
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2065 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, SAMUELSON, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, NEILSON,
MURT, ENGLISH, BOBACK, PASHINSKI, KIRKLAND, D. COSTA,
YOUNGBLOOD, ROEBUCK, HILL-EVANS AND WATSON, FEBRUARY 8, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
FEBRUARY 8, 2018

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program; and
2 providing for duties of the Department of Education, the
3 State Board of Education, intermediate units and public
4 school entities.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Older Adult
9 Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP) Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative intent.

11 The intent of this act is to facilitate the exchange of
12 knowledge between generations, using the experience and wisdom
13 of retired older adults to enrich the lives and futures of this
14 Commonwealth's young people.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
17 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
18 context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Intermediate unit." An intermediate unit established under
4 Article IX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
5 as the Public School Code of 1949.

6 "Older adult." An individual who is 60 years of age or
7 older.

8 "Program." The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP)
9 established in section 4.

10 "School entity." A public school district, charter school or
11 area vocational-technical school.

12 "State board." The State Board of Education.
13 Section 4. Establishment.

14 The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP) is established
15 in furtherance of expanding opportunities for qualified older
16 adult volunteers to work directly with students before, during
17 or after school hours, in school buildings and facilities and on
18 school grounds. The purpose of the program is to:

19 (1) Enable older adults to impart the wisdom that they
20 have accrued to the next generation and to share their unique
21 professions, skills and experiences with students.

22 (2) Provide opportunities for students to explore areas
23 of interest and develop skills, knowledge and experience in a
24 variety of subjects, trades and hobbies.

25 Section 5. Guidelines.

26 The department, in consultation with the State board, shall
27 develop guidelines for the program. The guidelines shall ensure
28 the development of a program which will use the wisdom and
29 talents of older adults to enhance the personal, educational and
30 professional experiences of students. The guidelines shall

1 include the following:

2 (1) The respective roles of school entities and
3 intermediate units in program implementation and evaluation.

4 (2) Policies and procedures for operation of the program
5 by school entities in coordination with intermediate units.

6 (3) Identification of methods for use in fostering
7 participation in the program.

8 (4) Development and dissemination of application forms.

9 Section 6. Registry.

10 The department shall develop and maintain, in coordination
11 with intermediate units, a central registry of older adult
12 volunteers to facilitate matching older adult volunteers with
13 students. The department shall provide electronic access to the
14 registry to intermediate units and school entities.

15 Section 7. Application procedures.

16 (a) General rule.--An interested older adult may apply for
17 participation in the program by submitting an application to an
18 intermediate unit. The applicant shall indicate the school
19 entity or school entities for which the applicant proposes to
20 volunteer.

21 (b) Duties of intermediate units, school entities and State
22 and local agencies.--Intermediate units, school entities and
23 area agencies on aging shall furnish program applications to
24 older adults upon request. Applications may also be submitted
25 electronically through the publicly accessible Internet websites
26 of the department and the Department of Aging. A school entity
27 or a State or local agency, other than an intermediate unit,
28 that receives an application shall forward the application to
29 the appropriate intermediate unit for review and processing.

30 (c) Review.--Upon receipt of an application, an intermediate

1 unit shall review the application and, subject to 23 Pa.C.S. §
2 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children),
3 shall approve the application and add the applicant to the
4 registry.

5 (d) Compliance with policies.--An older adult volunteer must
6 comply with the applicable policies of the school entity for
7 which the volunteer has applied to serve.

8 Section 8. Orientation and training.

9 A school entity that uses the services of older adult
10 volunteers shall link older adults with students according to
11 academic interests, professional pursuits, hobbies, skills or an
12 identified need for an enriching exchange with an older adult
13 volunteer.

14 Section 9. Public awareness program.

15 The department shall undertake efforts to make older adults,
16 students and school entities aware of the existence and purpose
17 of the program. The department and school entities shall also
18 undertake efforts aimed at recruiting older adult volunteers.
19 School entities shall identify students that may benefit from
20 the program.

21 Section 10. Effective date.

22 This act shall take effect in 60 days.