
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1631 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, SCHMITT, FLYNN, KULIK, RYAN, TOPPER,
KAUFFMAN, SAYLOR, TURZAI, STRUZZI AND MASSER, JUNE 14, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 14, 2019

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 school safety and security,
6 further providing for definitions and for School Safety and
7 Security Grant Program.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1301-B of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended by adding a definition to read:

13 Section 1301-B. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this article
15 shall have the meaning given to them in this section unless the
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 * * *

18 "Department." The Department of Education of the
19 Commonwealth.

20 * * *

1 Section 2. Section 1306-B of the act, added June 22, 2018
2 (P.L.327, No.44), is amended to read:

3 Section 1306-B. School Safety and Security [Grant]

4 Disbursements Program.

5 (a) Establishment.--The School Safety and Security [Grant]
6 Disbursements Program is established to make school entities
7 within this Commonwealth safer places.

8 (b) Functions generally.--The [committee] department shall
9 perform all functions related to the [direct] application,
10 approval[, disbursement] and administration of [grants under the
11 program.

12 (c) Diversity.--The committee shall ensure that grant
13 funding under the program is geographically dispersed throughout
14 this Commonwealth.] disbursements of money under this section.

15 (d) Supplement and not supplant.--[Grant money] Money
16 allocated [through the program] under this section shall be used
17 to supplement and not supplant existing school entity spending
18 on school safety and security.

19 (e) Effect of revenue received.--[Grant money] Money
20 received by a school entity under this section may not be
21 included when calculating the amount to be paid to a charter
22 school under section 1725-A.

23 (f) [Minimum allocation.--Each school district that makes a
24 meritorious application as prescribed by the committee under
25 subsection (j) shall receive a minimum grant allocation of
26 \$25,000 annually.

27 (g) Limitation.--Each school entity may submit one
28 application annually and no school entity may receive an annual
29 grant allocation that exceeds 10% of the funds available under
30 the grant program.] Disbursements.--Each school entity that

1 makes a meritorious application as prescribed by the department
2 shall receive a disbursement under this section. Annual
3 disbursements shall be as follows:

4 (1) Ten million dollars for grants to community violence
5 prevention programs under subsection (j) (22).

6 (2) Twenty-five thousand dollars to each school
7 district.

8 (3) Twenty-five thousand dollars to each school entity
9 other than a school district.

10 (4) The balance of the amount available for
11 disbursements under this section after the allocations under
12 paragraphs (1), (2) and (3), to each school district
13 according to the following formula:

14 (i) Multiply the balance by the school district's
15 student-weighted average daily membership.

16 (ii) Divide the product under subparagraph (i) by
17 the total student-weighted average daily membership of
18 all school entities as of the beginning of the current
19 school year.

20 (h) School Safety and Security Fund.--

21 (1) The School Safety and Security Fund is established
22 as a special nonlapsing fund in the State Treasury.

23 (2) All money deposited in the fund and the interest it
24 accrues are appropriated to the [commission] department on a
25 continuing basis to [award grants under this article]
26 disburse funds under this section.

27 (3) No administrative action shall prevent the deposit
28 of money into the fund in the fiscal year in which the money
29 is received.

30 (4) The fund may only be used for [the grant program]

1 disbursements authorized under this [article] section and no
2 money in the fund may be transferred or diverted to any other
3 purpose by administrative action.

4 (5) Money available to the fund shall include
5 appropriations and transfers from the General Fund, special
6 funds, Federal funds and other sources of revenue made
7 available to it.

8 (6) Money from the fund shall be allocated for the
9 purpose of making [grants] disbursements under this section
10 no later than October 31, 2019, and each October 31
11 thereafter.

12 (7) Not more than 12.5% of the fund may be allocated
13 annually for grants under subsection (j) (22).

14 (i) Community violence prevention programs.--

15 (1) For the purpose of subsection (j) (22),
16 municipalities, institutions of higher education, community-
17 based organizations and other entities approved by the
18 [committee] department shall be deemed school entities.

19 (2) [(Reserved).] The department shall perform all
20 functions related to the direct approval and administration
21 of disbursements of grants for the purpose of subsection (j)
22 (22).

23 (j) Specific purposes.--The [committee] department shall
24 [provide grants] disburse funds to school entities for programs
25 that address safety and security, including:

26 (1) Safety and security assessments that meet the
27 committee's criteria.

28 (2) Conflict resolution or dispute management, including
29 restorative justice strategies.

30 (3) School-wide positive behavior support that includes

1 primary or universal, secondary and tertiary supports and
2 interventions in school entities.

3 (4) School-based diversion programs.

4 (5) Peer helper programs.

5 (6) Risk assessment, safety-related, violence prevention
6 curricula, including dating violence curricula and
7 restorative justice strategies.

8 (7) Classroom management.

9 (8) Student codes of conduct.

10 (9) Training to undertake a districtwide assessment of
11 risk factors that increase the likelihood of problem
12 behaviors among students.

13 (10) Development and implementation of research-based
14 violence prevention programs that address risk factors to
15 reduce incidents of problem behaviors among students,
16 including, but not limited to, bullying.

17 (11) Thorough, districtwide school safety, violence
18 prevention, emergency preparedness and all-hazards plans,
19 including revisions or updates to such plans and conducting
20 emergency preparedness drills and related activities with
21 local emergency responders.

22 (12) Security planning and purchase of security-related
23 technology, which may include metal detectors, protective
24 lighting, specialty trained canines, surveillance equipment,
25 special emergency communications equipment, automated
26 external defibrillators, electronic locksets, deadbolts,
27 trauma kits and theft control devices and training in the use
28 of security-related technology. Security planning and
29 purchase of security-related technology shall be based on
30 safety needs identified by the school entity's board of

1 school directors.

2 (13) Institution of student, staff and visitor
3 identification systems, including criminal background check
4 software.

5 (14) Provision of specialized staff and student training
6 programs, including training for Student Assistance Program
7 team members in the referral of students at risk of violent
8 behavior to appropriate community-based services and
9 behavioral health services and training related to prevention
10 and early intervention.

11 (15) Counseling services for students.

12 (16) A system for the management of student discipline,
13 including misconduct and criminal offenses.

14 (17) Staff training programs in the use of positive
15 behavior supports, de-escalation techniques and appropriate
16 responses to student behavior that may require immediate
17 intervention.

18 (18) Costs associated with the training and compensation
19 of school resource officers and school police officers.

20 (19) Costs associated with the training and compensation
21 of certified guidance counselors, licensed professional
22 counselors, licensed social workers, licensed clinical social
23 workers and school psychologists.

24 (20) Administration of evidence-based screenings for
25 adverse childhood experiences that are proven to be
26 determinants of physical, social and behavioral health and
27 provide trauma-informed counseling services as necessary to
28 students based upon the screening results.

29 (21) Trauma-informed approaches to education, including:

30 (i) Increasing student and school employee access to

1 quality trauma support services and behavioral health
2 care, including the following:

3 (A) Hiring or contracting with certified
4 guidance counselors, licensed professional
5 counselors, licensed social workers, licensed
6 clinical social workers, school psychologists and
7 other professional health personnel to provide
8 services to students and school employees.

9 (B) Developing collaborative efforts between the
10 school entity and behavioral health professionals to
11 identify students in need of trauma support and to
12 provide prevention, screening, referral and treatment
13 services to students potentially in need of services.

14 (ii) Programs providing:

15 (A) Trauma-informed approaches to education in
16 the curriculum, including training of school
17 employees, school directors and behavioral health
18 professionals to develop safe, stable and nurturing
19 learning environments that prevent and mitigate the
20 effects of trauma.

21 (B) Services for children and their families, as
22 appropriate, who have experienced or are at risk of
23 experiencing trauma, including those who are low-
24 income, homeless, involved in the child welfare
25 system or involved in the juvenile justice system.

26 (22) Programs designed to reduce community violence,
27 including:

28 (i) Increasing access to quality trauma-informed
29 support services and behavioral health care by linking
30 the community with local trauma support and behavioral

1 health systems.

2 (ii) Providing health services and intervention
3 strategies by coordinating the services provided by
4 eligible applicants and coordinated care organizations,
5 public health entities, nonprofit youth service providers
6 and community-based organizations.

7 (iii) Providing mentoring and other intervention
8 models to children and their families who have
9 experienced trauma or are at risk of experiencing trauma,
10 including those who are low-income, homeless, in foster
11 care, involved in the criminal justice system,
12 unemployed, experiencing a mental illness or substance
13 abuse disorder or not enrolled in or at risk of dropping
14 out of an educational institution.

15 (iv) Fostering and promoting communication between
16 the school entity, community and law enforcement.

17 (v) Any other program or model designed to reduce
18 community violence and approved by the committee.

19 [(k) Coordination of grant distribution.--The department
20 shall coordinate the distribution of grants under Article XIII-A
21 with the committee to ensure the most effective use of
22 resources.]

23 (l) Audits.--The [commission] department may randomly audit
24 grant recipients under subsection (j)(22) to ensure the
25 appropriate use of grant funds and compliance with the
26 provisions of subsection (d).

27 Section 3. This act shall take effect June 30, 2019, or
28 immediately, whichever is later.