
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 164 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY TOOHIL, BOBACK, V. BROWN, D. COSTA, DAVIDSON,
DAVIS, FREEMAN, HELM, MURT, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, ROEBUCK,
SCHLOSSBERG, SOLOMON, WARD, WHEELAND AND ZIMMERMAN,
MARCH 20, 2017

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 20, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Department of Education, the Pennsylvania
2 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Department of Human
3 Services and the Department of Corrections to collaborate and
4 conduct a study on the education being provided to children,
5 dependent children and youth 6 through 21 years of age in
6 juvenile and adult correctional facilities throughout this
7 Commonwealth.

8 WHEREAS, Youth in the juvenile justice system need a quality
9 education so that they can develop the skills they need to
10 become successful adults; and

11 WHEREAS, Research suggests that many young people enter the
12 juvenile justice system well behind grade level; and

13 WHEREAS, Studies demonstrate that system-involved youth are
14 chronically behind in school; and

15 WHEREAS, Nationally, as many as two-thirds of youth dropped
16 out of school after release from the system; and

17 WHEREAS, United States Department of Education data shows
18 that most youth in juvenile justice facilities made no
19 meaningful progress in learning or academic achievement; and

1 WHEREAS, There are serious questions about quality of
2 curricula used in juvenile and adult correctional facilities and
3 whether the curricula is aligned to Pennsylvania Core Standards;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Continuity of instruction is often compromised by
6 disruptions due to institutional activities and routines within
7 the correctional facility; and

8 WHEREAS, Placement in a juvenile justice facility is a
9 turning point for many youth and without appropriate programming
10 and coordination, too many youths fall behind while in custody;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 2012, the United States Department of Education
13 hosted a correctional education summit at which recommendations
14 were made for the Federal Government to address the quality of
15 education provided to children and youth in juvenile and adult
16 correctional facilities at the state level; and

17 WHEREAS, The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (Public Law
18 114-95, 129 Stat. 1802) establishes broad goals related to
19 delinquent youth, including improving education services to
20 provide the opportunity to meet state academic standards,
21 improving youth transition from institutionalization to further
22 schooling or employment, preventing dropout of youth and
23 providing young people returning from correctional facilities or
24 institutions for neglected and delinquent children and youth
25 with reentry support; and

26 WHEREAS, Education services can take many different forms,
27 including alternative schools for disruptive youth or GED only
28 programs as there are no uniform provisions of education
29 services within placement facilities and programs through
30 intermediate units, private facilities and school districts; and

1 WHEREAS, The oversight and monitoring of programs varies
2 widely depending on type of facility and type of program;
3 therefore be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
5 Department of Education, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime
6 and Delinquency, the Department of Human Services and the
7 Department of Corrections to collaborate and conduct a study on
8 the education being provided to delinquent or dependent children
9 and youth, 6 through 21 years of age, in juvenile and adult
10 correctional or congregate care facilities throughout this
11 Commonwealth and issue a report on the study's findings; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That the study address the quality of education
14 provided to delinquent or dependent children and youth,
15 specifically if the curricula in juvenile and adult correctional
16 or congregate care facilities is aligned to Pennsylvania's Core
17 Standards; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the study evaluate how the needs of children
19 and youth with an individualized education plan (IEP) or
20 qualified 504 plan are met while the children and youth are
21 placed in facilities that provide the necessary support to meet
22 the preplacement-identified educational needs and the role of
23 the original resident school district and educational guardians
24 in the IEP or 504 plan monitoring or IEP or 504 plan monitoring
25 development; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the study include an assessment on the support
27 and training provided to education professionals in juvenile and
28 adult correctional or congregate care facilities; and be it
29 further

30 RESOLVED, That the study include how Pennsylvania will comply

1 with or seek opportunities to exceed Federal standards for
2 incarcerated youth established by ESSA; and be it further
3 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, the Pennsylvania
4 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Department of Human
5 Services and the Department of Corrections review the
6 recommendations of the United States Department of Education on
7 correctional and reentry education for children and youth 6
8 through 12 years of age and report on how Pennsylvania performs
9 in regard to the recommendations established in that report; and
10 be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the Department of Education, the Pennsylvania
12 Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Department of Human
13 Services and the Department of Corrections provide a report to
14 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives and the
15 Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives no later
16 than 18 months from the date of the adoption of this resolution.