
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1411 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, HELM, CALTAGIRONE, SACCONI, MUSTIO,
MILLARD, MILLER, EMRICK, SIMMONS, DAVIS, SWANGER, MALONEY,
RAPP, MURT, KAUFFMAN, TRUITT, BLOOM, PETRI, AUMENT, GROVE,
ROCK, BROOKS, BENNINGHOFF, COX, DENLINGER, EVERETT, R. BROWN
AND MOUL, MAY 16, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 16, 2013

AN ACT

1 Providing for the establishment of a searchable budget database-
2 driven Internet website detailing certain information
3 concerning taxpayer expenditures and investments by school
4 districts.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the School
9 District Web Accountability and Transparency (SchoolWATCH) Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

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

14 "Department." The Department of Education of the
15 Commonwealth.

16 "Entity." Any of the following:

17 (1) An individual, corporation, association, union,

1 limited liability company or limited liability partnership.

2 (2) Any other legal business entity, including a
3 nonprofit, a grantee, a contractor and a sole proprietor.

4 (3) Any political subdivision or other local government
5 entity.

6 "Funding action or expenditure." A payment by a school
7 district to include:

8 (1) A grant.

9 (2) A loan.

10 (3) Reimbursement.

11 (4) Payment made pursuant to the purchase of goods and
12 services, including employee salaries, or to a construction
13 or other contract.

14 (5) Payment of debt service.

15 (6) Payments made pursuant to a formula.

16 (7) Payments to political subdivisions or other local
17 government entities.

18 "Funding source." A school district's general fund or
19 special funds.

20 "Public School Code of 1949." The act of March 10, 1949
21 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949.

22 "School district." As defined in section 102 of the act of
23 March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code
24 of 1949.

25 Section 3. Searchable database.

26 (a) Development.--By December 31, 2014, the department shall
27 develop, implement and maintain a single, searchable, public
28 Internet website to be called SchoolWATCH.

29 (b) Internet website contents.--The Internet website
30 required pursuant to subsection (a) shall provide the following

1 information for each school district:

2 (1) The name and address of the school district.

3 (2) The amount of funding received by the school
4 district from Federal, State, local and private sources and
5 deposited in the school district's general fund or special
6 fund during the previous month.

7 (3) The name and address of the entity receiving a
8 payment from the school district pursuant to a funding action
9 or expenditure.

10 (4) A description and the amount of each funding action
11 or expenditure.

12 (5) The funding source for each funding action or
13 expenditure.

14 (6) The expected and achieved performance outcomes from
15 the funding action or expenditure, if available.

16 (7) A counter to show the number of times the Internet
17 website is accessed.

18 (8) A link to each school district's Internet website,
19 where available.

20 (9) The total number of individuals employed by each
21 school district as of the 15th day of the previous month.

22 (10) For each individual employed by a school district,
23 the following:

24 (i) Name.

25 (ii) Position or title.

26 (iii) Current annual salary, based on the employee's
27 pay schedule and current salary.

28 (iv) Any additional compensation received by the
29 individual and the basis for such compensation,
30 including, but not limited to, duties as a coach or

1 activity advisor.

2 (v) Compensation, as defined in section 303(a)(1)(i)
3 of the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the
4 Tax Reform Code of 1971, paid by the school district.

5 (c) Exemption.--Notwithstanding any other provision of this
6 act, records not subject to disclosure under the act of February
7 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, shall
8 not be included on the Internet website.

9 (d) Access.--The Internet website shall allow the public to
10 search for and aggregate information at no cost.

11 (e) Maintenance.--Information for a fiscal year shall remain
12 on the Internet website for a period of no less than eight years
13 from the date of posting.

14 Section 4. Administration.

15 (a) School district requirements.--Each school district
16 shall cooperate with the department. The following shall apply:

17 (1) Each school district shall provide the department
18 with all information regarding Federal, State, local and
19 private funding received and all funding actions or
20 expenditures as required under this act at the time the
21 funding is received or the funding action or expenditure is
22 paid by the school district.

23 (2) Each school district shall provide the department
24 with complement and employment compensation information as
25 required under this act prior to the end of each month.

26 (b) Accuracy.--Each school district is responsible for
27 verifying the accuracy and completeness of information submitted
28 to the department.

29 (c) Format.--Each school district shall establish and
30 maintain the information required to be posted under section 3

1 in a manner prescribed by the department. The department shall
2 consult with school districts to develop the format to be
3 utilized.

4 (d) Penalty.--A school district that fails to comply with
5 the provisions of this act shall be subject to withholding of
6 State appropriations pursuant to section 2552 of the Public
7 School Code of 1949.

8 Section 5. Report to Governor and General Assembly.

9 The department shall prepare an annual report containing
10 statistical information on the usage and performance of the
11 Internet website. The report shall contain frequency of user
12 access of the Internet website, types of data being accessed and
13 Internet website performance. The report shall be submitted to
14 the Governor, the chairman and minority chairman of the
15 Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairman and
16 minority chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House
17 of Representatives, the chairman and minority chairman of the
18 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairman and minority
19 chairman of the Education Committee of the House of
20 Representatives by March 30 of each year, beginning March 30,
21 2016.

22 Section 6. Effective date.

23 This act shall take effect immediately.