

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE BILL

No. 414 Session of  
2005

INTRODUCED BY ROBBINS, JUBELIRER, EARLL, C. WILLIAMS, RHOADES,  
COSTA, CORMAN, PICCOLA, LAVALLE, ORIE, PILEGGI, KITCHEN,  
TOMLINSON, VANCE, BOSCOLA, PUNT, GREENLEAF, STOUT, ERICKSON,  
M. WHITE, WOZNIAK, LEMMOND, RAFFERTY, LOGAN, D. WHITE,  
GORDNER, TARTAGLIONE AND O'PAKE, MARCH 21, 2005

SENATOR RHOADES, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 25, 2005

## 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," establishing the Science Technology  
6 Partnership Program; and providing for State grants.

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 an  
11 article to read:

ARTICLE XV-FSCIENCE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIPS

14 Section 1501-F. Scope.

15 This article relates to science technology partnerships.

16 Section 1502-F. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this article

18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
3 Commonwealth.

4 "Higher education institution." Any public or private two-  
5 year or four-year or higher postsecondary institution in this  
6 Commonwealth that has been accredited at the college level by an  
7 accrediting agency recognized by the Federal Secretary of  
8 Education.

9 "Nonpublic school." A ~~nonprofit~~ school, other than a public <—  
10 school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of this  
11 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school  
12 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the  
13 requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public  
14 Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

15 "Program." The Science Technology Partnership Program  
16 established in section 1503-F (relating to Science Technology  
17 Partnership Program).

18 "Public school." Any school owned or operated by a public  
19 school district established under this act, including any school  
20 established pursuant to Article XVII-A (relating to charter  
21 schools).

22 "School." A public or nonpublic school.

23 "Science technology partnership" or "partnership." A science  
24 technology partnership established under section 1504-F  
25 (relating to science technology partnerships).

26 "Scientific or technical equipment." Technical or electronic  
27 equipment used in teaching science courses, including laboratory  
28 equipment. The equipment may include equipment that is not  
29 routinely used in the teaching of science but that is commonly  
30 used in the workplace and the fields of health, environment,

scientific research, biology, chemistry, geology or other earth sciences, physics or any other scientific field.

"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth. Section 1503-F. Science Technology Partnership Program.

(a) Establishment.--The Science Technology Partnership Program is hereby established. The purpose of the program shall be to improve science education in schools and school districts that are members of science technology partnerships by:

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

(2) Augmenting the science curriculum.

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

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

(c) Criteria for funding.--To implement the program, the department shall request proposals from higher education institutions that are members of science technology partnerships. and may award grants to such institutions that TO RECEIVE A GRANT UNDER SUBSECTION (D), AN INSTITUTION MUST meet all of the following criteria:

(1) Have established a partnership consistent with the requirements of section 1504-F (relating to science technology partnerships) and provided a copy of the partnership agreement to the department.

(2) Demonstrate how the partnership will make science technology equipment available to students enrolled in schools that are partnership members.

1       (3) Demonstrate how the partnership will augment the  
2       science curriculum of schools that are partnership members.

3       (4) Demonstrate how the partnership will provide  
4       additional professional development opportunities to  
5       educators employed by schools or school districts that are  
6       partnership members.

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

10      (d) Grant awards.--The department shall award grants to  
11      higher education institutions that are qualified applicants MEET <—  
12      THE CRITERIA FOR FUNDING UNDER SUBSECTION (C). Grants shall be  
13      used for the purchase or lease of scientific or technical  
14      equipment and for the development of programs of instruction for  
15      members of a partnership.

16      Section 1504-F. Science technology partnerships.

17      (a) Establishment.--A higher education institution may form  
18      a partnership with schools or school districts AND MAY <—  
19      SUBCONTRACT WITH A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT  
20      THE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B). A partnership  
21      must include a minimum of three public schools or school  
22      districts.

23      (b) Partnership agreement.--The higher education institution  
24      and the schools or school districts shall enter into a written  
25      agreement defining the responsibilities of the partnership  
26      members. The agreement shall include all of the following:

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

29              (2) The responsibilities of the schools or school  
30              districts in coordinating with the higher education

1 institution.

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

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

7 (5) The courses of science instruction and grade levels  
8 that will be augmented by scientific or technical equipment  
9 through the partnership and how scientific or technical  
10 equipment will be used to augment such courses of  
11 instruction.

12 (6) The manner in which access to scientific or  
13 technical equipment will be provided to students and  
14 teachers.

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

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

20 Section 1505-F. Powers and duties of department.

21 The department shall promulgate rules, regulations and  
22 procedures necessary to implement the program.

23 Section 1506-F. Annual report.

24 The secretary shall annually submit a report on the program  
25 to the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the  
26 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority  
27 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of  
28 Representatives. The report shall include all of the following  
29 information:

30 (1) A description of the types of the partnerships

1     created.

2           (2) The number of higher education institutions, schools  
3     and school districts participating in the program as members  
4     of the partnerships.

5           (3) The number of students participating in the program.

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

9           (5) An assessment of the impact of the program on the  
10    scientific knowledge of students participating in the  
11    program.

12   Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.