

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1360 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, BROWNE, ERICKSON, RAFFERTY AND WILLIAMS,  
DECEMBER 13, 2011

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, DECEMBER 13, 2011

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 curriculum consistency  
6 in low-achieving schools.

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 120. Curriculum Consistency in Low-Achieving  
13 Schools.--(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a school  
14 district shall limit curriculum changes in a low-achieving  
15 school to once every five (5) years.

16 (b) The provisions of subsection (a) shall not apply to  
17 situations in which a low-achieving school fails to show  
18 progress on State assessments or growth under the value-added  
19 assessment system as defined in section 221 for three or more  
20 consecutive years.

1     (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to mandate a  
2 change to or the provision of a certain curriculum.

3     (d) As used in this section the following words and phrases  
4 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

5     "Assessment." The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment  
6 Test, the Keystone Exam, an equivalent local assessment or  
7 another test established by the State Board of Education to meet  
8 the requirements of section 2603-B(d)(10)(i) and required under  
9 the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110, 115  
10 Stat. 1425) or its successor or any other test required to  
11 achieve other standards established by the Department of  
12 Education of the Commonwealth for a public school or school  
13 district under 22 Pa. Code § 403.3 (relating to single  
14 accountability system).

15     "Low-achieving school." A public elementary or secondary  
16 school within this Commonwealth ranking in the lowest five  
17 percent (5%) of its designation as elementary or secondary,  
18 based on combined math and reading scores from the assessment  
19 administered in the most recent school year. The term shall not  
20 include a charter school, cyber charter school, area vocational-  
21 technical school, magnet school or school that does not draw its  
22 student body from a particular attendance boundary.

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