
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1554 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY TRUITT, TAYLOR, MURT AND SAYLOR,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 29, 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," establishing the Commonwealth
6 Extended School Program.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XV-H

13 COMMONWEALTH EXTENDED SCHOOL PROGRAM

14 Section 1501-H. Scope.

15 This article establishes the Commonwealth Extended School
16 Program.

17 Section 1502-H. Definitions.

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

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Program." The Commonwealth Extended School Program
4 established by this article.

5 "School." A public school within a school district or a
6 public charter school.

7 Section 1503-H. Commonwealth Extended School Program.

8 The Commonwealth Extended School Program is established in
9 the department to provide funding to increase the length of the
10 school day or school year for schools most likely to benefit
11 from extended learning.

12 Section 1504-H. Duties of department.

13 (a) School ranking formula.--The department shall establish
14 a formula in order to rank all public schools, including charter
15 schools, according to need for funding from the program. The
16 formula shall be based on poverty rates and School Performance
17 Profile rankings, with poverty rates receiving the greatest
18 weight.

19 (b) Funding formula.--The department shall establish a
20 formula for distributing funding from the program that consists
21 of a fixed per-student rate that is adjusted annually based on
22 the rate of inflation.

23 (c) Distribution.--The department shall distribute money
24 appropriated to the program by applying the funding formula
25 established under subsection (b) and offering payment to schools
26 in the order of their ranking obtained under subsection (a).

27 Section 1505-H. Schools eligible to receive funding.

28 (a) General rule.--Any school that has a school performance
29 profile in the bottom 5% of all schools in this Commonwealth
30 shall accept the funds distributed under subsection (c) and

1 agree to the terms of the program. Any other school may opt not
2 to accept the funding.

3 (b) Redistribution of funding from opt-out schools.--If a
4 school exercises its option under subsection (a) not to receive
5 funding from the program, the amount that the school was
6 eligible to receive from the program shall be redistributed to
7 the remaining schools that have not yet received funding for
8 that school year from the program.

9 (c) Nonapplicability.--This section does not apply to a
10 school within a school district that has a year-round education
11 program and obtains, prior to the effective date of this
12 section, approval from the Secretary of Education to extend the
13 school year until August 15 in accordance with another provision
14 of this act.

15 Section 1506-H. Requirements for participating schools.

16 Any school that receives funding from the program shall:

17 (1) Extend its school year of 180 days of instruction
18 for students to at least 1,260 hours, which extension may, at
19 the discretion of the school, be comprised of additional
20 hours, additional days or a combination of additional hours
21 and days.

22 (2) Offer supplementary reading and math programs and
23 require students who score below advanced in reading or math
24 to attend the corresponding supplementary programs.

25 (3) Offer supplementary elective programs that are
26 academically rigorous for students who score advanced in
27 reading or math. The elective programs may be provided by
28 third party organizations and taught by outside experts under
29 the supervision of a teacher or administrator of the school
30 district or charter school.

1 Section 1507-H. Applicability.

2 This article shall apply to the 2015-2016 school year and
3 each school year thereafter.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.