

## 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," providing for the Passport for  
6 Learning Block Grant.

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 2599.5. Passport for Learning Block Grant.--(a) The  
13 Department of Education shall establish a grant program to  
14 provide funds for school districts for the benefit of this  
15 Commonwealth's students.

16 (b) A grant shall be used by a school district for any of  
17 the following:

18 (1) Programs to support kindergarten through grade 3  
19 education, including establishing, maintaining or expanding

1 programs which promote enhanced academic achievement in  
2 elementary reading and mathematics, with a focus on activities  
3 that lead to proficiency by the end of the third grade. Full-day  
4 kindergarten programs under this section shall be aligned with  
5 the current academic standards contained in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4  
6 (relating to academic standards and assessment). A program must  
7 be kept open for five hours each day for the full school term as  
8 provided in section 1501. The board of school directors of a  
9 school district may offer a full-day kindergarten program to  
10 children who are between four (4) and six (6) years of age.

11 (2) Establishing, maintaining or expanding programs that  
12 implement Competency Based Education, with a focus on self-paced  
13 mastery of a customized learning plan based on student  
14 proficiency in the academic standards for each subject area.

15 (3) Establishing, maintaining or expanding programs or  
16 activities to support and enhance science, technology,  
17 engineering and mathematics education in grades six through  
18 twelve, including career exploration activities, opportunities  
19 for technical skill attainment and partnerships with  
20 postsecondary education and training programs.

21 (4) Establishing, maintaining or expanding activities or  
22 programs to support school safety and security, including school  
23 climate and emergency management planning.

24 (b.1) A subcontract between a school district and a  
25 nonprofit organization entered into for the provision of a  
26 program or services under this section may not abrogate  
27 provisions of a collective bargaining agreement between the  
28 nonprofit organization and its employees.

29 (c) The following shall apply:

30 (1) The Department of Education shall publish on its

1 Internet website a grant application format and guidelines for  
2 the grant application process and the allowable uses of grant  
3 funds under subsection (b).

4 (2) Each year, the Department of Education shall notify each  
5 school district of the grant amount which it is eligible to  
6 receive under subsection (d).

7 (3) Pursuant to the guidelines established by the Department  
8 of Education under paragraph (1), each school district seeking a  
9 grant shall submit an application to the department. The  
10 application shall include:

11 (i) Reference to the programs or activities under subsection  
12 (b) for which the grant funds will be used.

13 (ii) Identification of whether the grant funds will be used  
14 to establish, maintain or expand the programs or activities  
15 referenced under subparagraph (i).

16 (iii) A brief description of the programs or activities for  
17 which the grant funds will be used.

18 (iv) A description of how ongoing costs will be supported at  
19 the conclusion of the grant program, if the application proposes  
20 to use grant funds for ongoing activities and costs.

21 (v) An assurance that the applicant acknowledges that  
22 funding under this program is limited to the funds available in  
23 the restricted account established under subsection (e) (1).

24 (vi) Any other information required by the Department of  
25 Education's guidelines, including midyear and final reporting  
26 requirements.

27 (4) Within 60 (sixty) days of the receipt of a school  
28 district's application under paragraph (3), the Department of  
29 Education shall notify the school district of the approval or  
30 disapproval of the school district's application.

1     (5) If the Department of Education disapproves an  
2 application, it shall notify a school district of the reason for  
3 disapproval. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of  
4 notification that its application has been disapproved, a school  
5 district may submit a revised application.

6     (d) In the 2013-2014 school year and each school year  
7 thereafter, the Department of Education shall determine the  
8 grant allocation for each school district for the subsequent  
9 school year as follows:

10     (1) A student-focused funding supplement calculated as  
11 follows:

12     (i) A base amount equal to two hundred sixty dollars (\$260).

13     (ii) A per student factor equal to:

14     (A) The base amount multiplied by the school district's  
15 average daily membership for the funding year.

16     (B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the school  
17 district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year  
18 prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

19     (iii) An English language learner factor equal to:

20     (A) The base amount multiplied by fifteen one-hundredths  
21 (0.15).

22     (B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the number of  
23 students in the school district identified as limited English  
24 proficient for the funding year.

25     (C) The product under clause (B) multiplied by the school  
26 district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year  
27 prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

28     (iv) A poverty factor equal to:

29     (A) The base amount multiplied by twenty five one-hundredths  
30 (0.25).

1     (B) The product under clause (A) multiplied by the number of  
2 students in the school district eligible for free or reduced-  
3 price meals under the National School Lunch Program as reported  
4 on October 31 of the funding year.

5     (C) The product under clause (B) multiplied by the school  
6 district's market value/income aid ratio for the school year  
7 prior to the school year in which funding occurs.

8     (D) Add the amounts under subparagraphs (ii), (iii) and  
9 (iv).

10    (2) (Reserved).

11    (e) The following shall apply:

12    (1) A restricted account is established in the State Stores  
13 Fund. The money in the restricted account shall be appropriated  
14 to the Department of Education for the purposes of this section.

15    (2) The Department of Education is authorized to use up to  
16 five one-hundredths of one percent (.05%) of the money available  
17 under paragraph (3) to administer the grant program established  
18 under subsection (a).

19    (3) The restricted account shall be funded by the proceeds  
20 received by the Commonwealth from the divestiture of the  
21 Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's retail and wholesale  
22 operations under Article III-A of the act of April 12, 1951  
23 (P.L.90, No.21), known as the "Liquor Code," and any resulting  
24 interest earned on money in the restricted account.

25    (4) Not more than two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000)  
26 shall be available to school districts under subsection (d) in  
27 the 2014-2015 school year. Not more than two hundred seventy  
28 million dollars (\$270,000,000) shall be available to school  
29 districts under subsection (d) in the 2015-2016 school year or  
30 any school year thereafter.

1     (5) The Passport for Learning Block Grant program shall  
2     expire upon depletion of all funds from the restricted account  
3     established under paragraph (1).

4     (f) Grant payments shall be made as follows:

5     (1) The grant payment calculated under subsection (d) shall  
6     be made to each school district that submitted a block grant  
7     application pursuant to a schedule determined by the Department  
8     of Education at each time the aggregate amount deposited in the  
9     restricted account established under subsection (e) (1) is  
10    certified by the Secretary of the Budget as containing  
11    sufficient funds to make the payments to all school districts.

12    (2) If insufficient funds are available to make the payments  
13    under subsection (d), the payments shall be made on a pro rata  
14    basis.

15    (3) A school district shall not be eligible for a grant  
16    under this section for the 2014-2015 school year or any school  
17    year thereafter, if the school district has not submitted the  
18    information required under subsection (c) (3) (v).

19    (4) In any fiscal year, funds allocated to school districts  
20    not submitting applications or whose applications have been  
21    disapproved shall be reallocated on a pro rata basis to the  
22    districts whose applications have been approved.

23    Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.