

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

## SENATE BILL

No. 1281 Session of  
2014

INTRODUCED BY CORMAN, BAKER, ERICKSON, SCHWANK, FARNESE,  
GREENLEAF, HUGHES, YAW, YUDICHAK, ALLOWAY, COSTA, BREWSTER,  
BRUBAKER AND TARTAGLIONE, MARCH 11, 2014

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

## 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," IN PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS, PROVIDING <--  
6 FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL WEB ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY; IN  
7 GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR APPROVAL BY  
8 DEPARTMENT OF PLANS OF BUILDINGS AND EXCEPTIONS, PROVIDING  
9 FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN CONSTRUCTION  
10 PROCESS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR LIMITATION ON NEW APPLICATIONS  
11 FOR DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
12 BUILDING PROJECTS; IN SAFE SCHOOLS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR <--  
13 OFFICE OF SAFE SCHOOLS; in terms and courses of study, adding <--  
14 ~~winter~~ PROVIDING FOR PAYMENTS OR REIMBURSEMENTS RELATING TO <--  
15 SECRETARY DECLARATION OF WEATHER emergency provisions and <--  
16 ~~further providing for days schools not to be kept open.~~; AND, <--  
17 IN REIMBURSEMENTS BY COMMONWEALTH AND BETWEEN SCHOOL  
18 DISTRICTS, FURTHER PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS, FOR APPROVED  
19 REIMBURSABLE RENTAL FOR LEASES, HEREAFTER APPROVED AND  
20 APPROVED REIMBURSABLE SINKING FUND CHARGES ON INDEBTEDNESS,  
21 FOR PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF LEASES HEREAFTER APPROVED AND ON  
22 ACCOUNT OF SINKING FUND CHARGES ON INDEBTEDNESS FOR SCHOOL  
23 BUILDING HEREAFTER CONSTRUCTED AND FOR PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF  
24 BUILDING COSTS, PROVIDING FOR LUMP SUM REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
25 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION.

26 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES AS FOLLOWS:

27 (1) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPERATE AS  
28 EFFICIENTLY AS POSSIBLE AND ARE RESPONSIBLE IN THEIR USE OF

1 TAXPAYER FUNDS.

2 (2) EFFECTIVE SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES ENHANCE THE <--  
3 EFFICIENCY OF SCHOOL OPERATIONS AND HELP ENSURE THE  
4 RESPONSIBLE AND PRUDENT USE OF TAXPAYER FUNDS.

5 ~~(2)~~ (3) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAVE THE <--  
6 FLEXIBILITY TO PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR IN RESPONSE TO  
7 POTENTIAL WEATHER EMERGENCIES WHILE ENSURING CONSISTENT  
8 COMMONWEALTH SUBSIDY.

9 ~~(3)~~ (4) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION <--  
10 REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS OPERATE IN AN EFFICIENT AND TIMELY  
11 MANNER IN ORDER TO PROVIDE SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH REVENUE  
12 STABILITY, AND THAT THIS PROCESS ENCOURAGE FISCAL  
13 RESPONSIBILITY.

14 ~~(4)~~ (5) IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS ACT TO PROVIDE FOR <--  
15 INCREASED EFFICIENCIES, FLEXIBILITY IN PLANNING AND REVENUE  
16 STABILITY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
17 TO BE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

18 ~~(5)~~ (6) THIS ACT WILL: <--

19 (I) PROVIDE FOR A SEARCHABLE, PUBLIC INTERNET  
20 WEBSITE THAT WILL ALLOW TAXPAYERS TO MONITOR PUBLIC  
21 SCHOOL EFFICIENCY BY REVIEWING PUBLIC SCHOOL RECEIPTS,  
22 EXPENDITURES AND PERFORMANCE.

23 (II) AUTHORIZE AND EMPOWER THE OFFICE FOR SAFE <--  
24 SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP TELEPHONE HOTLINES AND INTERNET  
25 NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS TO REPORT POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL  
26 VIOLENCE OR POSSESSION OF WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY.

27 ~~(II)~~ (III) PROVIDE FOR REVENUE CERTAINTY AND <--  
28 FLEXIBILITY IN PLANNING FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS BY ENSURING  
29 THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS THAT SATISFY THE MINIMUM  
30 INSTRUCTIONAL DAY REQUIREMENT THROUGH ALTERNATIVE MEANS

1 WILL NOT SUFFER A LOSS OF COMMONWEALTH SUBSIDY AS A  
2 RESULT OF WEATHER EMERGENCIES.

3 ~~(III)~~ (IV) MODERNIZE THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION <--  
4 REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS SO AS TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO  
5 APPLY FOR REIMBURSEMENT MORE EFFICIENTLY, PROVIDE FOR  
6 INCREASED TRANSPARENCY IN THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION  
7 REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS, PROVIDE FOR MORE TIMELY SCHOOL  
8 CONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT, AND ENCOURAGE SCHOOL  
9 DISTRICTS TO UTILIZE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION IN A  
10 RESPONSIBLE AND COST-EFFECTIVE MANNER.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 ~~Section 1. Sections 1501.7(a), (b), (d), (g) and (h) and <--~~  
14 ~~1502(c) of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as~~  
15 ~~the Public School Code of 1949, amended or added May 6, 1966~~  
16 ~~(P.L.150, No.28), are amended to read:~~

17 ~~Section 1501.7. Weather [Emergency] Emergencies of 1996 and~~  
18 ~~2014. (a) This section applies only to the school year 1995-~~  
19 ~~1996 as a result of the weather emergency of 1996 and to the~~  
20 ~~school year 2013-2014 as a result of the weather emergency of~~  
21 ~~2014.~~

22 ~~(b) All school entities shall keep open for at least one~~  
23 ~~hundred eighty (180) days of instruction for students by using~~  
24 ~~all available days through June 30, 1996, for the school year~~  
25 ~~1995-1996 and all available days through June 30, 2014, for the~~  
26 ~~school year 2013-2014 and by using the provisions of this~~  
27 ~~section and section 1502(c).~~

28 \* \* \*

29 ~~(d) For purposes of computing instructional time pursuant to~~  
30 ~~this section, the Secretary of Education shall calculate~~

1 ~~instructional days or time related to the weather emergency of~~  
2 ~~1996 or 2014 prior to calculating any other lost instructional~~  
3 ~~time.~~

4 \* \* \*

5 ~~(g) No temporary professional or professional employe of any~~  
6 ~~school closed by reason of the weather emergency of 1996 or 2014~~  
7 ~~shall receive more or less compensation than that to which the~~  
8 ~~employe would otherwise have been entitled to receive from the~~  
9 ~~school entity had the weather emergency of 1996 or 2014 not~~  
10 ~~occurred.~~

11 ~~(h) No school entity which was closed because of the weather~~  
12 ~~emergency of 1996 or 2014 and which makes a good faith effort,~~  
13 ~~as determined by the Secretary of Education, to meet the~~  
14 ~~requirements of this section shall receive less subsidy payments~~  
15 ~~or reimbursements than it would otherwise be entitled to receive~~  
16 ~~for the school year 1995-1996 had the weather emergency of 1996~~  
17 ~~not occurred or for the school year 2013-2014 had the weather~~  
18 ~~emergency of 2014 not occurred.~~

19 \* \* \*

20 Section 1502. Days Schools not to be Kept Open. \* \* \*

21 ~~(c) For the school [year] years 1995-1996 and 2013-2014~~  
22 ~~only, the board of school directors of a school district,~~  
23 ~~intermediate unit or area vocational technical school and the~~  
24 ~~board of trustees of a charter school shall have the option of~~  
25 ~~rescheduling instructional days on Saturday, but for not more~~  
26 ~~than one Saturday per month, to make up instructional days lost~~  
27 ~~from the adopted school calendar because school was closed as a~~  
28 ~~result of the weather emergency of 1996 or 2014, respectively.~~  
29 ~~In those cases where a board of school directors or board of~~  
30 ~~trustees chooses to reschedule instructional days on Saturdays~~

1 ~~in accordance with the provisions of this section, schools~~  
2 ~~within such board's jurisdiction shall not schedule tests or~~  
3 ~~examinations on these Saturdays. Notwithstanding the provisions~~  
4 ~~of subsection (a) or section 1719 A(12), if the board of school~~  
5 ~~directors or board of trustees reschedules an instructional day~~  
6 ~~on Saturday, the schools may be open the following Monday. The~~  
7 ~~chief executive officer of a charter school shall excuse~~  
8 ~~students from school attendance as provided in section 1501.7(e)~~  
9 ~~and (f).~~

10 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.~~

11 SECTION 1. ARTICLE I OF THE ACT OF MARCH 10, 1949 (P.L.30, <--  
12 NO.14), KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF 1949, IS AMENDED BY  
13 ADDING A SUBARTICLE HEADING TO READ:

14 (A) GENERAL PROVISIONS.

15 SECTION 2. ARTICLE I OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A  
16 SUBARTICLE TO READ:

17 (B) PUBLIC SCHOOL WEB ACCOUNTABILITY  
18 AND TRANSPARENCY (SCHOOLWATCH).

19 SECTION 151. SCOPE OF SUBARTICLE.

20 THIS SUBARTICLE SHALL BE KNOWN AND MAY BE CITED AS THE PUBLIC  
21 SCHOOL WEB ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (SCHOOLWATCH) LAW.

22 SECTION 152. DEFINITIONS.

23 THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES WHEN USED IN THIS SUBARTICLE  
24 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
25 CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

26 "ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF." EMPLOYEES OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY  
27 THAT INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, SUPERINTENDENTS, ASSISTANT  
28 SUPERINTENDENTS, DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, ASSISTANT  
29 PRINCIPALS, SUPERVISORS, MANAGERS, DIRECTORS AND COORDINATORS.

30 "ADVISORY COMMITTEE." THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED IN

1 SECTION 155.

2 "AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL." AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
3 1841.

4 "CHARTER SCHOOL." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

5 "CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY." A CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER  
6 SCHOOL OR REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

7 "CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

8 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
9 COMMONWEALTH.

10 "ENTITY." ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

11 (1) A CORPORATION, ASSOCIATION, LIMITED LIABILITY  
12 COMPANY OR LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP.

13 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE PUBLIC  
14 SCHOOL ENTITY.

15 (3) ANY OTHER LEGAL BUSINESS ENTITY, INCLUDING A  
16 NONPROFIT, A GRANTEE, A CONTRACTOR AND A SOLE PROPRIETOR.

17 (4) ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
18 ENTITY.

19 "EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE." AN ANNUAL MEASURE  
20 DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY  
21 COMMITTEE THAT COMPARES THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY INSTRUCTIONAL  
22 EXPENDITURES FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY TO THAT PUBLIC SCHOOL  
23 ENTITY'S STUDENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. THE MEASURE SHALL  
24 INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED TO, ACADEMIC GROWTH AS MEASURED BY  
25 THE PENNSYLVANIA VALUE-ADDED ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

26 "FUNDING ACTION OR EXPENDITURE." A PAYMENT BY A PUBLIC  
27 SCHOOL ENTITY TO INCLUDE:

28 (1) A GRANT.

29 (2) A LOAN.

30 (3) REIMBURSEMENT.

1           (4) PAYMENT MADE PURSUANT TO THE PURCHASE OF GOODS AND  
2 SERVICES, EXCLUDING EMPLOYEE SALARIES, OR TO A CONSTRUCTION  
3 OR OTHER CONTRACT.

4           (5) PAYMENT OF DEBT SERVICE.

5           (6) PAYMENTS MADE PURSUANT TO A FORMULA.

6           (7) PAYMENTS TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OR OTHER LOCAL  
7 GOVERNMENT ENTITIES.

8           "FUNDING SOURCE." A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY'S GENERAL FUND OR  
9 SPECIAL FUNDS.

10          "PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY." ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

11           (1) AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, AS DEFINED IN  
12 SECTION 1841.

13           (2) A SCHOOL DISTRICT, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 102.

14           (3) A CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY.

15          "PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY INSTRUCTIONAL EXPENDITURES."  
16 EXPENDITURES MADE FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AND  
17 SUPPORT SERVICES BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AS REPORTED ON THE  
18 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY'S MOST RECENT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT, TO  
19 BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
20 ADVISORY COMMITTEE. THE TERM SHALL INCLUDE, BUT NOT BE LIMITED  
21 TO, ALL FUNCTIONS RELATED TO INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT SERVICES  
22 PURSUANT TO THE MANUAL OF ACCOUNTING AND RELATED FINANCIAL  
23 PROCEDURES.

24          "REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL." AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1703-A.

25          "SCHOOLWATCH." THE SEARCHABLE, PUBLIC INTERNET WEBSITE TO BE  
26 ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER THIS SUBARTICLE.

27          "SECRETARY." THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH.  
28 SECTION 153. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS TO BE POSTED.

29          WITHIN 90 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBARTICLE, AND  
30 BY DECEMBER 31 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL

1 POST ON ITS PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE, AS THE FIRST  
2 PHASE OF A SEARCHABLE, PUBLIC INTERNET WEBSITE TO BE CALLED  
3 SCHOOLWATCH, THE MOST RECENT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR EACH  
4 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARY PURSUANT TO  
5 SECTION 218(A). THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST SCHOOLWATCH IN A  
6 LOCATION AND IN A MANNER THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC  
7 AND SHALL INCLUDE ON SCHOOLWATCH ALL EXPLANATORY REFERENCES THAT  
8 MAY BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST WEBSITE USERS IN UNDERSTANDING THE  
9 CONTENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES' ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS.  
10 SECTION 154. ANNUAL BUDGETS TO BE POSTED.

11 (A) FILING.--WITHIN 11 MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
12 SUBARTICLE, AND BY SEPTEMBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, EACH  
13 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT AN  
14 ELECTRONIC COPY OF ITS MOST RECENT FINAL ADOPTED BUDGET.

15 (B) POSTING.--WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
16 SUBARTICLE, AND BY OCTOBER 1 OF EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
17 DEPARTMENT SHALL POST ON SCHOOLWATCH, AS THE SECOND PHASE OF  
18 SCHOOLWATCH, THE FINAL ADOPTED BUDGETS FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL  
19 ENTITY FILED WITH THE DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) AND  
20 SHALL INCLUDE ON SCHOOLWATCH ALL EXPLANATORY REFERENCES THAT MAY  
21 BE NECESSARY TO ASSIST WEBSITE USERS IN UNDERSTANDING THE  
22 CONTENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES' FINAL ADOPTED BUDGETS.

23 SECTION 155. SEARCHABLE DATABASE.

24 (A) DEVELOPMENT.--

25 (1) WITHIN 45 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
26 SUBARTICLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL CONVENE AN ADVISORY  
27 COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S DEVELOPMENT  
28 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOLLOWING:

29 (I) THE THIRD PHASE OF SCHOOLWATCH, WHICH SHALL  
30 CONSIST OF A SEARCHABLE DATABASE DETAILING CERTAIN



1 INFORMATION CONCERNING RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BY  
2 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES; AND

3 (II) THE FOURTH PHASE OF SCHOOLWATCH, UNDER WHICH  
4 THE EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE FOR EACH PUBLIC  
5 SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL BE ADDED TO THE SEARCHABLE DATABASE.

6 (2) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIST OF THE  
7 FOLLOWING:

8 (I) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, TO BE APPOINTED BY THE  
9 SECRETARY IN CONSULTATION WITH EDUCATION ASSOCIATIONS  
10 REPRESENTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS, CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES  
11 AND AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOLS:

12 (A) FIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS MANAGERS.

13 (B) THREE CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY BUSINESS  
14 MANAGERS.

15 (C) THREE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
16 BUSINESS MANAGERS.

17 (II) THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
18 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

19 (III) THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
20 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

21 (IV) TWO MEMBERS WHO SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE  
22 SECRETARY FROM AMONG THE CITIZENS OF THIS COMMONWEALTH.

23 (3) THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

24 (I) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL:

25 (A) DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S  
26 ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEARCHABLE, PUBLIC INTERNET  
27 DATABASE, WHICH SHALL IMPOSE NO ADDITIONAL COST ON  
28 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES, THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
29 ESTABLISH, PLACE ONLINE AND FULLY IMPLEMENT AS THE  
30 THIRD PHASE OF SCHOOLWATCH WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE

1 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBARTICLE, PROVIDED THAT THE  
2 DEPARTMENT MAY EXTEND THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE FOR THE  
3 THIRD PHASE OF SCHOOLWATCH BY ONE YEAR BY PUBLISHING  
4 NOTICE OF THE EXTENSION IN THE PENNSYLVANIA BULLETIN  
5 WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS  
6 SUBARTICLE.

7 (B) DETERMINE THE MANNER AND FREQUENCY OF  
8 REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT BY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
9 ENTITIES, WHICH SHALL BE NO LESS FREQUENT THAN  
10 QUARTERLY.

11 (C) WITHIN NINE MONTHS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF  
12 THIS SUBARTICLE, ISSUE A REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND  
13 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SETTING FORTH A PLAN FOR THE  
14 DEPARTMENT'S DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNET DATABASE  
15 THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH PURSUANT  
16 TO SUBCLAUSE (A).

17 (II) THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MAY CONSIDER INCLUDING  
18 ON THE INTERNET DATABASE INDIVIDUAL SALARY INFORMATION  
19 FOR EMPLOYEES WHO ARE NOT ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF.

20 (III) IN DEVELOPING A PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S  
21 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTERNET DATABASE, THE ADVISORY  
22 COMMITTEE SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

23 (A) HOW THE INTERNET DATABASE ESTABLISHED UNDER  
24 THIS ACT CAN BE COORDINATED WITH EXISTING DATABASES  
25 AND ELECTRONIC REPORTING SYSTEMS.

26 (B) WHETHER ANY CURRENT PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY  
27 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS THAT MAY BE DUPLICATED BY THE  
28 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT MAY BE ELIMINATED.

29 (C) DEVELOPMENT OF AN EFFICIENT AND TRANSPARENT  
30 METHOD FOR THE DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES

1 TO COMPLY WITH THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
2 SUBARTICLE.

3 (IV) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE ADVISORY  
4 COMMITTEE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT,  
5 INCLUDING THE ASSISTANCE OF DEPARTMENT INFORMATION  
6 TECHNOLOGY AND BUDGET STAFF, MEETING SPACE AND ANY OTHER  
7 ASSISTANCE REQUIRED BY THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO CARRY  
8 OUT ITS DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBARTICLE.

9 (B) INTERNET DATABASE CONTENTS.--

10 (1) THE INTERNET DATABASE THE DEPARTMENT IS REQUIRED TO  
11 ESTABLISH PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) SHALL PROVIDE ONLY THE  
12 FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY, UNLESS  
13 THE PROVISION OF SUCH INFORMATION CONFLICTS WITH OTHER  
14 FEDERAL OR STATE LAW:

15 (I) THE NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE PUBLIC  
16 SCHOOL ENTITY.

17 (II) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING RECEIVED BY THE  
18 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY FROM, AND BROKEN DOWN BY, EACH OF  
19 THE FOLLOWING SOURCES AND DEPOSITED IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
20 ENTITY'S GENERAL FUND OR SPECIAL FUND DURING THE PREVIOUS  
21 REPORTING PERIOD:

22 (A) FEDERAL.

23 (B) STATE.

24 (C) LOCAL.

25 (D) PRIVATE.

26 (III) THE NAME OF THE ENTITY RECEIVING A PAYMENT  
27 FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY PURSUANT TO A FUNDING  
28 ACTION OR EXPENDITURE.

29 (IV) A GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND THE AMOUNT OF EACH  
30 FUNDING ACTION OR EXPENDITURE.

1           (V) THE FUNDING SOURCE FOR EACH FUNDING ACTION OR  
2 EXPENDITURE.

3           (VI) A COUNTER TO SHOW THE NUMBER OF TIMES THE  
4 INTERNET WEBSITE IS ACCESSED.

5           (VII) A LINK TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY'S INTERNET  
6 WEBSITE, WHERE AVAILABLE.

7           (VIII) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS EMPLOYED BY  
8 EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AS OF THE LAST DAY OF THE  
9 PREVIOUS REPORTING PERIOD WHO ARE NOT ADMINISTRATIVE  
10 STAFF AND THE AGGREGATE COMPENSATION, AS DEFINED IN  
11 SECTION 303(A) (1) (I) OF THE ACT OF MARCH 4, 1971 (P.L.6,  
12 NO.2), KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, PAID BY THE  
13 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY TO SUCH INDIVIDUALS.

14           (IX) FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
15 ENTITY AS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF, THE FOLLOWING:

16           (A) NAME.

17           (B) POSITION OR TITLE.

18           (C) CURRENT ANNUAL SALARY, BASED ON THE  
19 EMPLOYEE'S PAY SCHEDULE AND CURRENT SALARY.

20           (D) ANY ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION RECEIVED BY THE  
21 INDIVIDUAL AND THE BASIS FOR SUCH COMPENSATION,  
22 INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DUTIES AS A COACH OR  
23 ACTIVITY ADVISOR.

24           (E) COMPENSATION, AS DEFINED IN SECTION 303(A)  
25 (1) (I) OF THE TAX REFORM CODE OF 1971, PAID BY THE  
26 PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY.

27           (X) COPIES OF ALL CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE CONTRACTS  
28 BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY AND ANY UNION.

29           (2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS ACT,  
30 RECORDS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO BE NOT SUBJECT TO

1 DISCLOSURE UNDER THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 14, 2008 (P.L.6, NO.3),  
2 KNOWN AS THE RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW, SHALL NOT BE INCLUDED ON THE  
3 INTERNET DATABASE.

4 (3) THE INTERNET DATABASE SHALL ALLOW THE PUBLIC TO  
5 SEARCH FOR AND AGGREGATE INFORMATION AT NO COST TO THE  
6 PUBLIC.

7 (4) INFORMATION POSTED ON SCHOOLWATCH, INCLUDING ANNUAL  
8 FINANCIAL REPORTS, FINAL ADOPTED BUDGETS AND INFORMATION  
9 INCLUDED IN THE DATABASE, SHALL REMAIN ON SCHOOLWATCH FOR A  
10 PERIOD OF NO LESS THAN EIGHT YEARS FROM THE DATE OF POSTING.

11 (5) THE INTERNET DATABASE SHALL NOT PROVIDE ANY  
12 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED OR  
13 PERMITTED UNDER THIS SUBARTICLE.

14 SECTION 156. EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES TO BE POSTED.

15 WITHIN FOUR YEARS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SUBARTICLE,  
16 THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE,  
17 SHALL DO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

18 (1) DEVELOP THE EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE. IN  
19 DEVELOPING THE EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE, THE  
20 DEPARTMENT AND THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL:

21 (I) CONSULT WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS,  
22 CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY ADMINISTRATORS, AREA VOCATIONAL-  
23 TECHNICAL SCHOOL CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND  
24 CURRICULUM DIRECTORS REPRESENTING SCHOOL DISTRICTS,  
25 CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITIES AND AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
26 SCHOOLS.

27 (II) USE DATA SUBMITTED BY EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY  
28 ON ITS MOST RECENT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT AND RELEVANT  
29 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE DATA AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT  
30 IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

1           (III) NOT REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITIES TO REPORT  
2           ANY ADDITIONAL DATA.

3           (2) INCLUDE ON THE INTERNET DATABASE, AS THE FOURTH  
4           PHASE OF SCHOOLWATCH, THE EXPENDITURE AND PERFORMANCE MEASURE  
5           FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY, WHICH THE DEPARTMENT SHALL  
6           UPDATE ANNUALLY.

7 SECTION 157. ADMINISTRATION.

8           (A) PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY REQUIREMENTS.--

9           (1) UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOLWATCH INTERNET  
10           WEBSITE REQUIRED TO BE DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBARTICLE,  
11           EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL:

12           (I) PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH ALL INFORMATION  
13           REGARDING FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND PRIVATE FUNDING  
14           RECEIVED AND ALL FUNDING ACTIONS OR EXPENDITURES AS  
15           REQUIRED UNDER THIS ACT AND AT SUCH TIMES, WHICH SHALL BE  
16           AT LEAST QUARTERLY, AS DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN  
17           CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

18           (II) PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH COMPLEMENT AND  
19           EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION INFORMATION AS REQUIRED UNDER  
20           THIS SUBARTICLE AND AT SUCH TIMES, WHICH SHALL BE AT  
21           LEAST QUARTERLY, AS DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN  
22           CONSULTATION WITH THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

23           (III) PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH COPIES OF ALL  
24           UNION CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBARTICLE AND AT  
25           SUCH TIMES, WHICH SHALL BE AT LEAST QUARTERLY, AS  
26           DIRECTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
27           ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

28           (2) NOTWITHSTANDING PARAGRAPH (1), A PUBLIC SCHOOL  
29           ENTITY SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH  
30           INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE POSTED ON SCHOOLWATCH WHERE THE

1 DEPARTMENT IS ABLE TO OBTAIN SUCH INFORMATION FROM OTHER  
2 SOURCES, INCLUDING FROM OTHER REPORTS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL  
3 ENTITIES.

4 (B) ACCURACY.--EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR  
5 VERIFYING THE ACCURACY AND COMPLETENESS OF INFORMATION SUBMITTED  
6 TO THE DEPARTMENT.

7 (C) FORMAT.--EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL COMPILE,  
8 MAINTAIN AND REPORT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE POSTED UNDER  
9 SECTIONS 154, 155(B) AND 156 IN A MANNER AND ON A REPORTING  
10 SCHEDULE PRESCRIBED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE  
11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

12 (D) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.--

13 (1) A PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO  
14 PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY  
15 REQUIRED OR PERMITTED UNDER THIS SUBARTICLE.

16 (2) NO PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE  
17 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BEYOND THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE  
18 PROVIDED BY ANY OTHER PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY.

19 (E) PENALTY.--THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

20 (1) WHEN A SCHOOL DISTRICT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE  
21 PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL WITHHOLD  
22 STATE APPROPRIATIONS DUE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO  
23 SECTION 2552 UNTIL THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE SCHOOL  
24 DISTRICT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
25 SUBARTICLE. WHEN THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE SCHOOL  
26 DISTRICT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
27 SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL  
28 DISTRICT OF THE FUNDS WITHHELD PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH.  
29 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE 30 DAYS' NOTICE TO THE SCHOOL  
30 DISTRICT PRIOR TO THE WITHHOLDING. IF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT

1 BECOMES COMPLIANT DURING THE 30-DAY PERIOD, NO FUNDS SHALL BE  
2 WITHHELD.

3 (2) WHEN A CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY FAILS TO COMPLY WITH  
4 THIS SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL DIRECT THE SCHOOL  
5 DISTRICT OF RESIDENCE OF EACH STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE CHARTER  
6 SCHOOL ENTITY TO TRANSFER ANY PAYMENTS REQUIRED UNDER SECTION  
7 1725-A(A) TO THE DEPARTMENT TO BE HELD IN ESCROW UNTIL THE  
8 SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY IS IN  
9 COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBARTICLE. WHERE, PURSUANT TO SECTION  
10 1725-A(A) (5), THE SECRETARY DEDUCTS PAYMENTS REQUIRED UNDER  
11 SECTION 1725-A(A) FROM STATE PAYMENTS MADE TO THE SCHOOL  
12 DISTRICT, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL HOLD SUCH DEDUCTED AMOUNTS IN  
13 ESCROW UNTIL THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE CHARTER SCHOOL  
14 ENTITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
15 SUBARTICLE. WHEN THE SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE CHARTER  
16 SCHOOL ENTITY IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
17 SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL ORDER THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE  
18 PAYMENT OF THE FUNDS HELD IN ESCROW TO THE CHARTER SCHOOL  
19 ENTITY. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE 30 DAYS' NOTICE TO THE  
20 CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY PRIOR TO DIRECTING A SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
21 RESIDENCE TO TRANSFER REQUIRED PAYMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OR  
22 HOLDING DEDUCTED AMOUNTS IN ESCROW UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH. IF  
23 THE CHARTER SCHOOL ENTITY BECOMES COMPLIANT DURING THE 30-DAY  
24 PERIOD, NO FUNDS SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OR  
25 HELD IN ESCROW.

26 (3) WHEN AN AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL FAILS TO  
27 COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY  
28 SHALL DIRECT THE SCHOOL DISTRICTS PARTICIPATING IN THE  
29 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL PURSUANT TO SECTION 1850.1 TO  
30 TRANSFER ANY PAYMENTS REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE XVIII TO THE



1 DEPARTMENT TO BE HELD IN ESCROW UNTIL THE SECRETARY  
2 DETERMINES THAT THE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL IS IN  
3 COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBARTICLE. WHEN THE  
4 SECRETARY DETERMINES THAT THE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL  
5 SCHOOL IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
6 SUBARTICLE, THE SECRETARY SHALL ORDER THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE  
7 PAYMENT OF THE FUNDS HELD IN ESCROW TO THE AREA VOCATIONAL-  
8 TECHNICAL SCHOOL. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE 30 DAYS'  
9 NOTICE TO THE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL PRIOR TO  
10 DIRECTING A SCHOOL DISTRICT TO TRANSFER REQUIRED PAYMENTS TO  
11 THE DEPARTMENT OR HOLDING FUNDS IN ESCROW UNDER THIS  
12 PARAGRAPH. IF THE AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL BECOMES  
13 COMPLIANT DURING THE 30-DAY PERIOD, NO FUNDS SHALL BE  
14 TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OR HELD IN ESCROW.

15 (4) ALL DECISIONS BY THE SECRETARY UNDER THIS SUBSECTION  
16 SHALL BE APPEALABLE TO THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF THE  
17 COUNTY IN WHICH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL ENTITY IS LOCATED. NO FUNDS  
18 SHALL BE WITHHELD, TRANSFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT OR HELD IN  
19 ESCROW UNDER PARAGRAPH (1), (2) OR (3) UNTIL ALL APPEALS ARE  
20 EXHAUSTED.

21 SECTION 158. REPORT TO GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

22 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT CONTAINING  
23 STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE USAGE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE  
24 INTERNET WEBSITE. THE REPORT SHALL DESCRIBE FREQUENCY OF USER  
25 ACCESS OF THE INTERNET WEBSITE, TYPES OF DATA BEING ACCESSED AND  
26 INTERNET WEBSITE PERFORMANCE. THE REPORT SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO  
27 THE GOVERNOR, THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
28 APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE CHAIRMAN AND  
29 MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE  
30 OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE

1 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE AND THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY  
2 CHAIRMAN OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES WITHIN TWO YEARS OF THE DATE ON WHICH THE  
4 INTERNET WEBSITE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED, AND BY MARCH 30 OF EACH  
5 YEAR THEREAFTER.

6 SECTION 3. SECTION 731 OF THE ACT, AMENDED JUNE 27, 1973  
7 (P.L.75, NO.34) AND JUNE 30, 2011 (P.L.112, NO.24), IS AMENDED  
8 TO READ:

9 SECTION 731. APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT OF PLANS, ETC., OF  
10 BUILDINGS; EXCEPTIONS.--(A) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WITH  
11 RESPECT TO CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL  
12 BUILDINGS, SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND ITS DUTIES SHALL BE:

13 (1) TO REVIEW ALL PROJECTS, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR  
14 SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION, AND TO MAKE  
15 RECOMMENDATIONS THEREON TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE  
16 GOVERNOR: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT APPROVAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
17 EDUCATION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR PROJECTS, PLANS AND  
18 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH  
19 REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH IS NOT REQUESTED;

20 (2) TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PREPLANNING CONSTRUCTION  
21 AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND OFFER SUCH ARCHITECTURAL,  
22 ENGINEERING AND FINANCIAL ADVICE AS WILL ENABLE THE PROJECT TO  
23 COMPLY WITH THE STANDARDS PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE BOARD OF  
24 EDUCATION;

25 (3) TO HOLD HEARINGS ON ANY OR ALL PROJECTS AND SUBPOENA  
26 WITNESSES, ADMINISTER OATHS, TAKE TESTIMONY AND COMPEL THE  
27 PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO ANY INVESTIGATION;

28 (4) TO ACT AS LIAISON BETWEEN THE PUBLIC, LOCAL SCHOOL  
29 OFFICIALS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE GOVERNOR ON SCHOOL  
30 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS;

1 (5) TO RECEIVE AND INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS FROM THE PUBLIC OR  
2 OTHER SOURCE CONCERNING ANY SCHOOL BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR  
3 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT;

4 (6) TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS ON ANY PHASE OF SCHOOL  
5 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.

6 (7) TO PROVIDE FOR AN ELECTRONIC DATABASE ON ITS PUBLICLY  
7 ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PUBLIC  
8 ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND  
9 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, BUILDING PURCHASES AND CHARTER SCHOOL  
10 LEASE REIMBURSEMENTS SUBMITTED FOR THE APPROVAL OF, OR APPROVED  
11 BY, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. THE ELECTRONIC DATABASE SHALL  
12 INDICATE THE DATE EACH APPLICATION FOR REIMBURSEMENT WAS  
13 SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DATE OF  
14 APPROVAL FOR EACH STEP OF THE REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS AS OUTLINED  
15 IN SECTION 731.2 OF THIS ACT. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL  
16 ESTABLISH THE DATABASE NO LATER THAN SIX (6) MONTHS AFTER THE  
17 EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS CLAUSE.

18 (B) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL EMPLOY ENGINEERS,  
19 ARCHITECTS, FINANCIAL ADVISORS, AND SUCH OTHER STAFF PERSONNEL  
20 AS MAY BE NECESSARY FOR THE PROPER PERFORMANCE OF THE DUTIES OF  
21 THE DEPARTMENT WITH RESPECT TO CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION OF  
22 PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

23 (C) NO PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING SHALL BE CONTRACTED FOR,  
24 CONSTRUCTED, OR RECONSTRUCTED, IN ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF THE  
25 SECOND, THIRD, OR FOURTH CLASS UNTIL THE PLANS AND  
26 SPECIFICATIONS THEREFOR HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF  
27 EDUCATION[.

28 WHEN ORDINARY REPAIRS ARE PROPOSED, SUCH AS PLASTERING,  
29 PAINTING, REPLACEMENT OF FLOORS, IMPROVEMENT OF SCHOOL GROUNDS,  
30 REPAIRING OR PROVIDING WALKS, ROADWAYS OR RETAINING WALLS, THE

1 COST OF WHICH IN DISTRICTS OF THE SECOND CLASS OR IN DISTRICTS  
2 OF THE THIRD AND FOURTH CLASS WILL NOT EXCEED FIFTEEN THOUSAND  
3 DOLLARS (\$15,000) PER BUILDING, NO APPROVAL SHALL BE REQUIRED.  
4 WHERE ANY STRUCTURAL CHANGE IS INVOLVED, SUCH AS MOVING OR  
5 ADDING DOORS, WINDOWS, PARTITIONS, MAKING ADDITIONS OR ANY  
6 EXCAVATIONS, OR ANY WORK WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SAFETY OR HEALTH  
7 OF THE PUPILS, OR ANY WORK WHICH COMES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
8 ANOTHER DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH, APPROVAL OF THE  
9 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL BE REQUIRED REGARDLESS OF THE COST  
10 OF SUCH STRUCTURAL CHANGE.]: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT APPROVAL OF  
11 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED FOR PROJECTS,  
12 PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR  
13 WHICH REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE COMMONWEALTH IS NOT REQUESTED.

14 (D) NO SCHOOL BUILDING SHALL BE PURCHASED BY ANY SCHOOL  
15 DISTRICT UNTIL SUCH PURCHASE SHALL HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. SUCH APPROVAL SHALL NOT BE GIVEN UNLESS  
17 THE SCHOOL BUILDING TO BE PURCHASED AND ANY APPROVED STRUCTURAL  
18 CHANGES OR RENOVATIONS MEET THE STANDARDS REQUIRED TO OPERATE  
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS OF A SIMILAR AGE CURRENTLY IN USE IN THE  
20 COMMONWEALTH.

21 SECTION 4. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

22 SECTION 731.2. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN  
23 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS.--(A) NO LATER THAN JULY 1, 2016, THE  
24 DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROCESS, INCLUDING  
25 STANDARDIZED FORMS AND PROCEDURES, WHICH SHALL BE USED BY SCHOOL  
26 DISTRICTS TO APPLY FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT FOR SCHOOL  
27 CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND WHICH SHALL BE  
28 KNOWN AS THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN CONSTRUCTION  
29 PROCESS. IN DEVELOPING THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN  
30 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SEPARATE THE PROCESS

1 INTO FIVE (5) BENCHMARK STEPS OF DEPARTMENT APPROVAL WHICH SHALL  
2 BE LABELED ONE (1) THROUGH FIVE (5) AND SHALL MINIMALLY INCLUDE  
3 THE FOLLOWING:

4 (1) STEP 1 SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

5 (I) PROJECT DESCRIPTION;

6 (II) PROJECT JUSTIFICATION; AND

7 (III) A TECHNICAL SCHEMATIC DESIGN REVIEW CONFERENCE WITH  
8 THE DEPARTMENT.

9 (2) STEP 2 SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

10 (I) SITE ACQUISITION, IF APPLICABLE TO THE PROJECT;

11 (II) PROJECT ACCOUNTING BASED ON COST ESTIMATES; AND

12 (III) A CONFERENCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT TO REVIEW COMPLETED  
13 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING BID SPECIFICATIONS, DRAWINGS  
14 FOR THE PROJECT AND DOCUMENTATION REGARDING THE FULFILLMENT OF  
15 STATE AND LOCAL AGENCY REQUIREMENTS.

16 (3) STEP 3 SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 (I) PROJECT ACCOUNTING BASED ON COSTS FOR ACTUAL  
18 CONSTRUCTION BIDS FOR WHICH CONTRACTS SHALL BE AWARDED; AND

19 (II) PROJECT FINANCING, INCLUDING FINANCING METHOD AND THE  
20 CALCULATION OF THE TEMPORARY REIMBURSABLE PERCENT FOR THE  
21 PROJECT. IN CALCULATING THE TEMPORARY REIMBURSABLE PERCENT, THE  
22 DEPARTMENT SHALL FACTOR IN A FIVE (5) PERCENTAGE POINT REDUCTION  
23 WHICH SHALL BE UTILIZED UNTIL THE CALCULATION OF THE PERMANENT  
24 REIMBURSABLE PERCENT IS COMPLETED IN STEP 4.

25 APPROVAL THROUGH STEP 3 SHALL INITIATE PROJECT REIMBURSEMENT  
26 FROM THE COMMONWEALTH.

27 (4) STEP 4 SHALL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

28 (I) INTERIM REPORTING OF PROJECT MODIFICATIONS, INCLUDING  
29 THE REPORTING OF CHANGE ORDERS AND SUPPLEMENTAL CONTRACTS; AND

30 (II) PROJECT ACCOUNTING BASED ON THE FINAL COSTS OF A

1 PROJECT AFTER COMPLETION OF THE FOLLOWING:

2 (A) CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT; AND

3 (B) PAYMENT FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION WORK,

4 UNLESS THE DEPARTMENT HAS GRANTED AN EXCEPTION.

5 THE CALCULATION OF THE PERMANENT REIMBURSABLE PERCENT FOR A

6 PROJECT SHALL TAKE PLACE DURING STEP 4.

7 (5) STEP 5 SHALL CONSIST OF PROJECT REFINANCING, WHERE

8 APPLICABLE, TO ALLOW FOR THE RESTRUCTURING, REFINANCING OR

9 REFUNDING OF EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS.

10 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED FOR IN PARAGRAPH (2), SCHOOL

11 DISTRICTS SHALL BE REIMBURSED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN THE ORDER IN

12 WHICH THEIR PROJECTS RECEIVED APPROVAL FOR COMMONWEALTH

13 REIMBURSEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT.

14 (2) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MAY PRIORITIZE THE

15 REIMBURSEMENT OF A SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

16 OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT DECLARED TO BE IN FINANCIAL RECOVERY STATUS

17 UNDER ARTICLE VI-A OF THIS ACT. PROJECTS THAT ARE GIVEN PRIORITY

18 UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE REIMBURSED BEFORE ALL OTHER

19 PROJECTS.

20 (C) (1) SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL DEVELOP A COMPLETE

21 DISTRICTWIDE FACILITY STUDY OF ALL DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL

22 FACILITIES, INCLUDING THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES. THE

23 STUDY SHALL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO, AND WITHIN FIVE (5) YEARS OF,

24 THE INITIAL DATE OF SUBMISSION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AN

25 APPLICATION FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT OF A SCHOOL

26 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

27 (2) THE STUDY SHALL PROVIDE AN APPRAISAL AS TO EACH

28 FACILITY'S ABILITY TO MEET CURRENT AND PLANNED EDUCATION PROGRAM

29 REQUIREMENTS, THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE PRESENT FACILITIES MEET

30 REASONABLY CURRENT CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS, AND AN ESTIMATED COST

1 OF NECESSARY REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS.

2 (3) THE STUDY SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT ALONG  
3 WITH AN INITIAL APPLICATION FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT OF A  
4 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

5 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT GRANT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANY  
6 EXCEPTIONS, WAIVERS OR VARIANCES TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
7 SUBSECTION.

8 (D) (1) IN ORDER TO RECEIVE COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT FOR  
9 THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BUILDING, A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL,  
10 WITHIN STEP 1 OF THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN  
11 CONSTRUCTION PROCESS PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (A), COMPLETE  
12 AND SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE  
13 PROJECT THAT COMPARES THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED NEW  
14 BUILDING TO THE EXPANSION OR RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING  
15 FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

16 (2) IF THE COST OF A NEW BUILDING EXCEEDS THAT OF THE  
17 EXPANSION OR RENOVATION OF AN EXISTING BUILDING FOR THE SAME  
18 PURPOSE, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL ONLY BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
19 COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE NEW BUILDING IF SUBSTANTIAL  
20 EVIDENCE IS PRESENTED WHICH DEMONSTRATES THE NECESSITY OF A NEW  
21 BUILDING AND HOW A NEW BUILDING WOULD BETTER MEET THE NEEDS OF  
22 THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND ITS STUDENTS THAN A BUILDING EXPANSION  
23 OR RENOVATION.

24 (3) A DETERMINATION BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT INSUFFICIENT  
25 EVIDENCE WAS PROVIDED TO DEMONSTRATE THE NECESSITY OF A NEW  
26 BUILDING RATHER THAN A BUILDING EXPANSION OR RENOVATION SHALL BE  
27 APPEALABLE BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT UNDER 2 PA.C.S. (RELATING TO  
28 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND PROCEDURE).

29 (4) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT GRANT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANY  
30 EXCEPTIONS, WAIVERS OR VARIANCES TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS

1 SUBSECTION.

2 (E) (1) SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
3 COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR  
4 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT COSTS FOR ANY EXISTING BUILDING WHICH IS  
5 LESS THAN THIRTY (30) YEARS OLD OR FOR WHICH A COMMONWEALTH  
6 REIMBURSABLE PROJECT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WITHIN  
7 THE PRECEDING THIRTY (30) YEARS. THE THIRTY (30) YEAR PERIOD  
8 BETWEEN ELIGIBLE COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSABLE PROJECTS FOR A SCHOOL  
9 BUILDING SHALL BE CALCULATED FROM THE BID OPENING DATE OF THE  
10 PREVIOUS COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSABLE PROJECT TO THE BID OPENING  
11 DATE OF THE PROPOSED COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSABLE PROJECT.

12 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT GRANT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANY  
13 EXCEPTIONS, WAIVERS OR VARIANCES TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS  
14 SUBSECTION EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY. FOR THE PURPOSES  
15 OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN EMERGENCY SHALL INCLUDE A NATURAL  
16 DISASTER, FIRE, FLOOD, MOLD CONTAMINATION OR AN EXTRAORDINARY  
17 AND UNANTICIPATED INCREASE IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT.

18 (F) (1) SCHOOL DISTRICTS SHALL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR  
19 COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT OF SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR  
20 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT COSTS FOR ANY EXISTING BUILDING WHERE THE  
21 COST OF EXPANSION OR RENOVATION OF THE BUILDING, EXCLUDING COSTS  
22 FOR BUILDING PURCHASE, MOVABLE FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT, ASBESTOS  
23 ABATEMENT, ROOF REPLACEMENT, SITE DEVELOPMENT AND ARCHITECT  
24 FEES, IS LESS THAN FORTY (40) PERCENT OF THE REPLACEMENT VALUE  
25 OF THE ENTIRE BUILDING.

26 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO  
27 AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION  
28 PROJECTS.

29 (3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT GRANT TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS ANY  
30 EXCEPTIONS, WAIVERS OR VARIANCES TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS



1 SUBSECTION.

2 (G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL, WHERE POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE,  
3 AUTOMATE THE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDUCING COSTS IN CONSTRUCTION  
4 PROCESS TO ALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT PLANS AND DOCUMENTS  
5 RELATING TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR A SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR  
6 RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT ELECTRONICALLY.

7 (H) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT ANY  
8 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT PLANS, DRAWINGS,  
9 BID SPECIFICATIONS OR OTHER DOCUMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON  
10 MICROFILM AS A CONDITION OF RECEIVING COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT  
11 FOR A CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.

12 (I) A SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO RESUBMIT TO  
13 THE DEPARTMENT ANY COMPLETED PLANS, DRAWINGS, BID SPECIFICATIONS  
14 OR OTHER DOCUMENTS FOR A SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION  
15 PROJECT FOR WHICH THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED A COMPLETED INITIAL  
16 APPLICATION BY OCTOBER 1, 2012, DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
17 THIS SECTION.

18 (J) SUBSECTIONS (C), (D), (E) AND (F) SHALL NOT APPLY TO ANY  
19 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR WHICH A  
20 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
21 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT BY OCTOBER 1, 2012.

22 (K) NO LATER THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
23 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP SUCH RULES  
24 AND GUIDELINES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION:  
25 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT CREATE STEPS OF  
26 APPROVAL IN ADDITION TO THOSE PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A)  
27 AND SHALL NOT REQUIRE MORE THAN ONE SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION AT  
28 EACH STEP.

29 (L) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE TERM "DEPARTMENT"  
30 SHALL MEAN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

1 SECTION 5. SECTION 732.1(B) OF THE ACT, AMENDED JULY 9, 2013  
2 (P.L.408, NO.59), IS AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY  
3 ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

4 SECTION 732.1. LIMITATION ON NEW APPLICATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT  
5 OF EDUCATION APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS.--\* \* \*

6 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL, IN CONSULTATION  
7 WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT OFFICIALS AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONDUCT  
8 A REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S CURRENT PROCESS  
9 THROUGH WHICH PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS ARE REVIEWED AND  
10 APPROVED FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT. THE REVIEW SHALL  
11 INCORPORATE AN ANALYSIS OF IMPACTING LOCAL FACTORS, INCLUDING,  
12 BUT NOT LIMITED TO, TAX EFFORT AND BUILDING REQUIREMENTS, AND  
13 SHALL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF  
14 THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE CHAIR AND  
15 MINORITY CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE  
16 CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE  
17 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CHAIR AND MINORITY CHAIR OF THE  
18 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY MAY 1,  
19 2013. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL ALSO CONDUCT A STATEWIDE  
20 ANALYSIS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES AND FUTURE CAPITAL NEEDS AND SHALL  
21 SUBMIT A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THAT ANALYSIS BY MAY 1, 2014.

22 (2) THE STATEWIDE ANALYSIS SHALL BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED  
23 TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS  
24 COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF  
25 THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE, THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY  
26 CHAIRMAN OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF  
27 REPRESENTATIVES AND THE CHAIRMAN AND MINORITY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
28 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NO LATER  
29 THAN MAY 1, 2016.

30 (C) (1) ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT BEGAN A SCHOOL

1 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT DURING THE TIME IN WHICH  
2 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WAS NOT ACCEPTING OR APPROVING NEW  
3 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT APPLICATIONS FOR  
4 REIMBURSEMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (A) SHALL REMAIN ELIGIBLE  
5 AND MAY APPLY FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT FOR THOSE SCHOOL  
6 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOLLOWING THE EXPIRATION  
7 OF THE LIMITATION PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

8 (2) NO LATER THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
9 DATE OF THIS SECTION THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP SUCH RULES AND  
10 GUIDELINES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SUBSECTION.

11 SECTION 5.1. SECTION 1302-A(B) OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY <--  
12 ADDING A PARAGRAPH TO READ:

13 SECTION 1302-A. OFFICE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS.--\* \* \*

14 (B) THE OFFICE SHALL HAVE THE POWER AND DUTY TO IMPLEMENT  
15 THE FOLLOWING:

16 \* \* \*

17 (10) TO DEVELOP, SUBJECT TO FUNDING APPROPRIATED BY THE  
18 GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THIS PURPOSE, TELEPHONE HOTLINES AND  
19 INTERNET NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS ENSURING ANONYMITY TO BE USED BY  
20 STUDENTS, PARENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF THE  
21 COMMUNITY TO REPORT POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL VIOLENCE OR POSSESSION  
22 OF WEAPONS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY. IN COMPLYING WITH THIS PARAGRAPH  
23 THE OFFICE MAY CONTRACT WITH ANY STATE AGENCY OR INTERMEDIATE  
24 UNIT FOR THE PROVISION OF SERVICES.

25 \* \* \*

26 SECTION 6. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:

27 SECTION 1505. PAYMENTS OR REIMBURSEMENTS RELATING TO  
28 SECRETARY DECLARATION OF WEATHER EMERGENCY PROVISIONS.-- (A)  
29 BEGINNING IN THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR AND IN EACH SCHOOL YEAR  
30 THEREAFTER, THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION MAY, AT HIS DISCRETION,

1 ISSUE A WEATHER EMERGENCY DECLARATION ON A SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
2 COUNTY OR STATEWIDE BASIS UNDER WHICH A SCHOOL ENTITY MAY  
3 SATISFY THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) INSTRUCTIONAL DAY PER  
4 SCHOOL YEAR REQUIREMENT IN SECTION 1501 OF THIS ACT BY ONE OR  
5 MORE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

6 (1) APPROVING, BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
7 THE SCHOOL ENTITY, A SCHOOL YEAR WITH A MINIMUM OF NINE HUNDRED  
8 (900) HOURS OF INSTRUCTION AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL AND NINE  
9 HUNDRED NINETY (990) HOURS OF INSTRUCTION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL  
10 IN LIEU OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS.

11 (2) APPROVING, BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
12 THE SCHOOL ENTITY, THE SCHEDULING OF ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONAL  
13 DAYS ON SATURDAYS TO COMPLETE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY (180)  
14 INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS OR NINE HUNDRED (900) HOURS OF INSTRUCTION AT  
15 THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL AND NINE HUNDRED NINETY (990) HOURS OF  
16 INSTRUCTION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT A  
17 SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL NOT SCHEDULE MORE THAN ONE SATURDAY PER  
18 MONTH AS AN INSTRUCTIONAL DAY AND SHALL NOT SCHEDULE TESTS OR  
19 OTHER EXAMINATIONS ON A SATURDAY. WHERE A SCHOOL ENTITY CHOOSES  
20 TO SCHEDULE AN INSTRUCTIONAL DAY ON SATURDAY UNDER THE  
21 PROVISIONS OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE FOLLOWING SHALL APPLY:

22 (I) THE SCHOOL ENTITY MAY SCHEDULE A REGULAR INSTRUCTIONAL  
23 DAY ON THE FOLLOWING MONDAY.

24 (II) THE SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL, UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF A  
25 PARENT OR GUARDIAN, EXCUSE A STUDENT FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IF  
26 THE STUDENT HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A PROGRAM OF ADVANCED  
27 INSTRUCTION, TO PARTICIPATE IN ACADEMIC OR SKILLS COMPETITION OR  
28 TO ENGAGE IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. THE REQUEST  
29 SHALL IDENTIFY AND DESCRIBE THE INSTRUCTION, COMPETITION OR  
30 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND THE DATES AND HOURS FOR

1 WHICH THE ABSENCE IS REQUESTED. THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN SHALL,  
2 FOLLOWING EACH SUCH ABSENCE, FURNISH IN WRITING TO THE SCHOOL  
3 ENTITY A STATEMENT ATTESTING TO THE STUDENT'S PARTICIPATION,  
4 INCLUDING THE DATES AND HOURS OF SUCH PARTICIPATION.

5 (III) THE SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL, UPON THE WRITTEN NOTIFICATION  
6 OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, EXCUSE A STUDENT FROM SCHOOL ATTENDANCE  
7 TO OBSERVE OR PARTICIPATE IN A RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY OR FUNCTION. A  
8 STUDENT'S ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH  
9 SHALL BE CONSIDERED AN INSTRUCTIONAL DAY AND SHALL NOT BE  
10 RECORDED AS AN ABSENCE ON THE STUDENT'S ATTENDANCE RECORD OR ON  
11 THE RECORD OF ANY GROUP OR CLASS OF WHICH THE STUDENT IS A  
12 MEMBER. THERE SHALL BE NO PENALTY ATTACHED FOR ANY SUCH ABSENCES  
13 PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH.

14 (B) A SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT, ON A FORM  
15 TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OF ANY DECISION TO USE THE  
16 OPTIONS PROVIDED FOR UNDER SUBSECTION (A) TO SATISFY THE ONE  
17 HUNDRED EIGHTY (180) INSTRUCTIONAL DAY PER SCHOOL YEAR  
18 REQUIREMENT.

19 (C) NO SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL RECEIVE LESS SUBSIDY PAYMENTS OR  
20 REIMBURSEMENTS THAN IT WOULD OTHERWISE BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE BY  
21 THE DECISION TO USE THE OPTIONS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (A).

22 (D) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES  
23 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS  
24 THE CONTEXT CLEARLY INDICATES OTHERWISE:

25 "DEPARTMENT" SHALL MEAN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
26 COMMONWEALTH.

27 "SCHOOL ENTITY" SHALL MEAN A SCHOOL DISTRICT, AREA  
28 VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT, CHARTER SCHOOL,  
29 REGIONAL CHARTER SCHOOL OR CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL.

30 SECTION 7. SECTION 2501 OF THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A

1 DEFINITION TO READ:

2 SECTION 2501. DEFINITIONS.--FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE  
3 THE FOLLOWING TERMS SHALL HAVE THE FOLLOWING MEANINGS:

4 \* \* \*

5 (31) "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
6 COMMONWEALTH.

7 SECTION 8. SECTION 2574(B.1), (C.4) AND (C.6) OF THE ACT,  
8 AMENDED OR ADDED JULY 13, 2005 (P.L.226, NO.46) AND JULY 11,  
9 2006 (P.L.1092, NO.114), ARE AMENDED TO READ:

10 SECTION 2574. APPROVED REIMBURSABLE RENTAL FOR LEASES  
11 HEREAFTER APPROVED AND APPROVED REIMBURSABLE SINKING FUND  
12 CHARGES ON INDEBTEDNESS.--\* \* \*

13 [(B.1) FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED AND BASED ON AN  
14 APPROVED SCHOOL FACILITY DESIGN RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF  
15 EDUCATION'S SCHOOL FACILITY DESIGN CLEARINGHOUSE, FOR WHICH THE  
16 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IS AWARDED SUBSEQUENT TO JANUARY  
17 1, 2005, AND FOR APPROVED SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE  
18 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BUT FOR WHICH A LEASE  
19 OR GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND RESOLUTION WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE  
20 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2005, THE APPROVED  
21 BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COST SHALL ADDITIONALLY INCLUDE THE  
22 PRODUCT OF THE RATED PUPIL CAPACITY AS DETERMINED BY THE  
23 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT THE TIME THE PROJECT IS APPROVED AND  
24 (I) FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$470) IN THE CASE OF  
25 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, (II) SIX HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$620) IN  
26 THE CASE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, (III) AN AMOUNT IN THE CASE OF  
27 COMBINED ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOLS OBTAINED BY MULTIPLYING  
28 THE RATED ELEMENTARY PUPIL CAPACITY BY FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY  
29 DOLLARS (\$470) AND THE RATED SECONDARY PUPIL CAPACITY BY SIX  
30 HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$620) AND DIVIDING THE SUM BY THE TOTAL

1 RATED PUPIL CAPACITY.]

2 \* \* \*

3 [(C.4) FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS FOR WHICH THE GENERAL  
4 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IS AWARDED ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2005,  
5 AND FOR APPROVED SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECTS FOR WHICH THE GENERAL  
6 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WAS AWARDED BUT FOR WHICH A LEASE OR  
7 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND RESOLUTION WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE  
8 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 2005, AND WHERE THE  
9 SCHOOL BUILDING RECEIVES A SILVER, GOLD OR PLATINUM  
10 CERTIFICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL'S  
11 LEADERSHIP IN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GREEN BUILDING  
12 RATING SYSTEM OR TWO, THREE OR FOUR GLOBES UNDER THE GREEN  
13 BUILDING INITIATIVE'S GREEN GLOBES GREEN BUILDING RATING SYSTEM  
14 ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2005, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL  
15 ADJUST THE APPROVED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION COST TO ADDITIONALLY  
16 INCLUDE THE PRODUCT OF THE RATED PUPIL CAPACITY AS DETERMINED BY  
17 THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AT THE TIME THE PROJECT IS APPROVED  
18 AND (I) FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY DOLLARS (\$470) IN THE CASE OF  
19 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, (II) SIX HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$620) IN  
20 THE CASE OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS, (III) AN AMOUNT IN THE CASE OF  
21 COMBINED ELEMENTARY-SECONDARY SCHOOLS OBTAINED BY MULTIPLYING  
22 THE RATED ELEMENTARY PUPIL CAPACITY BY FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY  
23 DOLLARS (\$470) AND THE RATED SECONDARY PUPIL CAPACITY BY SIX  
24 HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS (\$620) AND DIVIDING THE SUM BY THE TOTAL  
25 RATED PUPIL CAPACITY. THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN  
26 CONSULTATION WITH THE GOVERNOR'S GREEN GOVERNMENT COUNCIL SHALL  
27 ISSUE GUIDELINES TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.]

28 \* \* \*

29 [(C.6) IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVES REIMBURSEMENT FOR A  
30 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UNDER THIS SECTION, THE SCHOOL

1 DISTRICT, UPON REQUEST BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, SHALL DO  
2 ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

3 (I) PROVIDE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO  
4 DETERMINE WHETHER THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT MEETS CRITERIA  
5 ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR CERTIFICATION AS AN APPROVED  
6 SCHOOL FACILITY DESIGN FOR PURPOSES OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOL  
7 FACILITY DESIGN CLEARINGHOUSE.

8 (II) AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT, IN ITS DISCRETION, TO CERTIFY  
9 THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT AS AN APPROVED SCHOOL FACILITY  
10 DESIGN AND TO INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERTIFIED PROJECT IN  
11 THE DEPARTMENT'S SCHOOL FACILITY DESIGN CLEARINGHOUSE.]

12 \* \* \*

13 SECTION 9. SECTION 2575(A) OF THE ACT, AMENDED JULY 12, 1968  
14 (P.L.192, NO.96), IS AMENDED AND THE SECTION IS AMENDED BY  
15 ADDING A SUBSECTION TO READ:

16 SECTION 2575. PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF LEASES HEREAFTER  
17 APPROVED AND ON ACCOUNT OF SINKING FUND CHARGES ON INDEBTEDNESS  
18 FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS HEREAFTER CONSTRUCTED.-- (A) (1) THE  
19 COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY ANNUALLY TO EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT ERECTING  
20 OR SHARING IN THE ERECTION OF A BUILDING OR BUILDINGS UNDER THE  
21 PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY ACT, THE  
22 MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITY ACT, SECTION 758 [OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
23 CODE OF 1949,] OR SECTION 791 OF [THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CODE OF  
24 1949,] THIS ACT ON ACCOUNT OF BUILDINGS FOR WHICH THE LEASE IS  
25 APPROVED ON OR AFTER MARCH 22, 1956, OR THROUGH THE INCURRING OF  
26 INDEBTEDNESS BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS ON  
27 ACCOUNT OF BUILDINGS FOR WHICH THE GENERAL CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
28 IS AWARDED ON OR AFTER MARCH 22, 1956, AN AMOUNT TO BE  
29 DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE DISTRICT'S CAPITAL ACCOUNT  
30 REIMBURSEMENT FRACTION COMPUTED FOR THE YEAR 1967 OR AID RATIO



1 WHICHEVER IS LARGER BY THE APPROVED REIMBURSABLE RENTAL OR  
2 APPROVED REIMBURSABLE SINKING FUND CHARGE.

3 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
4 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
5 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
6 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY  
7 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

8 (A.1) (1) THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY ANNUALLY TO EACH  
9 SCHOOL DISTRICT ERECTING OR SHARING IN THE ERECTION OF A  
10 BUILDING OR BUILDINGS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
11 BUILDING AUTHORITY ACT, THE MUNICIPALITY AUTHORITY ACT OR  
12 SECTION 758 OR 791 OF THIS ACT, ON ACCOUNT OF BUILDINGS FOR  
13 WHICH THE LEASE IS APPROVED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2012, OR  
14 THROUGH THE INCURRING OF INDEBTEDNESS BY THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL  
15 OBLIGATION BONDS ON ACCOUNT OF BUILDINGS FOR WHICH THE GENERAL  
16 CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IS AWARDED ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2012, AN  
17 AMOUNT TO BE DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE DISTRICT'S AID RATIO  
18 BY THE APPROVED REIMBURSABLE RENTAL OR APPROVED REIMBURSABLE  
19 SINKING FUND CHARGE.

20 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
21 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
22 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
23 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AFTER  
24 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

25 \* \* \*

26 SECTION 10. SECTION 2575.1 OF THE ACT, AMENDED JULY 9, 1992  
27 (P.L.392, NO.85), IS AMENDED TO READ:

28 SECTION 2575.1. PAYMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF BUILDING COSTS.--(A)  
29 (1) THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY TO ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAKING A  
30 PRELIMINARY PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE APPROVED BUILDING

1 CONSTRUCTION OR APPROVED RENOVATION COST AS AUTHORIZED BY  
2 SECTION 783 OR BY CLAUSE (4) OF SECTION 790 OR BY CLAUSE (5) OF  
3 SECTION 791 OF THIS ACT, AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE  
4 DISTRICT'S CAPITAL ACCOUNT REIMBURSEMENT FRACTION COMPUTED FOR  
5 THE YEAR 1967 OR AID RATIO WHICHEVER IS LARGER BY THE AMOUNT OF  
6 THE PAYMENT MADE BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

7 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
8 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
9 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
10 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY  
11 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

12 (A.1) (1) THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY TO ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
13 MAKING A PRELIMINARY PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF THE APPROVED BUILDING  
14 CONSTRUCTION OR APPROVED RENOVATION COST AS AUTHORIZED BY  
15 SECTION 783 OR BY CLAUSE (4) OF SECTION 790 OR BY CLAUSE (5) OF  
16 SECTION 791 OF THIS ACT, AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE  
17 DISTRICT'S AID RATIO BY THE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENT MADE BY THE  
18 SCHOOL DISTRICT.

19 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
20 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
21 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
22 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AFTER  
23 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

24 (B) (1) WHENEVER ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES THE FULL  
25 PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF APPROVED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR APPROVED  
26 RENOVATION COST WITHOUT INCURRING DEBT, OR WITHOUT ASSUMING A  
27 LEASE, THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY TO SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT AN  
28 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE DISTRICT'S CAPITAL ACCOUNT  
29 REIMBURSEMENT FRACTION COMPUTED FOR THE YEAR 1967 OR AID RATIO  
30 WHICHEVER IS LARGER BY THE AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENT MADE BY THE

1 SCHOOL DISTRICT.

2 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
3 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
4 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
5 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BY  
6 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

7 (B.1) (1) WHENEVER ANY SCHOOL DISTRICT PROVIDES THE FULL  
8 PAYMENT ON ACCOUNT OF APPROVED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR APPROVED  
9 RENOVATION COST WITHOUT INCURRING DEBT, OR WITHOUT ASSUMING A  
10 LEASE, THE COMMONWEALTH SHALL PAY TO SUCH SCHOOL DISTRICT AN  
11 AMOUNT DETERMINED BY MULTIPLYING THE DISTRICT'S AID RATIO BY THE  
12 AMOUNT OF THE PAYMENT MADE BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

13 (2) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL ONLY APPLY TO  
14 SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR WHICH A  
15 COMPLETED INITIAL SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT  
16 APPLICATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AFTER  
17 OCTOBER 1, 2012.

18 (C) THE PAYMENT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE MADE FOR  
19 THE YEAR IN WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT MADE ITS PAYMENT ON  
20 ACCOUNT OF THE APPROVED BUILDING CONSTRUCTION OR APPROVED  
21 RENOVATION COST.

22 SECTION 11. THE ACT IS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION TO READ:  
23 SECTION 2581. LUMP SUM REIMBURSEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION OR  
24 RECONSTRUCTION.--(A) THE DEPARTMENT MAY, AT ANY TIME, UPON THE  
25 AVAILABILITY OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS AND THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF THE  
26 DEPARTMENT AND A SCHOOL DISTRICT, PROVIDE AN IMMEDIATE LUMP SUM  
27 PAYMENT TO THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS FULL REIMBURSEMENT FOR A  
28 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT THAT HAS RECEIVED ALL  
29 REQUIRED APPROVALS FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMONWEALTH  
30 REIMBURSEMENT. THE LUMP SUM PAYMENT PROVIDED FOR UNDER THIS

1 SECTION SHALL BE NO GREATER THAN SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) OF  
2 THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT  
3 PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE XXV OF THIS ACT FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL  
4 DISTRICT IS ELIGIBLE: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH PAYMENTS  
5 SHALL NOT INCLUDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR INTEREST INCURRED BY A  
6 SCHOOL DISTRICT. A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DOES NOT AGREE TO A LUMP  
7 SUM PAYMENT UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR THE  
8 TOTAL ALLOWABLE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT  
9 PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE XXV OF THIS ACT.

10 (B) EACH AGREEMENT FOR LUMP SUM REIMBURSEMENT UNDER THIS  
11 SECTION SHALL REQUIRE THE SCHOOL DISTRICT RECEIVING A LUMP SUM  
12 PAYMENT TO RELINQUISH ANY CURRENT CLAIM TO THE TOTAL ALLOWABLE  
13 CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT PROVIDED FOR UNDER  
14 ARTICLE XXV OF THIS ACT FOR WHICH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS  
15 ELIGIBLE IN EXCHANGE FOR THE IMMEDIATE LUMP SUM PAYMENT OF A  
16 LESSER AMOUNT.

17 (C) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A LUMP SUM  
18 PAYMENT AVAILABLE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH EACH  
19 SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT RECEIVES  
20 APPROVAL FOR COMMONWEALTH REIMBURSEMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT. A  
21 SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT DOES NOT AGREE TO A LUMP SUM PAYMENT UNDER  
22 THIS SECTION SHALL RETAIN ITS PLACE IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THE  
23 DEPARTMENT REIMBURSES SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

24 (D) NO LATER THAN TWELVE (12) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE  
25 DATE OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP SUCH RULES  
26 AND GUIDELINES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.

27 SECTION 12. FOR THE 2014-2015 FISCAL YEAR AND EACH FISCAL  
28 YEAR THEREAFTER, THE STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY  
29 SHALL ASSIST ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH REFINANCING PROJECTS THAT  
30 ARE CURRENTLY RECEIVING STATE REIMBURSEMENT FOR A PORTION OF

1 THEIR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION COSTS TO MAKE ADDITIONAL FUNDS  
2 AVAILABLE THROUGH WHICH TO PROVIDE STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO  
3 PROJECTS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEGUN RECEIVING STATE REIMBURSEMENT.

4 SECTION 13. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 60 DAYS.