

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1252 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, LANGERHOLC, KILLION, MENSCH, KEARNEY, AUMENT, STEFANO, BOSCOLA, COLLETT, BLAKE, FONTANA, ARGALL, FARNESE AND SCHWANK, AUGUST 11, 2020

SENATOR LANGERHOLC, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

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 intermediate units, providing for
6 Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program PROGRAMS. <--

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 923.4 A. Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program.~~ <--
13 ~~(a) Establishment. The Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program~~
14 ~~is established.~~

15 SECTION 923.4-A. RETIRED VOLUNTEER EDUCATOR TUTOR <--
16 PROGRAMS.-- (A) ESTABLISHMENT. INTERMEDIATE UNITS MAY ESTABLISH
17 A RETIRED VOLUNTEER EDUCATOR TUTOR PROGRAM FOR THE SCHOOL
18 DISTRICTS ASSIGNED TO THE INTERMEDIATE UNIT.

19 (b) Purpose. The program shall provide for individualized

1 tutoring sessions by retired volunteer educators for students of
2 a school district during a mandated school closure under a
3 disaster emergency to assist all of the following:

4 (1) Students attending the school district with limited
5 technology resources in their homes.

6 (2) Students attending the school district who are
7 identified by the school district as having difficulty with
8 online or distance learning.

9 (c) Requirements. The following apply:

10 (1) The tutoring sessions shall be conducted by telephone OR <--
11 OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION with retired volunteer
12 educators assisting students who are identified by the school
13 district as meeting the requirements under subsection (b).

14 (2) The parent or guardian of the student shall be permitted
15 to monitor the ~~telephone~~ TUTORING session with the student. <--

16 (d) Operation. The program shall be operated by the
17 intermediate unit that serves the school district.

18 (e) Model items. The department shall provide collaboration
19 and guidance to ~~the~~ intermediate units OR SCHOOL DISTRICTS as <--
20 needed, with model items such as implementation of the program,
21 replication of a model program or standardization of a statement
22 for the student's parent or guardian to sign for participation
23 in the program.

24 (f) Collaboration. As the need for virtual education
25 increases, the department ~~and~~, intermediate units AND SCHOOL <--
26 DISTRICTS shall collaborate to:

27 (1) evaluate and share information on the impact of the
28 program; and

29 (2) investigate methods to virtually provide social wrap-
30 around services and school guidance counseling services.

1 (G) PARTICIPATION. STUDENTS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS MAY NOT BE <--
2 REQUIRED TO UTILIZE OR PARTICIPATE IN ANY PROGRAM CREATED OR
3 OPERATED THROUGH THEIR INTERMEDIATE UNIT UNDER THIS SECTION.

4 (H) AUTHORITY. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS
5 LIMITING THE AUTHORITY OF A SCHOOL ENTITY FROM DEVELOPING AND
6 IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTEER TUTORING PROGRAMS SIMILAR TO OR OTHER
7 THAN AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION.

8 ~~(g)~~ (I) Definitions. As used in this section: <--

9 "Department" means the Department of Education of the
10 Commonwealth.

11 "Disaster emergency" means a declaration of disaster
12 emergency issued by the Governor under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c)
13 (relating to general authority of Governor).

14 "Online or distance learning" includes the provision of
15 continuity of education to students using alternative means
16 during a period of closure due to a disaster emergency.

17 "Program" means the Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program.

18 "School district" means a school district that has been
19 ordered closed under a disaster emergency OR CLOSED BY THE BOARD <--
20 OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS and that offers online or distance learning
21 as a part of its continuity of education.

22 "SCHOOL ENTITY." AN AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL, SCHOOL <--
23 DISTRICT, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, CHARTER
24 SCHOOL OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL.

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