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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1332 Session of  
2015

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INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, JUNE 23, 2016

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 23, 2016

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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 administrative  
6 partnerships between school districts and for administrative  
7 partnership grant pilot program.

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

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

13 ARTICLE XV-H

14 ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

15 SUBARTICLE A

16 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

17 Section 1501-H. Legislative intent.

18 It is the intent of the General Assembly to help school  
19 districts save money and operate more efficiently by encouraging  
20 partnerships of routine administrative functions between school  
21 districts. It is also the intent of the General Assembly to

1 provide for additional opportunities between school districts to  
2 cooperatively develop joint or shared educational programs for  
3 students and educators.

4 Section 1502-H. Definitions.

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

8 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
9 Commonwealth.

10 "Grant program." The Administrative Partnership Grant Pilot  
11 Program established under this article.

12 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

13 SUBARTICLE B

14 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

15 Section 1511-H. Authorization of administrative partnerships.

16 Consistent with the provisions of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 (relating  
17 to intergovernmental cooperation), two or more school districts  
18 may enter into an agreement to share the following between the  
19 school districts:

20 (1) A superintendent or assistant superintendent, duly  
21 elected in accordance with law, for the general supervision  
22 and direction of all operations of each district and to  
23 perform for each district those duties imposed upon a  
24 superintendent or assistant superintendent under this act.

25 (2) Superintendent office personnel to perform for each  
26 district those duties imposed on superintendent office  
27 personnel under this act.

28 (3) A business administrator, business manager or other  
29 business office personnel who perform the business management  
30 responsibilities under section 433 and other duties as

1 imposed by the board of school directors including, but not  
2 limited to, financial and budgeting services, receiving and  
3 disbursing funds, payroll services, financial accounting,  
4 internal auditing and property accounting services for each  
5 district.

6 (4) The management of student transportation services,  
7 including activities related to ensuring the safe and  
8 efficient conveyance of students to and from school.

9 (5) The management of school facilities, including  
10 directing and supervising of the operation and maintenance of  
11 school buildings and grounds.

12 (6) The management of health services, including  
13 providing students with appropriate medical, dental and nurse  
14 services.

15 (7) The management of purchasing services, including  
16 purchasing supplies, furniture, equipment and materials used  
17 in the operation of a school district.

18 (8) The management and sharing of technology resources,  
19 including information technologies, networks, hardware or  
20 personnel.

21 (9) Other managerial functions as deemed appropriate by  
22 two or more school districts to share as approved by the  
23 secretary.

#### 24 SUBARTICLE C

#### 25 ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

#### 26 Section 1521-H. Establishment.

27 The Administrative Partnership Grant Pilot Program is  
28 established in the department to provide financial assistance to  
29 facilitate the sharing of administrative functions between  
30 school districts as authorized under Subarticle B.

1 Section 1522-H. Application.

2 The department shall develop a procedure for awarding grants  
3 under the program. Two or more school districts may apply for a  
4 grant under the program as prescribed by the department. The  
5 application at a minimum shall contain the following:

6 (1) A detailed description of the administrative  
7 functions the school districts intend to share under  
8 Subarticle B.

9 (2) The amount of grant funding being requested.

10 (3) An estimate of the cost savings or other  
11 efficiencies that the partnership will achieve.

12 (4) Any additional benefits to students and educators.

13 (5) Adoption of a resolution by the boards of school  
14 directors of the school districts approving the partnership  
15 described in paragraph (1).

16 Section 1523-H. Grant awards.

17 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall make no more than  
18 four grant awards each fiscal year in an amount not to exceed  
19 \$250,000 per grant award.

20 (b) Grant prioritization.--The secretary shall give priority  
21 to an application for grant funding under this subarticle to  
22 those applicants who have demonstrated an existing partnership  
23 consistent with this article.

24 (c) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be  
25 construed to prohibit the secretary from making a grant award to  
26 the same applicants in subsequent years.

27 Section 1524-H. Funds.

28 The department may use the following to award grants under  
29 the program:

30 (1) Appropriations made by the General Assembly for the

1 program.

2 (2) Funding appropriated to the department for general  
3 government operations.

4 (3) Up to \$250,000 annually of undistributed funds not  
5 expended, encumbered or committed from appropriations for  
6 grants and subsidies made to the department to award grants.  
7 The funds shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Budget  
8 to a restricted account as necessary to award grants and,  
9 when transferred, are hereby appropriated to carry out the  
10 provisions of this subarticle.

11 Section 1525-H. Technical assistance.

12 The department shall provide technical assistance to school  
13 districts seeking to share administrative functions under this  
14 article.

15 Section 1526-H. Reports by school districts.

16 School districts that are awarded a grant under this  
17 subarticle shall make a preliminary report to the department  
18 detailing the progress made toward achieving the shared services  
19 outlined in its grant application every 180 days following the  
20 initial grant award and make a final report no later than 60  
21 days after the completion of the administrative partnership  
22 outlined in the grant application. The reports required under  
23 this section shall include, at a minimum, the following:

24 (1) Actual cost savings, either directly or through  
25 avoided costs, achieved by the sharing of services authorized  
26 under this article.

27 (2) A description of how operational efficiencies were  
28 improved as a result of the sharing of services authorized  
29 under this article.

30 (3) Information relating to any impediments the

1 districts experienced in successfully implementing the  
2 sharing of services under this article.

3 (4) Information relating to any enhancements or  
4 additions to educational programming or improvements in  
5 student achievement as a result of the sharing of services  
6 authorized under this article.

7 (5) Any other information a district may deem necessary.

8 Section 1527-H. Reports by department.

9 The department shall compile the reports it receives under  
10 section 1526-H and transmit them to the chairperson of the  
11 Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairperson of the  
12 Education Committee of the Senate, the chairperson of the  
13 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives and the  
14 chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of  
15 Representatives annually beginning no later than June 30, 2017.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.