
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2074 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, HELM,
SAMUELSON, HARHAI, THOMAS, COHEN, BISHOP, GROVE, SWANGER,
FRANKEL, GIBBONS, MURT, CLYMER AND SAINATO, MARCH 10, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 10, 2014

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's Schools of Excellence; and making an
2 appropriation.

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 Governor's
7 Schools of Excellence Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative intent.

9 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the
10 permanent operation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence in
11 order to afford students of all socioeconomic backgrounds the
12 opportunity to pursue in-depth and advanced studies in the
13 fields of agricultural sciences, engineering and technology or
14 sciences.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
17 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 "Governor's Schools of Excellence." Schools established by
5 the department under section 5.

6 "Host site." The college or university where a Governor's
7 School of Excellence is located.

8 "Program." The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.
9 Section 4. Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

10 The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program is hereby
11 established within the department.

12 Section 5. Duties of department.

13 (a) Disciplines.--The department shall establish a minimum
14 of three Governor's Schools of Excellence in the following
15 disciplines at host sites throughout this Commonwealth. The
16 disciplines shall include all of the following:

17 (1) Agricultural sciences.

18 (2) Engineering and technology.

19 (3) Sciences.

20 (b) Locations.--Governor's Schools of Excellence may be
21 sponsored by and located at Pennsylvania institutions of higher
22 education designated by the department.

23 (c) Administration.--In administering the program, the
24 department shall do all of the following:

25 (1) Make applications available to every public and
26 nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include the
27 application on the department's publicly accessible Internet
28 website.

29 (2) Ensure that each Governor's School of Excellence is
30 utilizing a process whereby students are selected on the

1 basis of their performance and achievement through a
2 competitive selection process and seek to ensure an
3 economically, socially and geographically diverse student
4 population.

5 (3) Ensure the program complies with subsection (e),
6 enabling all qualified students the opportunity to enroll in
7 the program regardless of their economic circumstances.

8 (d) Scheduling.--Governor's Schools of Excellence shall be
9 held, to the extent possible, during the summer months between
10 the end and the beginning of the school year. The department may
11 grant permission for a school to be held at other times during
12 the school year when circumstances and programming options
13 warrant such a change.

14 (e) Costs.--Students attending a Governor's School of
15 Excellence shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees to
16 attend and participate in a Governor's School of Excellence.
17 Students are responsible for their own costs relating to
18 transportation to and from the program.

19 Section 6. Appropriation.

20 For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the General Assembly shall
21 appropriate funding in the amount of \$350,000 to the department
22 for the purpose of the Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

23 Section 7. Effective date.

24 This act shall take effect immediately.