

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1618 Session of
2003

INTRODUCED BY McILHATTAN, CRAHALLA, HARRIS, READSHAW, FICHTER,
CAPPELLI, T. STEVENSON, FAIRCHILD, GORDNER, BAKER, BELFANTI,
HUTCHINSON, WATSON, BELARDI, CURRY, RUBLEY, PICKETT, WILT,
O'NEILL, CAUSER, CREIGHTON, REICHLEY, YOUNGBLOOD, MELIO AND
HESS, JUNE 16, 2003

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 9, 2003

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Science Technology Partnership Program; and
2 providing for State grants.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Science
7 Technology Partnership Act.

8 Section 2. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Higher education institution." Any public or private two-
15 year or four-year or higher postsecondary institution in this
16 Commonwealth that has been accredited at the college level by an

1 accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Secretary of
2 Education.

3 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPUBLIC KINDERGARTEN, ELEMENTARY <—
4 SCHOOL OR SECONDARY SCHOOL AT WHICH THE COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE
5 REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MAY BE MET AND WHICH MEETS THE
6 APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF
7 1964 (PUBLIC LAW 88-352, 78 STAT. 241).

8 "Partnership." A science technology partnership established
9 under section 4.

10 "Program." The Science Technology Partnership Program
11 established in section 3.

12 "Public school." Any school owned or operated by a public
13 school district established under the act of March 10, 1949
14 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
15 including any school established pursuant to Article XVII-A of
16 the Public School Code of 1949.

17 "Scientific or technical equipment." Technical or electronic
18 equipment used in teaching science courses, including laboratory
19 equipment. The equipment may include equipment that is not
20 routinely used in the teaching of science but that is commonly
21 used in the workplace and the fields of health, environment,
22 scientific research, biology, chemistry, geology or other earth
23 sciences, physics or any other scientific field.

24 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
25 Section 3. Science Technology Partnership Program.

26 (a) Establishment.--The Science Technology Partnership
27 Program is hereby established. The purpose of the program shall
28 be to improve science education in public schools and school
29 districts AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS that are members of science <—
30 technology partnerships by:

1 (1) Making scientific or technical equipment available
2 to students.

3 (2) Augmenting the science curriculum.

4 (3) Providing additional professional development
5 opportunities to educators in the sciences.

6 (b) Administration.--The department shall administer a grant
7 program that awards grants to qualified higher education
8 institutions that are members of the science technology
9 partnerships.

10 (c) Criteria for funding.--To implement the program, the
11 department shall request proposals from higher education
12 institutions that are members of science technology partnerships
13 and may award grants to such institutions that meet all of the
14 following criteria:

15 (1) Have established a partnership as defined in section
16 4 and provided a copy of the partnership agreement to the
17 department.

18 (2) Demonstrate how the partnership will make science
19 technology equipment available to students enrolled in public
20 AND NONPUBLIC schools that are partnership members. <—

21 (3) Demonstrate how the partnership will augment the
22 science curriculum of public AND NONPUBLIC schools that are <—
23 partnership members.

24 (4) Demonstrate how the partnership will provide
25 additional professional development opportunities to
26 educators employed by public AND NONPUBLIC schools that are <—
27 partnership members.

28 (5) Have adopted a proposed budget describing the
29 scientific and technical equipment that will be purchased or
30 leased with grant funds.

1 (d) Grant awards.--The department shall award grants in
2 amounts not to exceed \$400,000 for each qualified applicant
3 higher education institution. Grants shall be used for the
4 purchase or lease of scientific or technical equipment and for
5 the development of programs of instruction for members of a
6 partnership.

7 Section 4. Science technology partnerships.

8 (a) Establishment.--A higher education institution may form
9 a partnership with three or more public AND NONPUBLIC schools or <—
10 school districts.

11 (b) Partnership agreement.--The higher education institution
12 and the public schools, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS or school districts <—
13 shall enter into a written agreement defining the
14 responsibilities of the partnership members. The agreement shall
15 include all of the following:

16 (1) The responsibilities of the higher education
17 institution in providing services to each partnership member.

18 (2) The responsibilities of the public schools, <—
19 NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS or school districts in coordinating with
20 the higher education institution.

21 (3) A description of the scientific or technical
22 equipment that shall be provided to each partnership member.

23 (4) A description of the program of instruction that
24 will be provided to each partnership member by the higher
25 education institution.

26 (5) The courses of science instruction and grade levels
27 that will be augmented by scientific or technical equipment
28 through the partnership and how scientific or technical
29 equipment will be used to augment such courses of
30 instruction.

1 (6) The manner in which access to scientific or
2 technical equipment will be provided to students and
3 teachers.

4 (7) The professional development activities that will be
5 provided to science teachers employed by partnership members.

6 (c) Forward to department.--To be eligible to participate in
7 the program, a partnership must forward a certified copy of its
8 partnership agreement to the department.

9 Section 5. Powers and duties of department.

10 The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and
11 procedures necessary to implement the program.

12 Section 6. Annual report.

13 The secretary shall annually submit a report on the program
14 to the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the
15 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority
16 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of
17 Representatives. The report shall include all of the following
18 information:

19 (1) A description of the types of the partnerships
20 created.

21 (2) The number of higher education institutions, public
22 schools, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS and public school districts <—
23 participating in the program as members of the partnerships.

24 (3) The number of public AND NONPUBLIC school students <—
25 participating in the program.

26 (4) The dollar amount of grants awarded to each higher
27 education institution and a summary of the institution's
28 expenditures on services related to the partnership.

29 (5) An assessment of the impact of the program on the
30 scientific knowledge of students participating in the

1 program.

2 Section 7. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.