

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1250 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, LANGERHOLC, KILLION, MENSCH, KEARNEY, AUMENT, STEFANO AND BOSCOLA, AUGUST 11, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, AUGUST 11, 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 preliminary provisions, providing  
 6 for online and distance learning access.

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 129. Online and Distance Learning Access.--(a) (1)  
 13 A school entity that provides instruction through online or  
 14 distance learning shall establish and implement a plan to  
 15 require the following:

16 (i) Lessons provided through online or distance learning be  
 17 recorded and stored electronically for access by students at a  
 18 later time.

19 (ii) If more than ten percent (10%) of students attending a  
 20 school within a school entity are English as a Second Language

1 students and whose first spoken language is the same language, a  
2 computer-based simultaneous translation program be provided with  
3 the online or distance learning.

4 (2) Requirements under paragraph (1) may exclude instruction  
5 and services for a student who receives services under an  
6 Individualized Education Program under the Individuals with  
7 Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400  
8 et seq.) if the instruction and services require live  
9 interaction.

10 (b) A school entity shall submit the plan under subsection  
11 (a) to the Department of Education.

12 (c) The Department of Education shall provide guidance to  
13 school entities and intermediate units may provide technical  
14 assistance.

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

18 "Disaster emergency." A declaration of disaster emergency  
19 issued by the Governor under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c) (relating to  
20 general authority of Governor).

21 "Online or distance learning." Includes the provision of  
22 continuity of education to students using alternative means  
23 during a period of closure due to a disaster emergency.

24 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area  
25 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter  
26 school or regional charter school.

27 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.