

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 terms and courses of study,
6 providing for child exploitation awareness education.

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 1553.1. Child Exploitation Awareness Education.--(a)
13 Each school district shall incorporate an age-appropriate child
14 exploitation awareness education program into the school
15 district's existing curriculum for students in kindergarten
16 through eighth grade. In developing the program, the school
17 district shall utilize the model guidelines developed by the
18 Department of Education pursuant to subsection (c).

19 (b) Child exploitation awareness education may include, but

1 need not be limited to, defining child exploitation, recognizing
2 the types of child exploitation, creating awareness of warning
3 signs of child exploitation and providing students with
4 avoidance strategies.

5 (c) The Department of Education, through its Office for Safe
6 Schools and in consultation with at least one organization
7 addressing child exploitation, shall develop model guidelines
8 that school districts shall use in developing the education
9 program required under subsection (a). The department shall also
10 provide school districts with age-appropriate educational
11 materials regarding child exploitation awareness, which may
12 include educational materials that are already publicly
13 available.

14 (d) A parent or legal guardian of a student in kindergarten
15 through eighth grade, within a reasonable period of time after
16 the request is made, shall be permitted to examine the child
17 exploitation awareness education program instructional materials
18 at the school in which the student is enrolled.

19 (e) At the request of a parent or legal guardian, a student
20 shall be excused from all or parts of the child exploitation
21 awareness education program. The principal of the school in
22 which the student is enrolled shall notify all parents or legal
23 guardians of their ability to withdraw their children from
24 instruction in the program by returning a signed opt-out form,
25 after the parent or guardian has been offered the opportunity to
26 review the instructional materials.

27 (f) For purposes of this section, the following words and
28 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection
29 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Child exploitation." The term includes child abduction and

1 sexual abuse or exploitation.

2 "Sexual abuse or exploitation." The term shall have the
3 meaning given to it under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating to
4 definitions).

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