
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2785 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, MURT, ROEBUCK, ISAACSON, DEASY,
DONATUCCI, GREEN, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, KINSEY, KORTZ, LEE,
McNEILL, NEILSON, SANCHEZ, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, WEBSTER AND
YOUNGBLOOD, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 13, 2020

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," providing for disability
6 inclusiveness curriculum.

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

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XVII-D

13 Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum

14 Section 1701-D. Short title of article.

15 This article shall be known and may be cited as the
16 Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum Act.

17 Section 1702-D. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

4 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school
5 entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally
6 fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this
7 act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
8 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

9 "Pilot program." The Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum
10 Pilot Program established under this article.

11 "Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

12 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
13 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
14 intermediate area or area career and technical school.

15 Section 1703-D. Pilot program.

16 (a) Establishment.--The department shall establish a
17 Disability Inclusiveness Curriculum Pilot Program to provide
18 instruction on the political, economic and social contributions
19 of individuals with disabilities to students.

20 (b) Operation.--The pilot program shall operate for three
21 full school years, beginning with the school year that begins at
22 least nine months after the effective date of this section.

23 (c) Selection of school entities.--The department shall
24 select at least eight school entities to participate in the
25 pilot program. To be eligible for the pilot program, the school
26 entity must submit a proposal to the department no more than six
27 months after the effective date of this section that identifies
28 how the school entity will meet the guidelines of the pilot
29 program established by the department.

30 Section 1704-D. Department responsibilities.

1 (a) Funding.--The department shall apply for Federal,
2 private and other non-State funds and shall use funds
3 appropriated or otherwise made available to the department for
4 the pilot program.

5 (b) Consultation.--The department shall consult with the
6 Disability Equality in Education organization in establishing,
7 operating and evaluating the pilot program.

8 (c) Guidelines.--No later than three months after the
9 effective date of this section, the department shall establish
10 guidelines and procedures for the pilot program using a
11 curriculum provided by the Disability Equality in Education
12 organization.

13 Section 1705-D. Pilot program evaluation.

14 (a) Annual report.--Each participating school entity shall
15 annually report to the department data and information about the
16 operation of the pilot program, in the manner prescribed by the
17 department.

18 (b) Evaluation.--The department shall contract with a
19 nationally recognized educational evaluation institution or
20 organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program to
21 review the effectiveness of the implementation of a curriculum
22 inclusive to individuals with a disability. The evaluation shall
23 be published on the department's publicly accessible Internet
24 website.

25 Section 1706-D. Statewide curriculum.

26 (a) General rule.--Beginning with the first school year that
27 starts more than 12 months after the final year of the pilot
28 program, each school entity shall provide instruction on the
29 political, economic and social contributions of individuals with
30 disabilities to students. The instruction shall be integrated

1 within the social studies and language arts courses of study
2 required in accordance with State Board of Education
3 regulations. Instruction may also be integrated into other
4 appropriate courses of study.

5 (b) Requirements.--The instruction under subsection (a)
6 shall:

7 (1) Be age appropriate.

8 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

9 (3) Communicate the premise that no human being is less
10 than another because of a physical or mental disability.

11 (c) Development of curriculum.--The following shall apply:

12 (1) The department shall establish curriculum guidelines
13 no later six months after final year of the pilot program.
14 The guidelines shall be based on the curriculum implemented
15 in the pilot program and the evaluation of the pilot
16 program's effectiveness.

17 (2) The department shall work in consultation with
18 organizations and individuals that advocate for individuals
19 with disabilities or otherwise provide educational expertise
20 and resources related to disability rights and the
21 contributions of individuals with disabilities to do the
22 following:

23 (i) Develop curriculum guidelines which state the
24 minimum amount of instruction necessary to adequately
25 educate students on the political, economic and social
26 contributions of individuals with disabilities. The
27 guidelines shall take into account the evaluation of the
28 pilot program.

29 (ii) Develop a model curriculum, which may include
30 materials already publicly available, and make the

1 curriculum available to all school entities and, upon
2 request, to nonpublic schools. The curriculum shall be
3 based on the curriculum established for the pilot
4 program.

5 (iii) Develop and make available, to all school
6 entities, in-service training programs and educational
7 materials based upon the instruction provided for under
8 subsection (a) and the curriculum guidelines established
9 under this subsection, which may include publicly
10 available materials.

11 (d) Training for professional educators.--Each school entity
12 shall provide four hours of training in disability inclusiveness
13 every five years for professional educators assigned to teach
14 courses into which disability inclusiveness education has been
15 incorporated under subsection (a). Training under this
16 subsection may be used to satisfy a professional educator's
17 continuing professional education requirement under section
18 1205.2. A school entity may use the materials made available by
19 the department under subsection (c)(2) to conduct the training.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.