

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 Internet instruction where school is closed due
7 to weather or other emergency.

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

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

13 Section 1505. Internet Instruction Where School is Closed
14 Due to Weather or Other Emergency.--(a) Notwithstanding section
15 1501, prior to the first day of August of each year, a school
16 entity may submit to the department a plan to require students
17 to access and complete classroom lessons posted on the school
18 entity's Internet website in order to make up instructional days
19 during the upcoming school year on which the school entity
20 determines it is necessary to close due to weather or other

1 emergency.

2 (b) Under a plan submitted to the department under
3 subsection (a), the school entity shall:

4 (1) Provide for making up any number of days, up to a
5 maximum of three (3) days, through Internet instruction.

6 (2) Require each classroom teacher in the school entity, not
7 later than November 1 of the school year for which the plan is
8 submitted, or not later than December 31 for courses that begin
9 after January 1 of the school year, to develop a sufficient
10 number of lessons for each course taught by the classroom
11 teacher during that school year to permit the number of days
12 provided for under the plan to be made up by Internet
13 instruction. The classroom teacher shall designate the order in
14 which the school entity shall post the lessons on the school
15 entity's Internet website in the event of a school closure.

16 (3) Require each classroom teacher to update or replace the
17 lesson plans developed under paragraph (2) to the extent
18 possible and necessary to correspond to instructional progress
19 during the school year and require the school entity to post the
20 updated or replaced lessons on the school entity's Internet
21 website.

22 (4) Make the lessons designated by the classroom teacher
23 under paragraph (2) or (3) available to students on the school
24 entity's Internet website as soon as practicable after the
25 announcement of a school closure. The school entity shall post a
26 lesson for each course that is scheduled to meet during the
27 hours of the closure.

28 (5) Subject to subsection (e), allow each student two (2)
29 weeks to complete each lesson posted on the Internet website for
30 the courses in which the student is enrolled. The student's

1 classroom teacher shall grade the lesson in the same manner as
2 other lessons assigned or conducted by the classroom teacher and
3 may award a student an "incomplete" or "failing" grade for
4 lessons that are not completed on time.

5 (6) Subject to subsection (e), for those students who do not
6 have access to a computer and an Internet connection at the
7 student's residence, either of the following:

8 (i) Allow the student to work on the posted lessons at
9 school after school reopens. The student shall be allowed a two
10 (2) week period from the date on which school reopens to
11 complete the lessons. The student shall be provided access to a
12 computer before, during or after the regularly scheduled school
13 day.

14 (ii) Provide the student with paper lessons that are
15 substantially similar to the lessons posted on the school
16 entity's Internet website and allow the student a two (2) week
17 period from the date on which school reopens to complete each
18 paper lesson.

19 (7) Obtain written consent to the plan by the employe
20 organization representing the school entity's classroom
21 teachers.

22 (c) The department shall review plans provided by school
23 entities under subsection (b) and shall grant written approval
24 of any plan which satisfies the requirements of this section
25 within thirty (30) days of submission of the plan to the
26 department.

27 (d) Days for which a school entity provides Internet
28 instruction pursuant to a plan approved by the department under
29 subsection (c) shall be considered instructional days for
30 purposes of section 1501.

1 (e) Nothing in this section or any plan approved by the
2 department under this section shall conflict with:

3 (1) Federal or State law regarding the protections provided
4 to a student with a disability for receiving education in the
5 least restrictive environment.

6 (2) The legal authority of an individualized education
7 program team to make appropriate program and placement decisions
8 for a student with a disability in accordance with the student's
9 individualized education program.

10 (f) As used in this section, the following terms shall have
11 the meanings given to them in this subsection unless the context
12 clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Classroom teacher." A professional employe, temporary
14 professional employe or substitute as such terms are defined in
15 section 1101 who provides direct instruction to students related
16 to a specific subject or grade level.

17 "Department." The Department of Education of the
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Internet instruction." Lessons posted on a school entity's
20 Internet website which students are required to access and
21 complete in order to make up instructional days on which the
22 school entity is closed due to weather or other emergency.

23 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
24 intermediate unit, area vocational-technical school, charter
25 school or regional charter school. The term shall not include a
26 cyber charter school.

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