
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 184 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SCHWANK, COSTA, HUGHES, STACK, YUDICHAK, SMITH,
FONTANA, TEPLITZ, FERLO, FARNESE, BLAKE AND SOLOBAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor to develop a comprehensive legislative plan
2 to improve basic education in the public schools of this
3 Commonwealth and to establish an advisory commission to study
4 and make specific recommendations for components of the plan.

5 WHEREAS, The public schools of this Commonwealth are valued
6 assets that have provided a quality education to countless
7 public school students since their inception; and

8 WHEREAS, School districts in this Commonwealth have recently
9 experienced significant budget shortfalls over the previous
10 fiscal years due to the combination of severe cuts in State
11 funding and the reduced revenue from local school taxes
12 resulting from the economic downturn; and

13 WHEREAS, As a result of the severe budget constraints, school
14 districts have reluctantly been faced with the necessity of
15 reducing or eliminating components of their educational
16 programs, such as kindergarten, libraries and the arts and
17 furloughing experienced professional educators to balance their
18 budgets; and

1 WHEREAS, The structure of State and local funding for school
2 districts needs to be reviewed and revised as needed to address
3 equitable funding; and

4 WHEREAS, The elimination of components of their educational
5 programs and the necessary furloughs of experienced professional
6 educators raise questions regarding which educational programs
7 and what professional educator-to-student ratios are needed to
8 provide the level of education needed for students to succeed in
9 the current global economy; and

10 WHEREAS, Several school districts are experiencing deficits
11 that have placed them in severe financial distress; therefore be
12 it

13 RESOLVED, That the Senate respectfully urge the Governor to
14 develop a thoughtful and cohesive, comprehensive legislative
15 plan to improve the education of students in the public schools
16 of this Commonwealth; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Senate respectfully urge the Governor, in
18 order to develop the comprehensive legislative plan for public
19 education, to establish an advisory commission with a sufficient
20 number of advisory commission members consisting of parents,
21 teachers, school administrators, business leaders, higher
22 education leaders and legislators representing a balanced cross
23 section of the citizens of this Commonwealth to study and
24 provide specific recommendations for the components of the plan,
25 including the following issues:

26 (1) what sources of State and local funding for basic
27 education are the best sources of revenue for reliability and
28 equity;

29 (2) what educational programs and professional educator-
30 to-student ratios are needed for student success in the

1 current global economy and how they should be evaluated for
2 impact;

3 (3) what is the future role of the Department of
4 Education in addressing financially distressed school
5 districts; and

6 (4) suggestions for revisions to the Public School Code
7 of 1949 and recommendations for shared services and school
8 district consolidation options;

9 and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
11 the Governor.