
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2161 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, SAYLOR, ROEBUCK, HARHAI, COHEN, SCHWEYER,
DRISCOLL, O'BRIEN, SAMUELSON, GIBBONS, BRIGGS, MILLARD,
MACKENZIE, BARRAR, KAVULICH, PASHINSKI, MASSER, McNEILL,
BRADFORD, O'NEILL, READSHAW AND D. COSTA, JUNE 15, 2016

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 15, 2016

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's Schools of Excellence.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Governor's
6 Schools of Excellence Act.

7 Section 2. Legislative intent.

8 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the
9 permanent operation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence in
10 order to afford students of all socioeconomic backgrounds the
11 opportunity to pursue in-depth and advanced studies in fields
12 that may include, but are not limited to, agricultural sciences,
13 engineering and technology, sciences or arts.

14 Section 3. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
16 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

4 "Governor's School of Excellence." A school established by
5 the department under section 5.

6 "Host site." The college or university within this
7 Commonwealth where a Governor's School of Excellence is located.

8 "Program." The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.
9 Section 4. Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

10 The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program is established
11 within the department.

12 Section 5. Duties of department.

13 (a) Disciplines.--To the extent funding is appropriated by
14 the General Assembly for the purpose, the department shall
15 establish at least five Governor's Schools of Excellence at host
16 sites throughout this Commonwealth in disciplines that may
17 include any of the following:

18 (1) Agricultural sciences.

19 (2) Engineering and technology.

20 (3) Sciences.

21 (4) Arts.

22 (5) Other disciplines determined by the department.

23 (b) Locations.--

24 (1) Governor's Schools of Excellence may be sponsored by
25 and located at host sites designated by the department.

26 (2) The department shall designate host sites on a
27 competitive basis, based upon criteria to be determined by
28 the department and published on the department's publicly
29 accessible Internet website.

30 (3) In order to be designated by the department, the

1 host site shall provide at least 50% of the cost to operate
2 its Governor's School of Excellence.

3 (4) Host sites designated by the department shall be
4 geographically dispersed throughout the Commonwealth.

5 (c) Administration.--In administering the program, the
6 department shall do all of the following:

7 (1) Make student applications available to every public
8 and nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include the
9 application on the department's publicly accessible Internet
10 website.

11 (2) Ensure that each Governor's School of Excellence is
12 utilizing a process whereby students are selected on the
13 basis of their performance and achievement through a
14 competitive selection process and seek to ensure an
15 economically, socially and geographically diverse student
16 population.

17 (3) Ensure the Governor's School of Excellence complies
18 with subsection (e), enabling all qualified students the
19 opportunity to enroll in the program regardless of their
20 economic circumstances.

21 (d) Scheduling.--Governor's Schools of Excellence shall be
22 held, to the extent possible, during the summer months between
23 the end and the beginning of the school year. The department may
24 grant permission for a school to be held at other times during
25 the school year when circumstances and programming options
26 warrant such a change.

27 (e) Costs.--Students attending a Governor's School of
28 Excellence shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees to
29 attend and participate in a Governor's School of Excellence.
30 Students are responsible for their own costs relating to

- 1 transportation to and from the school.
- 2 Section 6. Effective date.
- 3 This act shall take effect immediately.