

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1984 Session of  
2017

INTRODUCED BY SANTORA, DEAN, READSHAW, CHARLTON, STEPHENS,  
BOBACK, EVERETT, SNYDER, BERNSTINE, ROTHMAN, WARREN, HILL-  
EVANS, D. COSTA, WATSON, M. QUINN AND NELSON,  
DECEMBER 21, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, DECEMBER 21, 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 terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for opioid abuse program.

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 1547.1. Opioid Abuse Program.--(a) Beginning with  
13 school year 2018-2019 and each school year thereafter, a public  
14 school student shall receive mandatory instruction in opioid  
15 abuse in every school year in every grade from grade six through  
16 grade twelve. The instruction shall be integrated within the  
17 health course of study required in accordance with the State  
18 Board of Education regulations. In grades where health is  
19 offered, instruction may also be integrated into other

1 appropriate courses of study. The instruction shall meet the  
2 following requirements:

3 (1) The instruction shall be age appropriate.

4 (2) The instruction shall be sequential in method of study.

5 (3) The instruction shall discourage the use of opioids.

6 (b) A school district may utilize any appropriate public or  
7 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing  
8 and implementing instruction in opioid abuse. The Department of  
9 Drug and Alcohol Programs shall make available information about  
10 appropriate curriculum materials upon request of a school  
11 district. In developing an opioid abuse instructional program, a  
12 school district shall consult with the single county authority  
13 designated by the Department of Health to provide drug and  
14 alcohol services in the school district's area.

15 (c) A school district may develop and offer programs  
16 relating to opioid abuse for parents of students enrolled in  
17 public schools. If a school district opts to develop and offer  
18 programs relating to opioid abuse under this subsection, it  
19 shall be done in consultation with the single county authority  
20 designated by the Department of Health to provide drug and  
21 alcohol services in the school district's area. Programs  
22 relating to opioid abuse under this subsection shall be offered  
23 at no cost to parents.

24 (d) The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the  
25 Secretary of Health, shall develop curriculum guidelines for  
26 instruction on opioid abuse and the laws governing opioid use  
27 and opioid misuse. The curriculum guidelines shall encourage the  
28 inclusion of the following elements when appropriate in the  
29 instruction:

30 (1) Detailed factual information regarding the

1 physiological, psychological, sociological and legal aspects of  
2 opioid abuse.

3 (2) Detailed information regarding the availability of help  
4 and assistance for students and their families with opioid  
5 dependency problems.

6 (3) Detailed instruction on the need for and the role of  
7 lawful authority and law-abiding behavior, including interaction  
8 with members of the legal and justice community.

9 (e) The Department of Education shall reimburse a school  
10 district for the costs of implementing opioid instruction from  
11 available funds.

12 (f) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
13 regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

14 Section 2. The following sums, or as much of the sums as may  
15 be necessary, are hereby appropriated for the purpose of  
16 implementing instruction in opioid abuse under section 1547.1 of  
17 the act:

18 (1) \$5,000 to a school district of the fourth class.

19 (2) \$10,000 to a school district of the third class with  
20 fewer than 10,000 students.

21 (3) \$25,000 to a school district of the third class with  
22 more than 10,000 students.

23 (4) \$100,000 to a school district of the first class A.

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