
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 216 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, BREWSTER, HUGHES, COSTA, FARNESE,
RAFFERTY AND LEACH, JANUARY 15, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 15, 2015

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 duties and powers of boards of
6 school directors, further providing for additional schools
7 and departments and for kindergartens; and, in terms and
8 courses of study, further providing for dates and times of
9 school terms and sessions.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 502 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
13 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, amended May 9,
14 1949 (P.L.939, No.263), is amended to read:

15 Section 502. Additional Schools and Departments.--In
16 addition to the elementary public schools, the board of school
17 directors in any school district may establish, equip, furnish,
18 and maintain the following additional schools or departments for
19 the education and recreation of persons residing in said
20 district, and for the proper operation of its schools, namely:--

21 High schools,

1 Trade schools,
2 Vocational schools,
3 Technical schools,
4 Cafeterias,
5 Agricultural schools,
6 Evening schools,
7 [Kindergartens,]
8 Libraries,
9 Museums,
10 Reading-rooms,
11 Gymnasiums,
12 Playgrounds,
13 Schools for physically and mentally handicapped,
14 Truant schools,
15 Parental schools,
16 Schools for adults,
17 Public lectures,

18 Such other schools or educational departments as the
19 directors, in their wisdom, may see proper to establish.

20 Said additional schools or departments, when established,
21 shall be an integral part of the public school system in such
22 school district and shall be so administered.

23 No pupil shall be refused admission to the courses in these
24 additional schools or departments, by reason of the fact that
25 his elementary or academic education is being or has been
26 received in a school other than a public school.

27 Section 2. Section 503 of the act, amended September 21,
28 1959 (P.L.925, No.373) and October 21, 1965 (P.L.601, No.312),
29 is amended to read:

30 Section 503. Kindergartens.--(a) The board of school

1 directors in [any] every school district [may] shall establish
2 and maintain kindergartens for children between the ages of four
3 and six years. [When established, the] The kindergartens shall
4 be an integral part of the elementary school system of the
5 district, and be kept open for not less than [two and one-half]
6 five hours each day for the full school term as provided in
7 section 1501.

8 (b) The number of kindergartens in any one district shall be
9 fixed by the board of school directors, and shall be open during
10 the school year. Kindergartens shall be made available to all
11 children in residence within the school district who are between
12 the ages of four and six years.

13 [If the average attendance in any one kindergarten in any
14 district is ten or less for the school year, the school
15 directors shall, at the close of the school year, discontinue
16 the same.]

17 (c) The board of school directors shall appoint and assign a
18 sufficient number of teachers to such kindergartens, who shall
19 be certified in accordance with the rules and regulations
20 prescribed by the [Council of Basic Education] State Board of
21 Education.

22 Section 3. Section 1504(a) of the act, amended July 1, 1978
23 (P.L.575, No.105), is amended to read:

24 Section 1504. Dates and Times of School Terms and Sessions;
25 Commencement.--(a) The board of school directors of each school
26 district shall fix the date of the beginning of the school term.
27 Unless otherwise determined by the board, the daily session of
28 school shall open at nine ante-meridian and close at four post-
29 meridian, with an intermission of one hour at noon, and an
30 intermission of fifteen minutes in the forenoon and in the

1 afternoon. Upon request of a board of school directors for an
2 exception to the aforesaid daily schedule, the Secretary of
3 Education may, when in his opinion a meritorious educational
4 program warrants, approve a school week containing a minimum of
5 twenty seven and one-half hours of instruction as the equivalent
6 of five (5) school days, or a school year containing a minimum
7 of nine hundred ninety hours (990) of instruction at the
8 secondary level or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction at
9 the elementary level or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction
10 at the kindergarten level as the equivalent of one hundred
11 eighty (180) school days. Professional and temporary
12 professional employes shall be allowed a lunch period free of
13 supervisory or other duties of at least thirty minutes. The
14 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to repeal
15 any rule or regulation of any board of school directors now in
16 effect which provides for a lunch period longer than the minimum
17 prescribed herein or to repeal any action of any board of school
18 directors taken in compliance with section 7 of the act of July
19 25, 1913 (P.L.1024, No.466), entitled "An act to protect the
20 public health and welfare, by regulating the employment of
21 females in certain establishments, with respect to their hours
22 of labor and the conditions of their employment; by establishing
23 certain sanitary regulations in the establishments in which they
24 work; by requiring certain abstracts and notices to be posted;
25 by providing for the enforcement of this act by the Commissioner
26 of Labor and Industry and others; by prescribing penalties for
27 violations thereof; by defining the procedure in prosecutions;
28 and by repealing all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with
29 the provisions thereof," as amended.

30 * * *

1 Section 4. This act shall apply to the 2016-2017 school year
2 and each school year thereafter.

3 Section 5. This act shall take effect immediately.