
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1252 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 intermediate units, providing for
6 Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program.

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 923.4-A. Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program.--

13 (a) Establishment. The Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program
14 is established.

15 (b) Purpose. The program shall provide for individualized
16 tutoring sessions by retired volunteer educators for students of
17 a school district during a mandated school closure under a
18 disaster emergency to assist all of the following:

19 (1) Students attending the school district with limited
20 technology resources in their homes.

1 (2) Students attending the school district who are
2 identified by the school district as having difficulty with
3 online or distance learning.

4 (c) Requirements. The following apply:

5 (1) The tutoring sessions shall be conducted by telephone
6 with retired volunteer educators assisting students who are
7 identified by the school district as meeting the requirements
8 under subsection (b).

9 (2) The parent or guardian of the student shall be permitted
10 to monitor the telephone session with the student.

11 (d) Operation. The program shall be operated by the
12 intermediate unit that serves the school district.

13 (e) Model items. The department shall provide collaboration
14 and guidance to the intermediate units as needed, with model
15 items such as implementation of the program, replication of a
16 model program or standardization of a statement for the
17 student's parent or guardian to sign for participation in the
18 program.

19 (f) Collaboration. As the need for virtual education
20 increases, the department and intermediate units shall
21 collaborate to:

22 (1) evaluate and share information on the impact of the
23 program; and

24 (2) investigate methods to virtually provide social wrap-
25 around services and school guidance counseling services.

26 (g) Definitions. As used in this section:

27 "Department" means the Department of Education of the
28 Commonwealth.

29 "Disaster emergency" means a declaration of disaster
30 emergency issued by the Governor under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7301(c)

1 (relating to general authority of Governor).

2 "Online or distance learning" includes the provision of
3 continuity of education to students using alternative means
4 during a period of closure due to a disaster emergency.

5 "Program" means the Retired Volunteer Educator Tutor Program.

6 "School district" means a school district that has been
7 ordered closed under a disaster emergency and that offers online
8 or distance learning as a part of its continuity of education.

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