

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 686 Session of 2017

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ, YOUNGBLOOD AND V. BROWN, MARCH 3, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 3, 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, providing  
 6 for county assessments.

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 a  
 11 section to read:

12 Section 121.1. County assessments.--(a) The State Board, in  
 13 consultation with every board of school directors located in  
 14 each county, shall develop a county-wide assessment for use in  
 15 each school entity in the county. The assessment shall be  
 16 administered by the school entity to assess student proficiency  
 17 levels.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or regulation  
 19 to the contrary, student demonstration of proficiency of the  
 20 academic standard measured in a county-wide assessment shall not

1 be a requirement of eligibility for high school graduation.

2 (c) The requirement under subsection (a) shall be in place  
3 of and not in addition to a Statewide administered assessment.

4 (d) For the purposes of this section, the following words  
5 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
6 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

7 (1) "Assessment." A measurement of student performance on a  
8 set of academic standards in a subject area to determine if the  
9 student met certain performance level expectations required to  
10 achieve proficiency in alignment with Federal or State academic  
11 standards. The assessment may be established under Federal or  
12 State law, regulation or department initiative or as part of a  
13 waiver process regardless of whether it is implemented as a  
14 requirement of the law, regulation or initiative, voluntarily by  
15 the Commonwealth or as a condition for participation in a grant  
16 program. The assessment may be in the form of a national  
17 standardized assessment, a department created assessment or an  
18 assessment developed in conjunction with a consortium.

19 Assessment shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

20 (i) The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA)  
21 test.

22 (ii) A Keystone Exam or another test established by the  
23 State Board to meet the requirements of section 2603-B(d)(10)(i)  
24 and required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public  
25 Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425) or its successor Federal statute.

26 (iii) A test or assessment established by the State Board to  
27 meet the requirements of section 9401 of the Elementary and  
28 Secondary Education Act (Public Law 89-10, 20 U.S.C. § 7861)  
29 flexibility waiver application submitted by the department.

30 (iv) A project-based assessment established under 22 Pa.

1 Code § 4.51c (relating to project-based assessment).

2 (v) A local assessment established under 22 Pa. Code § 4.52  
3 (relating to local assessment system).

4 (2) "Department." The Department of Education of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 (3) "School entity." A school district, charter school,  
7 cyber charter school, joint school, area vocational-technical  
8 school or intermediate unit.

9 (4) "State Board." The State Board of Education of the  
10 Commonwealth.

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