
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 952 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY HOWARD, RYAN, SHUSTERMAN, T. DAVIS, DALEY AND
NEILSON, JULY 22, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 22, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Establishing a legislative task force on remote learning to
2 study the effects of remote learning on educational outcomes,
3 social-emotional health, mental health and overall student
4 well-being and directing the Joint State Government
5 Commission to establish an advisory committee to study and
6 report on critical factors and barriers to successful
7 implementation of remote learning, with special attention
8 given to educational outcomes, social-emotional, mental and
9 physical health and best practices that may inform future
10 research, legislation and school policies.

11 WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic necessitated sudden and
12 dramatic changes to school instruction; and

13 WHEREAS, Schools were engaged in an extended period of remote
14 learning without sufficient planning, delivering instruction in
15 myriad ways to students of varying means, abilities and
16 circumstances; and

17 WHEREAS, Many students will at least partially engage in
18 remote learning in the 2020-2021 academic year and beyond; and

19 WHEREAS, There is little research examining remote learning
20 and its effects on educational outcomes and student well-being
21 relative to geographic, linguistic and socioeconomic
22 backgrounds; and

1 WHEREAS, Data-driven, evidence-based best practices are
2 required for more effective remote learning; therefore be it

3 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
4 establish a task force on remote learning; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the task force be comprised of the following:

6 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Children and
7 Youth Committee of the House of Representatives.

8 (2) Two members of the House of Representatives
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 (3) One member of the House of Representatives appointed
11 by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission
14 establish an advisory committee consisting of the following
15 members:

16 (1) The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth or a
17 designee.

18 (2) An individual selected by the Joint State Government
19 Commission for their expertise in educational research.

20 (3) Two K-12 educators from urban school districts.

21 (4) Two K-12 educators from suburban school districts.

22 (5) Two K-12 educators from rural school districts.

23 (6) One K-12 administrator.

24 (7) One telecommunications expert;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, in
27 conjunction with the advisory committee, conduct a study of the
28 effects of remote learning on academic achievement, social-
29 emotional health, mental health and overall well-being using a
30 representative sample of Commonwealth students; and be it

1 further

2 RESOLVED, That the student sample reflect this Commonwealth
3 as a whole, with demographic diversity as to special education,
4 English-language learning and economic disadvantage, and
5 geographic distribution representing urban and rural
6 communities; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the study consist in part of methods that
8 include, where possible:

9 (1) Results of standardized testing chosen by the
10 advisory committee and administered by the Joint State
11 Government Commission to assess math and reading skills.

12 (2) Results of Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
13 (PSSA) testing for the grade level most recently completed by
14 participating students.

15 (3) A measure of social-emotional health to be completed
16 by participating students or a caregiver as the Joint State
17 Government Commission deems necessary.

18 (4) A measure of overall well-being, including mental
19 health, physical health, physical activity, food insecurity
20 and housing insecurity.

21 (5) A survey of students' caregivers, including
22 questions about their experience with remote learning, their
23 child's response to remote learning, stressors in the home
24 and individualized needs for the coming academic year;

25 and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That school districts with participating students
27 provide information regarding their remote learning program,
28 including frequency of instruction, content of instruction and
29 additional support measures provided to families; and be it
30 further

1 RESOLVED, That students and caregivers be notified that
2 participation is voluntary and that student academic performance
3 is not being evaluated; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may
5 compensate the families of participating students to incentivize
6 participation; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may
8 request that participating students and their families complete
9 the same or similar measures throughout the 2020-2021 academic
10 year to observe changes or trends, with special attention to
11 changes in student social-emotional health; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may hold
13 informational meetings to receive testimony from experts and
14 others as it deems necessary; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission may use
16 information and resources from the Federal Government, other
17 state governments and nongovernmental organizations as
18 appropriate; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the task force issue a preliminary report of
20 its findings and recommendations to the relevant committees of
21 the House of Representatives and the Senate no later than 120
22 days after the adoption of this resolution; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That the task force issue a final report of its
24 findings and recommendations to the relevant committees of the
25 House of Representatives and the Senate no later than 365 days
26 after the adoption of this resolution, which report shall
27 include, but not be limited to, best practices and
28 recommendations for laws and regulations.