
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1530 Session of
2012

INTRODUCED BY YUDICHAK, BAKER, GORDNER, TARTAGLIONE, FARNESE,
SOLOBAY, COSTA, BLAKE, STACK, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, ARGALL,
BOSCOLA, FONTANA, WASHINGTON, HUGHES, BROWNE AND FERLO,
MAY 29, 2012

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 29, 2012

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," further providing for Office for Safe
6 Schools.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1302-A(b) and (c) of the act of March 10,
10 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended November 17, 2010 (P.L.996, No.104), are amended to
12 read:

13 Section 1302-A. Office for Safe Schools.--* * *

14 (b) The office shall have the power and duty to implement
15 the following:

16 (1) To coordinate antiviolenence efforts between school,
17 professional, parental, governmental, law enforcement and
18 community organizations and associations.

19 (2) To collect, develop and disseminate information,

1 policies, strategies and other information to assist in the
2 development of programs to impact school violence.

3 (2.1) To direct all school entities to submit annual school
4 violence statistics and reports to the office no later than July
5 31 of each year.

6 (3) To provide direct training to school employes, parents,
7 law enforcement officials and communities on effective measures
8 to prevent and combat school violence.

9 (4) To advise school entities and nonpublic schools on the
10 development of policies to be used regarding possession of
11 weapons by any person, acts of violence and protocols for
12 coordination with and reporting to law enforcement officials and
13 the Department of Education.

14 (4.1) To verify the existence of corrective action plans to
15 reduce incidents of violence as required in the No Child Left
16 Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425).

17 (5) To develop forms to be used by school entities and
18 police departments for reporting incidents involving acts of
19 violence and possession of weapons on school property. The forms
20 shall be reviewed on a biennial basis and revised when
21 necessary.

22 (6) To verify that each school entity has a biennially
23 updated and reexecuted memorandum of understanding with local
24 law enforcement and has filed such memorandum with the office on
25 a biennial basis.

26 (7) To publish and post on the Department of Education's
27 Internet website a School Safety Annual Report no later than
28 November 1 of each calendar year outlining all incidents
29 required to be reported under section 1303-A and any school
30 district that failed to submit a report under section 1303-A.

1 (8) Not later than January 2, 2013, to establish an antigang
2 counseling program to provide materials, support and financial
3 assistance to participating school districts to establish pilot
4 programs designed to educate students and parents on the
5 following:

6 (i) The extent to which criminal gang activity exists in the
7 school district's community and the types of activity that
8 criminal gangs engage in or promote.

9 (ii) The negative societal impacts that criminal gangs have
10 on a community, including criminal activity.

11 (iii) Methods to discourage participation in criminal gangs.

12 (iv) The consequences of criminal gang activity, including
13 consequences in the criminal justice system for participating in
14 criminal gangs.

15 (9) To encourage the use of community resources not directly
16 affiliated with the school district, including the participation
17 of law enforcement officials in a pilot program under paragraph
18 (8).

19 * * *

20 (c) In addition to the powers and duties set forth under
21 subsection (b), the office is authorized to make targeted grants
22 to school entities to fund programs which address school
23 violence, including:

24 (1) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including
25 restorative justice strategies.

26 (1.1) School-wide positive behavior support that includes
27 primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and
28 interventions in school entities.

29 (1.2) School-based diversion programs.

30 (2) Peer helpers programs.

1 (3) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention
2 curricula, including, but not limited to, dating violence
3 curricula and restorative justice strategies.

4 (4) Classroom management.

5 (5) Student codes of conduct.

6 (6) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of risk
7 factors that increase the likelihood of problem behaviors among
8 students.

9 (7) Development and implementation of research-based
10 violence prevention programs that address risk factors to reduce
11 incidents of problem behaviors among students including, but not
12 limited to, bullying.

13 (8) Comprehensive, districtwide school safety and violence
14 prevention plans.

15 (9) Security planning, purchase of security-related
16 technology which may include metal detectors, protective
17 lighting, surveillance equipment, special emergency
18 communications equipment, electronic locksets, deadbolts and
19 theft control devices and training in the use of security-
20 related technology. Security planning and purchase of security-
21 related technology shall be based on safety needs identified by
22 the school entity's board of directors.

23 (10) Institution of student, staff and visitor
24 identification systems, including criminal background check
25 software.

26 (11) Establishment or enhancement of school security
27 personnel, including school resource officers.

28 (12) Provision of specialized staff and student training
29 programs, including training for Student Assistance Program team
30 members in elementary, middle and high schools in the referral

1 of students at risk of violent behavior to appropriate
2 community-based services, including mental health services.

3 (13) Alternative education programs provided for in Article
4 XIX-C.

5 (14) Counseling services for students enrolled in
6 alternative education programs.

7 (15) An Internet web-based system for the management of
8 student discipline, including misconduct and criminal offenses.

9 (16) Staff training programs in the use of positive behavior
10 supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate responses to
11 student behavior that may require immediate intervention.

12 (17) Antigang pilot programs.

13 * * *

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