
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1055 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, LONGIETTI, O'BRIEN, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE,
COHEN, FREEMAN, KINSEY, McCARTER, MURT, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHREIBER, SCHWEYER AND READSHAW, APRIL 27, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 27, 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 certification of teachers, further
6 providing for continuing professional development; and
7 providing for access to advanced placement for all students.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1205.1(c.1)(3) of the act of March 10,
11 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 amended October 22, 2014 (P.L.2624, No.168), is amended to read:

13 Section 1205.1. Continuing Professional Development.--* * *

14 (c.1) The continuing professional education plan shall
15 specify the professional education needs that will be met by
16 completion of each continuing professional education option and
17 how it relates to areas of assignment and certification or
18 potential administrative certification. The options may include,
19 but shall not be limited to:

20 * * *

1 (3) Other programs, activities or learning experiences taken
2 for credit or hourly, to include:

3 (i) curriculum development and other program design and
4 delivery activities at the school entity or grade level as
5 determined by the school entity and approved by the board of
6 directors;

7 (ii) participation in professional conferences and
8 workshops;

9 (iii) education in the workplace, where the work relates to
10 the professional educator's area of assignment and is approved
11 by the board of directors;

12 (iv) review, redesign and restructuring of school programs,
13 organizations and functions as determined by the school entity
14 and approved by the board of directors;

15 (v) in-service programs that comply with guidelines
16 established by the department;

17 (vi) early childhood and child development activities for
18 professional educators whose area of assignment includes
19 kindergarten through third grade;

20 (vii) special education activities for professional
21 educators whose area of assignment includes students with
22 special needs;

23 (viii) successful completion of department training for
24 service as a Distinguished Educator if the professional educator
25 participates in and completes at least one assignment in the
26 Distinguished Educators Program;

27 (ix) other continuing professional education courses,
28 programs, activities or learning experiences sponsored by the
29 department; [or]

30 (x) visits by educators to a manufacturing workplace for

1 orientation and demonstrations to give the professional educator
2 a greater understanding of job opportunities in manufacturing
3 for students[.]; or

4 (xi) access to the Advanced Placement Course for All
5 Students program.

6 * * *

7 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

8 ARTICLE XVII-D

9 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

10 FOR ALL STUDENTS

11 Section 1701-D. Scope of article.

12 This article relates to access to advanced placement courses
13 for all students.

14 Section 1702-D. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Advanced placement course." A high school-level preparatory
19 course for a college advanced placement test that:

20 (1) incorporates all topics specified by the college
21 board on its standards syllabus for a given subject area; and

22 (2) is authorized by the college board.

23 "Department." The Department of Education of the
24 Commonwealth.

25 "Eligible teacher." A professional employee that is
26 certified in the subject area of the advanced placement course
27 that the teacher will be teaching.

28 "Four core academic areas." Advanced placement courses in
29 mathematics, English language arts, science and social science.

30 "Poverty level." The percentage of students in a school

1 district eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

2 "Program." The Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

3 "School entity." Any public school district, intermediate
4 unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school or cyber
5 charter school.

6 "Teacher training entities." Institutions of higher
7 education, intermediate units or organizations endorsed by the
8 college board to train teachers to teach advanced placement
9 courses.

10 "Virtual learning instruction." Providing academic courses
11 to students via the Internet and the use of technology in
12 providing instruction to students.

13 Section 1703-D. Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

14 (a) Purpose.--The purpose of the Advanced Placement Teacher
15 Training Program is to provide access to advanced placement
16 courses in the four core academic areas for all students by
17 training teachers in advanced placement course instruction at
18 all high schools that do not presently provide advanced
19 placement courses in one or more of these disciplines. The
20 importance of providing access to advanced placement courses for
21 all students is evident in the fact that the Pennsylvania School
22 Performance Profiles established in 2012 include advanced
23 placement participation and performance of a high school as an
24 indicator of academic achievement that determines a high
25 school's academic performance score.

26 (b) Establishment.--Beginning in the 2016-2017 school year,
27 the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program shall be
28 established in the department to train teachers in eligible
29 school entities to teach advanced placement courses in the four
30 core academic areas.

1 (c) Eligible school entities.--Eligible school entities are
2 those that do not have in each of their high schools at least
3 one advanced placement course in the four core academic areas or
4 will no longer have an advanced placement course in one of the
5 four core academic areas due to the retirement or loss of a
6 teacher who teaches an advanced placement course.

7 (1) A school entity that has an advanced placement
8 course in one or more of the four core academic areas but not
9 in all four core academic areas is only eligible to have a
10 teacher trained in those core academic areas in which the
11 school entity does not have an advanced placement course.

12 (2) No more than one teacher per core academic area in
13 each high school of an eligible school entity shall be
14 trained under this program.

15 (3) More than one eligible school entity may apply
16 jointly to the program to train a teacher in advanced
17 placement course instruction if that teacher is to provide
18 such instruction in more than one school entity either
19 through classroom instruction or through virtual learning
20 instruction.

21 (d) Application requirements for eligible school entities.--
22 The application by an eligible school entity seeking funding for
23 the program shall include the following:

24 (1) The subject areas that currently have advanced
25 placement courses in each of the school entity's high
26 schools.

27 (2) The subject areas among the four core academic areas
28 that the school entity does not have an advanced placement
29 course in each of the school entity's high schools.

30 (3) The names of the eligible teachers, including:

1 (i) the high schools where they are teaching;

2 (ii) the advanced placement academic subject area
3 that each of the teachers will be providing instruction;
4 and

5 (iii) whether the instruction will be in a
6 classroom, through virtual learning instruction, or both.

7 (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities
8 that shall be providing the training for teachers in advanced
9 placement instruction.

10 (5) Agreement to offer the advanced placement course for
11 high school students for at least three years.

12 (6) Guidelines the school entity will use in determining
13 which students may be eligible to enroll in an advanced
14 placement course. In developing the guidelines, a school
15 entity shall utilize data and information on the academic
16 performance of students, which may include the academic
17 performance of students on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test
18 and the Scholastic Aptitude Test in consultation with the
19 college board, and shall eliminate barriers that restrict
20 access to advanced placement courses for student populations
21 that have been traditionally underserved and shall make every
22 effort to ensure that advanced placement classes reflect the
23 diversity of the student population. The school entity shall
24 not discriminate on any basis in enrollment of the students
25 that is illegal under Federal or State law.

26 (7) Any school entity offering advanced placement
27 courses to students must publish on the school's publicly
28 accessible Internet website the advanced placement courses
29 offered and notify parents of the availability and
30 guidelines.

1 (8) Agreement to annually report to the department for
2 each of the four core academic areas that were taught by
3 teachers whose training was funded by this program. The
4 agreement shall include the following information:

5 (i) the number of students taking advanced placement
6 courses;

7 (ii) the grade levels where advanced placement is
8 being taught;

9 (iii) the number of students who took advanced
10 placement examinations; and

11 (iv) the number of students scoring a three or
12 higher on advanced placement examinations.

13 (9) Agreement to annually report to the department for
14 each of the four core academic areas the following
15 information:

16 (i) the number of students taking advanced placement
17 courses;

18 (ii) the grade levels where advanced placement is
19 being taught;

20 (iii) the number of students who took advanced
21 placement examinations;

22 (iv) the number of students scoring a three or
23 higher on advanced placement examinations; and

24 (v) the number of teachers teaching advanced
25 placement courses.

26 Section 1704-D. Powers and duties of department.

27 (a) Guidelines.--The department shall promulgate rules,
28 regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of
29 this article, including the following:

30 (1) In consultation with the college board, certify

1 those teacher training entities that are endorsed by the
2 college board to provide training of teachers to teach
3 advanced placement courses in the four core academic areas.

4 (2) In certifying teacher training entities for this
5 program, the department shall ensure that the training times
6 and locations will be geographically accessible for teachers
7 from eligible school entities to attend.

8 (3) The department, in consultation with the college
9 board, shall ensure that training provided by teacher
10 training entities must provide teachers of advanced placement
11 courses with the necessary content knowledge and
12 instructional skills to prepare students for success in
13 advanced placement courses and examinations.

14 (4) Starting at the end of the first year of the program
15 and every year thereafter the department shall issue a report
16 to the General Assembly on the program that shall include:

17 (i) The number of teachers receiving training in
18 advanced placement instruction in school entities, school
19 districts and high schools in each of the four core
20 academic areas.

21 (ii) The number and percentage of high schools that
22 offer advanced placement courses in all four core
23 academic areas.

24 (iii) The number and percentage of high schools that
25 offer advanced placement courses in each of the four core
26 academic areas.

27 (iv) The number and percentage of students taking
28 advanced placement courses at school entities in each of
29 the four core academic areas.

30 (v) The number and percentage of students scoring a

1 three or more on an advanced placement examination at
2 school entities in each of the four core academic areas.

3 (vi) The names of school entities and high schools
4 that do not offer advanced placement courses.

5 (vii) The number of teachers trained outside the
6 four core academic areas teaching other advanced
7 placement courses.

8 (b) (Reserved).

9 Section 1705-D. Funding to teacher training entities.

10 To the extent funds are appropriated for this program, the
11 department shall allocate the funds based on per teacher
12 attendance to each certified teacher training entity that
13 provides training to a teacher to teach advanced placement
14 courses upon completion of the training program.

15 Section 1706-D. Program funding.

16 (a) Funding.--Funding for this program shall be made from
17 annual appropriations made by the General Assembly to the
18 department for that purpose.

19 (b) Funding priorities.--In the event that insufficient
20 moneys are appropriated in any fiscal year to provide funding
21 for all eligible school entities applying to the program, the
22 department shall prioritize funding of eligible school entities
23 based on the poverty level of the school districts in which high
24 school students who will be taking the advanced placement
25 courses reside.

26 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.