
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 295 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY FONTANA, LEACH, BREWSTER, COSTA, FARNESE, SCHWANK,
RAFFERTY AND HUGHES, FEBRUARY 6, 2017

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 6, 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 duties and powers of boards of
6 school directors, further providing for additional schools
7 and departments and for kindergartens; and, in terms and
8 courses of study, further providing for dates and times of
9 school terms and sessions and commencement.

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

12 Section 1. Sections 502, 503 and 1504(a) of the act of March
13 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of
14 1949, are amended to read:

15 Section 502. Additional Schools and Departments.--In
16 addition to the elementary public schools, the board of school
17 directors in any school district may establish, equip, furnish,
18 and maintain the following additional schools or departments for
19 the education and recreation of persons residing in said
20 district, and for the proper operation of its schools, namely:--

21 High schools,

1 Trade schools,
2 Vocational schools,
3 Technical schools,
4 Cafeterias,
5 Agricultural schools,
6 Evening schools,
7 [Kindergartens,]
8 Libraries,
9 Museums,
10 Reading-rooms,
11 Gymnasiums,
12 Playgrounds,
13 Schools for physically and mentally handicapped,
14 Truant schools,
15 Parental schools,
16 Schools for adults,
17 Public lectures,

18 Such other schools or educational departments as the
19 directors, in their wisdom, may see proper to establish.

20 Said additional schools or departments, when established,
21 shall be an integral part of the public school system in such
22 school district and shall be so administered.

23 No pupil shall be refused admission to the courses in these
24 additional schools or departments, by reason of the fact that
25 his elementary or academic education is being or has been
26 received in a school other than a public school.

27 Section 503. Kindergartens.--(a) The board of school
28 directors in [any] every school district [may] shall establish
29 and maintain kindergartens for children between the ages of four
30 and six years. [When established, the] The kindergartens shall

1 be an integral part of the elementary school system of the
2 district, and be kept open for not less than [two and one-half]
3 five hours each day for the full school term as provided in
4 section 1501.

5 (b) The number of kindergartens in any one district shall be
6 fixed by the board of school directors, and shall be open during
7 the school year. Kindergartens shall be made available to all
8 children in residence within the school district who are between
9 the ages of four and six years.

10 [If the average attendance in any one kindergarten in any
11 district is ten or less for the school year, the school
12 directors shall, at the close of the school year, discontinue
13 the same.]

14 (c) The board of school directors shall appoint and assign a
15 sufficient number of teachers to such kindergartens, who shall
16 be certified in accordance with the rules and regulations
17 prescribed by the [Council of Basic Education] State Board of
18 Education.

19 Section 1504. Dates and Times of School Terms and Sessions;
20 Commencement.--(a) The board of school directors of each school
21 district shall fix the date of the beginning of the school term.
22 Unless otherwise determined by the board, the daily session of
23 school shall open at nine ante-meridian and close at four post-
24 meridian, with an intermission of one hour at noon, and an
25 intermission of fifteen minutes in the forenoon and in the
26 afternoon. Upon request of a board of school directors for an
27 exception to the aforesaid daily schedule, the Secretary of
28 Education may, when in his opinion a meritorious educational
29 program warrants, approve a school week containing a minimum of
30 twenty seven and one-half hours of instruction as the equivalent

1 of five (5) school days, or a school year containing a minimum
2 of nine hundred ninety hours (990) of instruction at the
3 secondary level or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction at
4 the elementary level or nine hundred (900) hours of instruction
5 at the kindergarten level as the equivalent of one hundred
6 eighty (180) school days. Professional and temporary
7 professional employes shall be allowed a lunch period free of
8 supervisory or other duties of at least thirty minutes. The
9 provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to repeal
10 any rule or regulation of any board of school directors now in
11 effect which provides for a lunch period longer than the minimum
12 prescribed herein or to repeal any action of any board of school
13 directors taken in compliance with section 7 of the act of July
14 25, 1913 (P.L.1024, No.466), entitled "An act to protect the
15 public health and welfare, by regulating the employment of
16 females in certain establishments, with respect to their hours
17 of labor and the conditions of their employment; by establishing
18 certain sanitary regulations in the establishments in which they
19 work; by requiring certain abstracts and notices to be posted;
20 by providing for the enforcement of this act by the Commissioner
21 of Labor and Industry and others; by prescribing penalties for
22 violations thereof; by defining the procedure in prosecutions;
23 and by repealing all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with
24 the provisions thereof," as amended.

25 * * *

26 Section 2. This act shall apply to the 2018-2019 school year
27 and each school year thereafter.

28 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.