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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 1759 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY RAVENSTAHL, MARKOSEK, McNEILL, JOHNSON-HARRELL,  
HILL-EVANS, TOOIL, KINSEY, YOUNGBLOOD, A. DAVIS,  
CALTAGIRONE, DeLUCA, GALLOWAY, McCLINTON, FRANKEL AND KIM,  
AUGUST 16, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 16, 2019

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AN ACT

1 Providing for early college high school programs.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Early College  
6 High School Act.

7 Section 2. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
12 Commonwealth.

13 "Early college high school." An evidence-based whole school  
14 approach that provides students, including those traditionally  
15 underrepresented in postsecondary education, with the  
16 opportunity to access college-level courses and college degree

1 credits in high school with the combined support of high school  
2 and college staff and resources.

3 Section 3. Early college high school program.

4 (a) Purpose.--It is the goal of the Commonwealth to offer  
5 evidence-based early college high school programs to interested  
6 students.

7 (b) Establishment of plan.--Within 100 days of the effective  
8 date of this subsection, the department shall establish a plan  
9 to expand the availability of early college high school programs  
10 in this Commonwealth by 25% over a five-year period. The  
11 department shall publish the plan on its publicly accessible  
12 Internet website.

13 (c) Contents of plan.--

14 (1) The plan may include:

15 (i) Expansion of existing early college high school  
16 programs.

17 (ii) Establishment of new early college high school  
18 programs.

19 (iii) Plans to obtain and leverage Federal and  
20 foundation grant funding and use existing State grant  
21 funds or other available State resources.

22 (iv) Other initiatives the department identifies  
23 that would result in an efficient expansion of early  
24 college high school programs.

25 (2) The plan shall target expansion of early college  
26 high school programs by at least 5% per year.

27 (d) Department actions.--The plan shall detail actions that  
28 the department may pursue without additional legislative action.  
29 Within 60 days of the plan's publication on the department's  
30 publicly accessible Internet website, the department shall

1 commence those actions.

2 (e) Action by General Assembly.--For aspects of the plan  
3 that require additional action by the General Assembly, the  
4 department shall include in the plan specific requests and  
5 outlines of legislative action needed, including budget  
6 requests.

7 Section 4. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect in 60 days.