

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 268 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY LAWRENCE, BARRAR, V. BROWN, COHEN, KAUFFMAN,
TALLMAN AND TRUITT, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 4, 2015

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 high schools, further providing
6 for high school certificates.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1613 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
11 amended June 22, 2001 (P.L.530, No.35), is amended to read:

12 Section 1613. High School Certificates.--(a) The board of
13 school directors, joint board or joint school committee
14 operating any high school shall issue a certificate to each
15 pupil who satisfactorily [completing the prescribed course of
16 instruction in the high school] achieves one of the test scores
17 required under subsection (b.1).

18 (b) For those pupils graduating at the close of the school
19 year 1989-1990[, and each school year thereafter] through the
20 school year 2013-2014, the following minimum courses in grades

1 nine through twelve are established as a requirement for high
2 school graduation in schools operated by a bona fide church or
3 other religious body:

- 4 (1) Four years of English.
- 5 (2) Three years of mathematics.
- 6 (3) Three years of science.
- 7 (4) Three years of social studies.
- 8 (5) Two years of arts and humanities.

9 (b.1) For those pupils graduating at the close of the school
10 year 2014-2015, and each school year thereafter, one of the
11 following is established as a requirement for high school
12 graduation in public schools and schools operated by a bona fide
13 church or other religious body:

14 (1) Passage of the Keystone Exams in at least the subject
15 area of algebra I, literature, English composition, algebra II
16 or geometry.

17 (2) A score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test that meets at
18 least the minimum score required by regulation of the Department
19 of Education.

20 (3) A score on the college readiness assessment known as the
21 ACT that meets at least the minimum score required by regulation
22 of the Department of Education.

23 (4) A score of at least 60 on the Armed Forces Qualification
24 Test.

25 (c) A child enrolled in a day or boarding school accredited
26 by an accrediting association which is approved by the State
27 Board of Education shall be deemed to have met the requirements
28 of subsection [(b)] (b.1).

29 (d) The Department of Education, in a form and manner that
30 it shall prescribe, may issue a Commonwealth secondary school

1 diploma to an individual confined in a State-operated juvenile
2 or adult correctional facility located within this Commonwealth
3 if the individual has [completed the required secondary school
4 curriculum specified by the department] satisfied the
5 requirements of subsection (b.1). If a Commonwealth secondary
6 school diploma is not issued, the department may award academic
7 credit for completed coursework.

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