

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 835 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, SCHWANK AND VULAKOVICH, MAY 14, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 14, 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 for
 7 program of continuing professional education.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1205.1 of the act of March 10, 1949
 11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
 12 amended by adding a subsection to read:

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

14 (g) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means
 15 a school district, charter school, regional charter school,
 16 cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area vocational-
 17 technical school.

18 Section 2. Section 1205.2(c) and the definition of "school
 19 entity" in subsection (o) of the act, amended July 13, 2005
 20 (P.L.226, No.46) and July 11, 2006 (P.L.1092, No.114), are
 21 amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to

1 read:

2 Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional
3 Education.--* * *

4 (c) [The] Subject to the restrictions in subsection (c.1),
5 the requirements of subsection (a) may be satisfied by a
6 professional educator, whether or not presently employed by a
7 school entity, by the successful completion of credits or hours
8 to include any of the following:

9 (1) Credits of collegiate studies related to an area of the
10 professional educator's assignment or certification at an
11 institution of higher education approved by the department.

12 (2) Credits of continuing professional education courses
13 related to an area of the professional educator's assignment or
14 certification conducted by providers approved by the department.

15 (3) Hours of other continuing professional education
16 programs, activities or learning experiences related to an area
17 of the professional educator's assignment or certification
18 conducted by providers approved by the department.

19 (4) Credits or hours completed in any collegiate studies,
20 continuing professional education courses or continuing
21 professional education programs, activities or learning
22 experiences included in the professional education plan of the
23 professional educator's school entity and conducted by:

24 (i) the department;

25 (ii) providers approved by the department;

26 (iii) the professional educator's school entity; or

27 (iv) providers approved as part of the professional
28 education plan of the professional educator's school entity.

29 (5) Credits or hours not included in clauses (1) through (4)
30 approved by the board of directors of the school entity.

1 (6) Credits or hours required to obtain administrator
2 certification.

3 (7) Credits or hours in an area other than the area of the
4 professional educator's assignment or certification if the
5 professional educator may be transferred by the board of
6 directors to another assignment. The credits or hours must be
7 approved for the professional educator by the board of
8 directors.

9 (8) Successful completion of department training for service
10 as a Distinguished Educator if the professional educator
11 participates in and completes at least one assignment in the
12 Distinguished Educators Program.

13 (c.1) The credits or hours authorized under subsection (c)
14 or elsewhere that a professional educator may earn for meeting
15 the requirements of subsection (a), whether or not presently
16 employed by a school entity, are restricted as follows:

17 (1) Credits or hours for the successful completion of the
18 training and project-based evaluation established under 22 Pa.
19 Code § 4.51c (relating to project-based assessment) that are
20 approved to satisfy the requirements of subsection (a) shall be
21 restricted to satisfy one (1) credit or thirty (30) hours of the
22 one hundred eighty (180) hours of credits needed for a single
23 five-year compliance period.

24 (2) The requirements of subsection (a) may not be satisfied
25 by the successful completion of:

26 (i) Credits or hours that consist solely of grading,
27 scoring, correcting, assessing or evaluating a student's
28 participation in or response to a tool used to measure a
29 student's knowledge base, ability to learn or proficiency in any
30 subject area regardless of being approved or conducted by the

1 Department of Education. A tool to measure a student may
2 include, but shall not be limited to:

3 (A) a presented question;

4 (B) an examination;

5 (C) a test;

6 (D) a standardized, performance, project-based or other
7 assessment;

8 (E) an interview; or

9 (F) a request for report or essay.

10 (ii) A second or subsequent completion of the training and
11 project-based evaluation established under 22 Pa. Code § 4.51c
12 that is approved to meet the requirements under subsection (a)
13 or for an additional project-based evaluation based on the
14 initial training regardless of whether the training and
15 evaluation of a project-based assessment or the additional
16 evaluation are completed within the professional educator's
17 five-year compliance period or a second or subsequent five-year
18 compliance period.

19 (3) The student whose participation, response or project-
20 based assessment is being graded, scored, corrected, assessed or
21 evaluated may but does not need to be a student of the
22 professional educator for this subsection to apply.

23 (4) This section shall not restrict a professional educator
24 from participating in a second or subsequent completion of a
25 training or project-based evaluation or an additional project-
26 based evaluation based on the initial training. The satisfaction
27 of continuing professional education credits with the
28 participation, however, is restricted by this subsection.

29 * * *

30 (o) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following

1 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
2 subsection:

3 * * *

4 "School entity" shall mean a school district, [an
5 intermediate unit, a joint school district, an area vocational-
6 technical school, a charter school, the Scotland School for
7 Veterans' Children and the Scranton School for the Deaf or any
8 of these acting jointly] charter school, regional charter
9 school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area
10 vocational-technical school.

11 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.