
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 850 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, BROWNE, MASTRIANO, KILLION, PHILLIPS-HILL, DiSANTO, MENSCH, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, MUTH, YUDICHAK AND SCHWANK, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 19, 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," providing for community engaged
6 schools.

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 XV-K

13 COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOOLS

14 Section 1501-K. Short title.

15 This chapter related to the Community Engaged Schools for
16 Success Pilot Program Act.

17 Section 1502-K. 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 "Community engaged school." A school that is designated by
3 the secretary to participate in the program and is engaged in
4 developing and implementing a community engagement plan to
5 provide engaged student support services.

6 "Community partner." A community group, parent organization,
7 early childhood learning program, business organization, dental
8 care provider, health care provider, mental health provider,
9 civic organization, local governmental agency, school employee
10 organization, institution of higher education or other
11 organization that is able to provide engaged student support
12 services to students in a school setting.

13 "Coordinator." An individual who works full-time within a
14 community engaged school, in consultation with school leaders
15 and staff, to promote and coordinate the provision of engaged
16 student support services.

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

19 "Engaged student support services." Services provided to
20 students in a school setting that remove academic and
21 nonacademic barriers to success, including the following
22 services:

- 23 (1) Academic assistance.
- 24 (2) Behavior interventions.
- 25 (3) Community and service learning.
- 26 (4) Family engagement.
- 27 (5) Mental health services.
- 28 (6) Health care services.
- 29 (7) Dental health services.
- 30 (8) Basic needs.

1 (9) College and career preparation.

2 (10) Enrichment activities.

3 (11) Life skills.

4 "Program." The Community Engaged School for Success Pilot
5 Program.

6 "Program manager." A nonprofit community-based organization
7 that works on behalf of a community engaged school or schools to
8 identify, implement, manage and evaluate the provision of
9 engaged student support services to students.

10 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
11 Section 1503-K. Community Engaged School Eligibility.

12 Any school operated by a school district in this Commonwealth
13 is eligible for designation by the secretary as a community
14 engaged school if it meets at least one of the following
15 criteria:

16 (1) The school is ranked in the lowest 15% of the
17 school's designation as an elementary school or a secondary
18 school based on combined mathematics and reading scores from
19 the annual assessment administered in the previous school
20 year.

21 (2) The school is located in a school district where the
22 acute poverty percentage as calculated under section 2502.53
23 is equal to or greater than 30% and the school's enrollment
24 is representative of the school district's acute poverty
25 percentage.

26 Section 1504-K. Community engaged school designation.

27 (a) Application.--A school that seeks to be designated as a
28 community engaged school must submit an application to the
29 department in a form and with information as determined by the
30 department.

1 (b) Duty of secretary.--No later than September 30, 2020,
2 the secretary shall designate no less than 20 schools that have
3 made application under this article as community engaged
4 schools.

5 (c) Requirements of designees.--A school designated by the
6 secretary as a community engaged school shall:

7 (1) Appoint a program manager for the school within 60
8 days of the designation.

9 (2) Appoint a coordinator for the school within 60 days
10 of the designation.

11 (3) Develop, implement and carry out the provisions of a
12 community engagement plan approved by the secretary.

13 Section 1505-K. Community engagement plan.

14 (a) Development.--The community engagement plan of a
15 community engaged school shall include the following:

16 (1) An evaluation and analysis of indicators of school
17 and student performance needs that includes the following:

18 (i) Academic performance, including achievement and
19 growth.

20 (ii) Graduation and promotion rates.

21 (iii) Chronic absenteeism.

22 (iv) Disciplinary information.

23 (v) School safety information.

24 (vi) Unique student populations.

25 (vii) Other factors and information necessary to
26 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in
27 school.

28 (2) A qualitative and quantitative analysis that
29 assesses areas of need through surveys, forums and focus
30 groups with parents and other stakeholders, including the

1 following:

2 (i) Student needs regarding food, clothing, shelter
3 and employment.

4 (ii) Student needs and access to health care
5 services, mental health services and behavior health
6 services.

7 (iii) Family literacy.

8 (iv) Student and parent access to job training and
9 placement programs.

10 (v) Student access to early childhood education.

11 (vi) Family engagement in school activities.

12 (vii) Student engagement in out-of-school academic
13 programs.

14 (viii) School culture and climate.

15 (ix) School safety.

16 (x) An evaluation of current programs and services
17 currently provided by the community engaged school.

18 (xi) Other factors and information necessary to
19 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in
20 the community engaged school.

21 (b) Plan submission to secretary.--No later than March 30,
22 2021, a community engaged school shall utilize the results of
23 the evaluation and analysis in subsection (a) and submit a
24 community engagement plan to the secretary for approval. The
25 community engagement plan shall include the following:

26 (1) An organizational chart for the community engaged
27 school that reflects upon the relationship of school
28 leadership, staff, the coordinator and program manager.

29 (2) A list of areas of need and any academic and
30 nonacademic barriers to achievement.

1 (3) A list of the specific engaged student support
2 services and programs to be provided to students, including:

3 (i) The community partners providing the services
4 and programs.

5 (ii) A description of the services and programs to
6 be provided.

7 (4) Performance goals and benchmarks to measure academic
8 performance and other areas of need.

9 (5) Procedures to formally evaluate performance.

10 (6) A plan for reporting progress and outcomes related
11 to the services and programs provided in the community
12 engagement plan on an annual basis to the school board of
13 directors and the department no later than August 31 of each
14 year.

15 (7) A budget approved by the school board of directors
16 to accomplish the community engagement plan that identifies
17 the resources allocated to support the community engaged
18 school and its community engagement plan.

19 (8) Policies and procedures to ensure appropriate data
20 sharing with the coordinator, program manager and community
21 partner.

22 (9) Other items required by the secretary to ensure the
23 success of the community engagement plan.

24 (c) Plan approval.--

25 (1) Within 30 days of receipt of the community
26 engagement plan, the secretary shall approve the community
27 engagement plan or notify the school district that revisions
28 to the community engagement plan are needed and transmit
29 suggested revisions to the board of school directors.

30 (2) A community engagement plan that is denied by the

1 secretary may be revised and resubmitted at the direction of
2 the secretary.

3 Section 1506-K. Duties of program manager.

4 (a) General rule.--The duties of the program manager shall
5 include the following:

6 (1) The development of the evaluation and analysis of
7 indicators of student performance needs under section 1505-
8 K(a).

9 (2) The development of a site plan to be provided to the
10 community engaged school within 60 days of the appointment of
11 the program manager. The site plan shall include the
12 following:

13 (i) A summary of the needs identified under section
14 1505-K(a).

15 (ii) The goals and measures for addressing the
16 identified needs of the community engaged school.

17 (3) The development of the annual report under section
18 1505-K(b) (6).

19 Section 1507-K. Duties of department.

20 (a) Application.--The department shall develop an
21 application process for a school district to apply on behalf of
22 an eligible school for designation as a community engaged
23 school.

24 (b) Technical assistance.--

25 (1) The department shall provide technical assistance to
26 community engaged schools, including academic expertise and
27 assistance, training, program design, grant writing
28 assistance and data collection and analysis.

29 (2) The department may enter into a contract to provide
30 the technical assistance required under paragraph (1).

1 (c) Best practices.--The department shall facilitate the
2 sharing of best practices among community engaged schools and
3 with other schools in this Commonwealth.

4 (d) Annual report.--No later than December 31, 2021, and
5 each year thereafter, the department shall submit an annual
6 report of the information collected from the community engaged
7 schools under section 1505-K(b)(6) to the Governor, chairperson
8 and minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
9 Senate, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
10 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the
11 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education Committee
12 of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of
13 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

14 Section 1508-J. Community engaged school grants.

15 (a) Amount.--The department may award community engaged
16 school grants to school districts on behalf of schools
17 designated as community engaged schools upon approval of the
18 school's community engagement plan. The amount of the grant
19 under this section may not exceed \$125,000 for each community
20 engaged school.

21 (b) Matching requirement.--A school district must match the
22 amount of the grant with school district funds at least equal to
23 the State allocation.

24 (c) Duration.--To the extent that funding for grants is
25 available and the school continues to follow its community
26 engagement plan to the secretary's satisfaction, an annual award
27 shall be made in five consecutive years.

28 (d) Limitation.--No school district may receive an annual
29 grant allocation that exceeds 10% of the funds available under
30 the program.

1 (e) Diversity.--The secretary shall ensure that the grant
2 funding under this program is geographically dispersed
3 throughout this Commonwealth.

4 (f) Use and audit.--Grant funds shall be used exclusively
5 for the purpose of supporting a community engaged school's
6 community engagement plan and are subject to audit by the
7 department and the Auditor General.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.