
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1606 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY CHRISTIANA, STEPHENS, MALONEY, BARRAR, KAUFFMAN,
A. HARRIS, SAYLOR AND GROVE, OCTOBER 8, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 8, 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," providing for the posting of annual
6 financial information for public school entities.

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 VI-B

13 SCHOOL WATCH

14 Section 601-B. Scope.

15 This article relates to Public School Web Accountability and
16 Transparency (SchoolWATCH).

17 Section 602-B. 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 "Administrative staff." Employees of a public school entity
2 that include, but are not limited to, superintendents, assistant
3 superintendents, deputy superintendents, principals, assistant
4 principals, supervisors, managers, directors and coordinators.

5 "Area vocational-technical school." As defined in section
6 1841.

7 "Average daily membership." As defined in section 2501.

8 "Charter school." As defined in section 1703-A.

9 "Charter school entity." A charter school, cyber charter
10 school or regional charter school as defined in section 1703-A.

11 "Cyber charter school." As defined in section 1703-A.

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Expenditures." As defined in section 602-A.

15 "Facilities acquisition and construction expenditures."
16 Expenditures related to the purchase or improvement of land,
17 buildings, service systems and built-in equipment.

18 "General fund balance." The balance in a public school
19 entity's general fund, which shall not include nonspendable and
20 restricted fund balances.

21 "Instructional expenditures." Expenditures related to all
22 those activities dealing directly with the interaction between
23 teachers and students and related costs, which can be directly
24 attributed to a program of instruction.

25 "Market value/personal income aid ratio." A school
26 district's combined market value and personal income wealth per
27 pupil relative to the State average.

28 (1) For an area vocational-technical school, this amount
29 shall be calculated based on the sum of market value and
30 personal income wealth data for each of the area vocational-

1 technical school's component school districts.

2 (2) For a charter school or regional charter school,
3 this amount shall be calculated based on the sum of market
4 value and personal income wealth data for each school
5 district that granted a charter to the charter school or
6 regional charter school under section 1717-A or 1718-A.

7 (3) For a cyber charter school, this amount shall be
8 calculated based on the sum of market value and personal
9 income wealth data for the school district in which the cyber
10 charter school's administrative offices are located.

11 "Noninstructional expenditures." Expenditures related to
12 activities concerned with providing noninstructional services to
13 students, staff or the community.

14 "Other financing uses." Current debt service expenditures
15 and other expenses such as the refunding of debt and transfers
16 of money from one fund to another.

17 "Public school entity." Any of the following:

18 (1) An area vocational-technical school.

19 (2) A school district.

20 (3) A charter school entity.

21 "Regional charter school." As defined in section 1703-A.

22 "School district." As defined in section 102.

23 "School performance profile." A comprehensive overview of
24 student academic performance in a public school entity compiled
25 annually by the department.

26 "Support services expenditures." Expenditures related to
27 those services that provide administrative support, technical
28 support, including, but not limited to, guidance and health, and
29 logistical support to facilitate and enhance instruction.

30 Section 603-B. Financial information to be posted.

1 (a) Information.--Within 90 days of the effective date of
2 this section and by May 31 of each year thereafter, the
3 department shall post all of the following for each public
4 school entity on its publicly accessible Internet website, to
5 the extent the information is available to the department:

6 (1) The following financial information for the public
7 school entity for the most recent fiscal year for which the
8 public school entity reported such information to the
9 department:

10 (i) Total expenditures in the following categories:

11 (A) Instructional.

12 (B) Support services.

13 (C) Noninstructional.

14 (D) Facilities acquisition and construction.

15 (E) Other financing uses.

16 (ii) The public school entity's per-student
17 expenditures, on each of the following bases:

18 (A) Based on the public school entity's
19 instructional expenditures.

20 (B) Based on the public school entity's total
21 expenditures.

22 (iii) The public school entity's per-student charter
23 school tuition rates in each of the following categories:

24 (A) For regular education students.

25 (B) For special education students.

26 (iv) The public school entity's average daily
27 membership.

28 (v) The public school entity's market value/personal
29 income aid ratio.

30 (vi) The average teacher salary in the public school

1 entity.

2 (vii) Total revenues from the following sources:

3 (A) Federal.

4 (B) State.

5 (C) Local.

6 (D) Other.

7 (viii) The public school entity's general fund
8 balance.

9 (2) A link to the most recent of each of the following
10 reports filed by the public school entity with the
11 department:

12 (i) Summaries of financial report data.

13 (ii) Nonadministrative staff compensation report.

14 (iii) Administrative staff compensation report.

15 (3) A link to the public school entity's publicly
16 accessible Internet website, where available.

17 (4) A statement instructing the public to contact the
18 public school entity for access to any union contract.

19 (b) Posting.--In posting financial information as required
20 under this section, the department shall:

21 (1) Post and compile annually all information as a "View
22 Fiscal Information" icon located on a School Performance
23 Profile for each public school entity.

24 (2) Post all information in a location and manner that
25 is easily accessible to the public.

26 (3) Include all definitions and other explanatory
27 references that may be necessary to assist Internet website
28 users in understanding the posted information.

29 (4) Use existing databases and electronic reporting
30 systems to the extent possible.

1 (5) Provide for an electronic feature that will allow
2 the public to compare financial information for a minimum of
3 four public school entities.

4 (6) Beginning with information pertaining to the 2012-
5 2013 fiscal year, post the information required under
6 subsection (a)(1) for at least the most recent three fiscal
7 years for which such information is available to the
8 department, including a trend graph displaying the change in
9 the amount reported each year from the amount reported in the
10 previous year.

11 (c) Limitation.--The department's posting of financial
12 information under this section shall not be construed to:

13 (1) Require a public school entity to provide the
14 department with any additional information, data or reports
15 that the public school entity is not already required to
16 provide to the department as of the effective date of this
17 act.

18 (2) Require any public school entity to provide the
19 department with additional information beyond the information
20 required to be provided to the department by any other public
21 school entity.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.