
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 417 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, RAFFERTY, KILLION, MCGARRIGLE,
TARTAGLIONE AND FOLMER, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to conduct a study on secondary school
3 start time in this Commonwealth.

4 WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes
5 insufficient sleep in adolescents as an important public health
6 issue that significantly affects the health and safety, as well
7 as the academic success, of our nation's middle school and high
8 school students; and

9 WHEREAS, A recent poll conducted by the National Sleep
10 Foundation found that 60% of children under 18 years of age are
11 tired during the day and 15% said they fell asleep at school
12 during the year; and

13 WHEREAS, A February 2014 study by the Center for Applied
14 Research and Educational Improvement found academic performance
15 outcomes, including grades earned in core subject areas of math,
16 English, science and social studies, in addition to performance
17 on national and State achievement tests, attendance rates and
18 reduced tardiness, show significantly positive improvement with

1 school start times of 8:35 a.m. or later; therefore be it
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
3 Commission to establish an advisory committee to conduct a
4 comprehensive study of issues, benefits and options related to
5 instituting a later start time to the school day at secondary
6 schools in this Commonwealth. The advisory committee shall be
7 comprised of the following:

8 (1) the Secretary of Education or a designee;

9 (2) a representative of the Pennsylvania Association of
10 School Nurses and Practitioners;

11 (3) a representative of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the
12 American Academy of Pediatrics;

13 (4) a representative of the Association of School
14 Psychologists of Pennsylvania;

15 (5) a representative of the Pennsylvania School Boards
16 Association;

17 (6) a representative of the Pennsylvania Association of
18 School Administrators;

19 (7) a representative of the Pennsylvania Principals
20 Association;

21 (8) a Pennsylvania certified teacher;

22 (9) a representative of a school bus transportation
23 organization;

24 (10) an individual representing the interests of
25 students of disabilities;

26 (11) a parent of a child attending a public school in
27 this Commonwealth; and

28 (12) other individuals and organizations selected by the
29 Joint State Government Commission;

30 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
2 conducting the study, do all of the following:

3 (1) Conduct a thorough and comprehensive study of
4 secondary school start times in this Commonwealth.

5 (2) Evaluate studies or initiatives promoted by national
6 education advocacy organizations relating to secondary school
7 start times.

8 (3) Prepare an assessment on the effect of establishing
9 a later school start time on the health, safety and academics
10 of students.

11 (4) Evaluate any potential negative impacts on both
12 public and private school entities and families that may be
13 associated with an altered school start time and consider
14 strategies for addressing potential problems.

15 (5) Review all available literature on the experiences
16 of public and private school entities in other states that
17 have instituted later school start times.

18 (6) Include any recommendations relating to the
19 advisability of establishing a pilot program to test later
20 school start times at select secondary schools in this
21 Commonwealth that are interested in participating in the
22 program;

23 and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission issue a
25 report of its findings and recommendations to the Senate no
26 later than 18 months from the adoption of this resolution.