

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2035 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY DAVIS, READSHAW, MCGEEHAN, BISHOP, SCHLOSSBERG,
NEILSON, COHEN, P. COSTA, KORTZ, KOTIK, MURT, FLYNN,
D. COSTA, WATSON, SABATINA, MAHONEY, HARHAI, FARINA,
DAVIDSON, BROWNLEE, GAINEY, HAGGERTY, ROZZI, O'BRIEN,
V. BROWN, YOUNGBLOOD, GOODMAN AND MIRABITO, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

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 Internet safety education curriculum.

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 1554. Internet Safety Education Curriculum.--(a)
13 The department, in consultation with the Office of Attorney
14 General, shall establish an age-appropriate curriculum for
15 Internet safety instruction of students in kindergarten through
16 grade twelve (12). Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, a
17 school district shall incorporate into the school curriculum a
18 component on Internet safety to be taught at least once each

school year to students in kindergarten through grade twelve
(12). The school board shall determine the scope and duration of
this unit of instruction. The age-appropriate unit of
instruction may be incorporated into the current courses of
study regularly taught in the district's schools, as determined
by the school board. Such instruction shall be chosen from a
menu of options developed by the department, which shall
include, but not be limited to, the following topics:

(1) Safe and responsible use of social networking websites,
chat rooms, electronic mail, bulletin boards, instant messaging
and other means of communication on the Internet.

(2) Recognizing, avoiding and reporting online solicitations
of students, their classmates and their friends by sexual
predators.

(3) Risks of transmitting personal information on the
Internet.

(4) Recognizing and avoiding unsolicited or deceptive
communications received online.

(5) Recognizing and reporting online harassment and cyber
bullying.

(6) Reporting illegal activities and communications on the
Internet.

(7) Copyright laws on written materials, photographs, music
and video.

(b) The department may develop curriculum to serve the
instructional needs of multiple grades of students, such as one
curriculum for elementary school students, one curriculum for
middle school students and one curriculum for high school
students.

(c) In developing the Internet safety education curriculum,

1 the department shall take into consideration similar curriculum
2 in other states and other curricular materials suggested by
3 education experts, child psychologists or technology companies
4 that work on child online safety issues. The department shall
5 also conduct a thorough review of publicly available materials
6 available on the topics of safe online communications, privacy
7 protection, cyber bullying, viewing inappropriate material,
8 file-sharing and the importance of open communications with
9 responsible adults. The department shall make such resource
10 materials that it deems appropriate available on its publicly
11 accessible Internet website.

12 (d) Curricula devised in accordance with subsection (a)
13 shall be developed within six (6) months of the effective date
14 of this section.

15 (e) A parent or legal guardian of a student who is under
16 eighteen (18) years of age, within a reasonable period of time
17 after the request is made, shall be permitted to examine the
18 Internet safety curriculum instructional materials at the school
19 in which the student is enrolled.

20 (f) At the request of a parent or guardian, a student shall
21 be excused from all or parts of the Internet safety curriculum
22 instruction. The principal shall notify all parents or guardians
23 of their ability to withdraw their children from instruction in
24 the curriculum by returning a signed opt-out form.

25 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
26 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

27 "Department." The Department of Education of the
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Office of Attorney General." The Office of Attorney General
30 of the Commonwealth.

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