

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2895 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY McCLINTON, KINSEY, SANCHEZ, GALLOWAY, STEPHENS, WEBSTER, HOHENSTEIN, WILLIAMS, BURGOS, MADDEN, HOWARD, HILL-EVANS, GREEN, CIRESI, HARRIS, SCHLOSSBERG, YOUNGBLOOD, DEASY AND T. DAVIS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 29, 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," in terms and courses of study,  
 6 providing for conflict resolution instruction.

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 a  
 11 section to read:

12 Section 1555. Conflict Resolution Instruction.--(a) (1)  
 13 Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year, each school entity shall  
 14 provide instruction on conflict resolution to all students. The  
 15 instruction shall be integrated into an appropriate course of  
 16 study as determined by each school entity.

17 (2) The conflict resolution instruction required under  
 18 paragraph (1) shall be age appropriate and sequential in method  
 19 of study, and shall include, but not be limited to, information

1 on the following topics:

2 (i) Skills of conflict resolution, including methods of  
3 diffusing conflict situations and resolving differences  
4 amicably.

5 (ii) The mediation process.

6 (iii) Respect for and awareness of different cultures,  
7 beliefs, religions, races and sexual identities, including  
8 empathy and compassion for others.

9 (iv) Effective communication.

10 (v) Establishing and maintaining positive social  
11 relationships.

12 (vi) Effectively managing emotions.

13 (vii) Making responsible decisions.

14 (viii) The correlation between conflict and violence,  
15 including gun violence.

16 (3) School entities may utilize any appropriate public or  
17 private materials, personnel and other resources in developing  
18 and implementing the conflict resolution instruction required  
19 under paragraph (1). School entities may utilize any curriculum  
20 or existing program that complies with the requirements of this  
21 section.

22 (b) (1) Within six (6) months of the effective date of this  
23 section, the department shall compile a list of appropriate  
24 curriculum and materials that school entities may utilize to  
25 comply with the requirements of this section and shall post the  
26 list on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

27 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the department  
28 shall make available to all school entities in-service training  
29 programs based upon the conflict resolution instruction required  
30 under this section. The in-service training programs developed

1 under this subsection shall be revised when necessary to ensure  
2 that the in-service training programs provide the most current  
3 information.

4 (3) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year and every three  
5 (3) years thereafter, each school entity shall provide, as part  
6 of the school entity's in-service training, programs based upon  
7 the conflict resolution instruction requirements established  
8 under this section for all instructors whose teaching  
9 responsibilities include courses of study in which the mandated  
10 conflict resolution instruction is integrated. A school entity  
11 may utilize the in-service training programs developed by the  
12 department under paragraph (2) or use other alternative programs  
13 that are consistent with the provisions of this section.

14 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless  
16 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the  
18 Commonwealth.

19 "School entity" shall mean a school district, joint school  
20 district, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter  
21 school, intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.