
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1694 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY R. BROWN, BAKER, BOBACK, V. BROWN, D. COSTA,
DRISCOLL, GILLEN, A. HARRIS, MILLARD, MILNE, MURT, PICKETT
AND ZIMMERMAN, AUGUST 15, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 15, 2017

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 school health services, further
6 providing for health services and providing for vision
7 screenings and examinations.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1402(a) of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1402. Health Services.--(a) Each child of school
14 age shall be given by methods established by the Advisory Health
15 Board, [(1) a vision test by a school nurse, medical technician
16 or teacher,] (2) a hearing test by a school nurse or medical
17 technician, (3) a measurement of height and weight by a school
18 nurse or teacher, who shall use the measurement to compute a
19 child's weight-for-height ratio, (4) tests for tuberculosis
20 under medical supervision, and (5) such other tests as the

1 Advisory Health Board may deem advisable to protect the health
2 of the child. [Vision tests shall be given at least annually and
3 other tests at intervals established by the Advisory Health
4 Board.]

5 * * *

6 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

7 Section 1403.1. Vision Screening and Examinations.--(a) (1)

8 Within 30 days of the start of the school year at a public,
9 private, parochial or nonpublic school in this Commonwealth,
10 including special education and home education programs and
11 cyber and charter schools or upon entry into the school
12 district, the parent or legal guardian of a child entering
13 kindergarten shall present to school health personnel
14 certification that the child within the previous twelve months
15 passed a vision screening performed by a primary care provider
16 or a vision screening conducted by screeners with specific
17 training in vision screening techniques and protocols approved
18 by the Department of Health or has completed a comprehensive eye
19 exam conducted by an ophthalmologist or optometrist.

20 (2) The Advisory Health Board shall promulgate regulations
21 to establish vision screening standards based on instrument-
22 based vision screening technologies or visual acuity testing,
23 taking into consideration national guidelines from the American
24 Academy of Pediatrics.

25 (b) (1) Every school year at a public, private, parochial
26 or nonpublic school in this Commonwealth, including special
27 education and home education programs and cyber and charter
28 schools, until a child completes the fifth grade and every two
29 years thereafter until the child graduates from the twelfth
30 grade, the child shall have a vision screening performed by

1 school health personnel or screeners with specific training in
2 vision screening techniques and protocols approved by the
3 Advisory Health Board. The results of the vision screening shall
4 be supplied to the parent or legal guardian of the child.

5 (2) For a child who fails a required vision screening, a
6 comprehensive eye examination, performed by an ophthalmologist
7 or optometrist, shall also be required. Notification of the
8 parent or legal guardian of the failed screening shall be
9 accompanied by notification of requirement for a comprehensive
10 examination that must be completed within one hundred twenty
11 (120) days or before the start of the next school year,
12 whichever comes first. Notification should also include a form,
13 to be completed by the examining ophthalmologist or optometrist,
14 to be used for reporting the results of the examination. The
15 report shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

16 (i) Date of report.

17 (ii) Name, address and date of birth of the child.

18 (iii) Name of the child's school.

19 (iv) A summary of significant findings, including best
20 corrected visual acuity, diagnosis, treatment, prognosis,
21 whether or not a return visit is recommended and, if so, when.

22 (v) Recommended educational adjustments for the child, if
23 any, which may include preferential seating in the classroom,
24 eyeglasses for full-time use in school, eyeglasses for part-time
25 use in school, sight-saving eyeglasses or any other
26 recommendations.

27 (vi) Name, address and signature of the examiner.

28 (3) The examination report shall be accompanied by an
29 envelope for return of the form to school health personnel so
30 the completion status and result of the examination may be

1 recorded.

2 (c) No child shall be excluded from attending school for the
3 reason that the parent or guardian failed to furnish a report of
4 the child's vision screening or to have an examination completed
5 upon failure of vision screening. Parents and guardians that
6 fail to present the required report shall be notified in writing
7 of the required vision examination every three months until the
8 examination completion has been verified.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.