4 school within this Commonwealth upon receiving a request from
5 the nonpublic school.

6 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
7 regulations necessary for the implementation of this section
8 pursuant to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), known as
9 the "Regulatory Review Act."

10 (g) For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"
11 shall mean a school district, charter school, regional charter
12 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area
13 vocational-technical school.

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