
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1327 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY DINNIMAN, LANGERHOLC, FONTANA, MENSCH, PITTMAN,
ARGALL, BOSCOLA, FARNESE, BLAKE, COLLETT AND AUMENT,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 duties and powers of boards of
6 school directors, providing for publication of pathways of
7 communication.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 510.3. Publication of Pathways of Communication.--

14 (a) The following shall apply to a school district and each
15 remote learning student of the school district:

16 (1) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
17 subsection, the school district shall develop a web-based portal
18 that provides the student, parents or guardians of the student
19 and siblings of the student access to the professional contact
20 information of the school district's administrators and

1 professional employes as provided under subsection (b).

2 (2) Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this
3 subsection, the school district shall develop a web-based portal
4 that provides the student, parents or guardians of the student
5 and siblings of the student access to multiple tools needed to
6 promote effective remote learning. The portal must be a toolbox
7 of resources to provide access to:

8 (i) A link to resources developed by the department under
9 this section, including, but not limited to, modules,
10 instruction techniques and information that would provide
11 teaching techniques and tips to assist the student with online
12 instruction.

13 (ii) A link to resources developed by the school district
14 under this section that provides guidance and information in
15 support of the alignment of the student's daily online
16 instruction and assignments with the curriculum goal or
17 objective of the coursework established by the student's
18 teacher.

19 (iii) A link to a peer support resource page that must
20 contain a collection of online resources made available by the
21 parents, parent-teacher association, school auxiliary groups or
22 other similar peer support group of the school district,
23 organized for peer-to-peer communications to provide networking
24 and the exchange of ideas for effective remote access of
25 coursework, assistance with instruction and suggestions
26 regarding using online learning techniques, tips or teaching
27 tools and modules. The following shall apply:

28 (A) The peer support resource page may include links to
29 forums, blogs, chat lines, electronic meeting exchanges and
30 other types of electronic communication developed to provide

1 access for promoting an effective at-home school learning
2 environment for the student.

3 (B) The peer support resource page shall be developed to
4 permit third-party attachment of necessary access information or
5 a link to the website, if the third party has obtained
6 permission from the school district to participate on the peer
7 support resource page.

8 (C) Contents on the peer support resource page shall be
9 voluntarily affixed links to the various support groups.

10 (D) The school district shall encourage participation on the
11 peer support resource page.

12 (b) The portal to the contact information under subsection
13 (a)(1) shall:

14 (1) Be available on the publicly accessible Internet website
15 of the school district.

16 (2) Provide access to the contact information for all
17 administrators and professional employes in whose class or
18 course the student is assigned, registered or enrolled.

19 (c) The portal to the toolbox of resources under subsection
20 (a)(2) shall:

21 (1) Be available on the publicly accessible Internet website
22 of the school district.

23 (2) Provide access to the resources developed by the
24 department, the school district and peers under this section to
25 assist with online teaching skills and support for remote online
26 or distance learning.

27 (d) The following apply to policies:

28 (1) The board of school directors of a school district shall
29 develop a written policy for the portal to the contact
30 information under subsection (a)(1) that shall include the

1 following, at a minimum:

2 (i) The portal shall be posted on the publicly accessible
3 Internet website of the school district.

4 (ii) A student assigned, registered or enrolled in a class
5 or course in the school district, as well as the parents or
6 guardians of the student and the siblings of the student, shall
7 have access to the portal.

8 (iii) Within the portal, a student, the parents or guardians
9 of the student and the siblings of the student shall have a
10 pathway to contact information for the professional employes
11 associated with a class or course in which the student is
12 assigned, registered or enrolled for the school year.

13 (iv) A remote learning student, the parents or guardians of
14 the student and the siblings of the student shall have access to
15 contact information for all administrators of the school
16 district.

17 (v) An email address provided as contact information on the
18 portal shall be a direct link to compose and send an email
19 communication to an administrator or professional employe.

20 (vi) All outreach communications made via the contact
21 information provided through the portal, whether via email
22 application, telephone or otherwise, shall be responded to by
23 the individual associated with the contact information within
24 forty-eight (48) hours of the initial outreach effort. The
25 response provided shall not be limited to merely an
26 acknowledgment of receipt of the outreach communication but must
27 provide some responsive information to the specific details of
28 the outreach communication.

29 (vii) The portal must not disclose to those who access the
30 portal any confidential information prohibited by law from being

1 disclosed. The home address and telephone number of an
2 administrator or professional employe may be disclosed only if
3 provided by the administrator or professional employe as the
4 contact information on the portal.

5 (2) The board of school directors of a school district shall
6 develop a written policy for the portal to the toolbox of
7 resources under subsection (a)(2) that shall include the
8 following, at a minimum:

9 (i) The portal shall be posted on the publicly accessible
10 Internet website of the school district.

11 (ii) A student assigned, registered or enrolled in a class
12 or course in the school district, as well as the parents or
13 guardians of the student and the siblings of the student, shall
14 have access to the portal.

15 (iii) The portal shall contain links and modules to provide
16 links to teaching techniques and tips for school district-
17 developed guidance and information showing the alignment of the
18 daily lesson to the teacher's goals and objectives for the
19 overall lesson and to a peer-to-peer resource website.

20 (iv) Participation or inclusion of information by third
21 party peers is voluntary.

22 (v) Inclusion of information by third party peers includes
23 links to learning and teaching tools, blogs, chat lines,
24 electronic meeting exchanges and other types of electronic
25 communication developed to provide access for promoting an
26 effective at-home school learning environment and networking
27 efforts.

28 (vi) A school district, in its sole discretion, may require
29 permission to affix a link, module, learning technique or any
30 other information on the peer-to-peer resources website.

1 (e) A school district, in consultation with the appropriate
2 intermediate units and its teachers, shall:

3 (1) Develop curriculum goals and objectives of courses that
4 are offered through the school district's online or distance
5 learning program that will align to the daily remote lesson
6 plans assigned to the remote learning student for publication on
7 the portal in accordance with subsection (d) (2) (iii).

8 (2) Include training in remote instruction in the
9 professional development plan submitted by the school district
10 to the secretary for approval in accordance with section 1205.1.
11 The training included in the school district's plan for an
12 employee required to complete continuing professional education
13 shall provide up to four (4) hours every five (5) years toward
14 the continuing professional education requirements.

15 (f) The department shall:

16 (1) Not later than six (6) months after the effective date
17 of this subsection, develop guidance and material related to
18 instruction techniques for remote learning and tips for parents,
19 guardians or siblings assisting a remote learning student with
20 online instructions that may include materials already publicly
21 available.

22 (2) Develop a website of resources for a school district to
23 link in accordance with subsection (a) (2) (i). The website must
24 include resources that the department develops under paragraph
25 (1).

26 (3) Not later than six (6) months after the effective date
27 of this subsection, recommend guidelines and education materials
28 for the training provided under subsection (e) (2), which may
29 include materials already publicly available.

30 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases

1 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
2 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

3 "Department." The Department of Education of the
4 Commonwealth.

5 "Portal." Access or a link to the contact information that a
6 student or parent or guardian of a student can enter securely.

7 "Remote learning student." A student attending school
8 remotely or virtually, whether full-time or part-time.

9 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education.

10 "Sibling." A brother or sister of a student who is
11 registered and attending s class or course in a school district
12 through online or distance learning if the brother or sister is
13 in kindergarten through grade twelve.

14 "Web-based." Relating to or using the World Wide Web.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.