
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 98 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY NEILSON, D. COSTA, HELM, DAVIS, BARRAR, DRISCOLL,
PASHINSKI, MURT, McNEILL, KINSEY, DONATUCCI, WARREN, O'NEILL
AND D. MILLER, OCTOBER 25, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, OCTOBER 25, 2017

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 preliminary provisions, further
6 providing for definitions; in certification of teachers,
7 further providing for continuing professional development and
8 for program of continuing professional education; and, in
9 Dyslexia and Early Literacy Intervention Pilot Program,
10 further providing for definitions.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
14 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by
15 adding a definition to read:

16 Section 102. Definitions.--When used in this act the
17 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

18 * * *

19 "Dyslexia." A condition that is characterized by difficulty
20 with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
21 and decoding abilities, which characteristics typically result

1 from a deficit in one or more processes related to the
2 phonological component of language, that is often unexpected in
3 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
4 effective classroom instruction and that may result in problems
5 in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that may
6 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

7 * * *

8 Section 2. Sections 1205.1 and 1205.2 of the act are amended
9 by adding subsections to read:

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

11 (c.5) A professional education plan shall include a program
12 to be completed annually by professional employes for
13 kindergarten through third grade, reading specialists, English
14 as a second language teachers and speech-language specialists
15 that is a minimum of four (4) hours in length and provides
16 training in the screening, intervention, accommodation and use
17 of technology for students with reading disabilities, including
18 dyslexia.

19 * * *

20 Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional
21 Education.--* * *

22 (c.1) To comply with subsection (a), professional employes
23 for kindergarten through third grade, reading specialists,
24 English as a second language teachers and speech-language
25 specialists employed by a school entity shall complete annually
26 the training in screening, intervention, accommodation and use
27 of technology for students with reading disabilities, including
28 dyslexia, required under section 1205.1(c.5). A professional
29 educator's continuing education record shall be credited
30 annually for completion of the training required under this

1 subsection.

2 * * *

3 Section 3. Sections 1702-C of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 1702-C. 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 ["Dyslexia." A condition that is characterized by difficulty
11 with accurate or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling
12 and decoding abilities, which characteristics typically result
13 from a deficit in one or more processes related to the
14 phonological component of language, that is often unexpected in
15 relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of
16 effective classroom instruction and that may result in problems
17 in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that may
18 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge. The
19 term shall apply only for purposes of the pilot program.]

20 "Intensive intervention." Explicit, multisensory, synthetic
21 phonics instruction and a structured language program delivered
22 with fidelity by a trained interventionist. The term shall apply
23 only for purposes of the pilot program.

24 "Pilot program." The Dyslexia and Early Literacy
25 Intervention Pilot Program established under this article.

26 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.