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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1329 Session of  
2020

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

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

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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 terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for pandemic instruction.

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 1529. Pandemic Instruction.--(a) Beginning with the  
13 2020-2021 school year and each school year thereafter, each  
14 public school student shall receive mandatory instruction on the  
15 types of pandemics, the impact of a pandemic and the aftermath  
16 of a pandemic, in grades kindergarten through twelve.

17 (b) Each school entity shall:

18 (1) Develop age-appropriate pandemic instruction and  
19 integrate the instruction into the school entity's existing

1 courses of study for students in grades kindergarten through  
2 twelve. The instruction developed by the school entity shall  
3 include the requirements of pandemic instruction under  
4 subsections (e) and (f).

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

12 (c) In consultation with at least one (1) organization  
13 knowledgeable on different types of pandemics and the long-term  
14 and sustained changes that occur in a population from the impact  
15 of a pandemic, the department shall:

16 (1) Develop age-appropriate model curriculum for instruction  
17 on pandemics for each grade from kindergarten through twelve,  
18 which curriculum may include materials already publicly  
19 available, no later than twelve (12) months after the effective  
20 date of this subsection.

21 (2) Make available the model curriculum and other age-  
22 appropriate materials to a school entity and post the model  
23 curriculum on the publicly accessible Internet website of the  
24 department.

25 (3) Recommend guidelines and educational materials for the  
26 training provided under subsection (b)(2), which may include  
27 materials already publicly available, not later than twelve (12)  
28 months after the effective date of this subsection.

29 (4) Revise the model curriculum and guidelines on pandemics  
30 as necessary to ensure the use of the most current information

1 and universally accepted social policies related to pandemics,  
2 the impact of a pandemic and the aftermath of a pandemic.

3 (d) In developing model curriculum under subsection (c), as  
4 appropriate, the department shall include:

5 (1) Requirements for pandemic instruction under subsection  
6 (f).

7 (2) Actions to take during a pandemic and how to maintain a  
8 healthy well-being throughout a pandemic.

9 (3) Pandemic preparedness.

10 (4) Plans and essentials for pandemics.

11 (5) Efforts for the prevention of harm and the spread of  
12 harm throughout a pandemic.

13 (6) Impacts of severe economic hardship that a pandemic can  
14 have around the world.

15 (7) Policies that could be implemented to mitigate the  
16 impacts and damage of a pandemic.

17 (e) In developing and implementing the instruction in  
18 accordance with subsection (b) (1), a school entity may utilize:

19 (1) Appropriate public or private materials, personnel and  
20 other resources.

21 (2) Model curriculum developed by the department in  
22 accordance with subsection (c).

23 (3) Other published curriculum that complies with the  
24 requirements of this section.

25 (f) Pandemic instruction shall:

26 (1) Be age appropriate.

27 (2) Be sequential in method of study.

28 (3) Communicate that the occurrence of a pandemic is a  
29 concern with widespread consequences without creating an  
30 atmosphere of fear or despair and with sensitivity to student

1 fears and anxieties.

2 (4) Communicate the impact of failing to maintain healthy  
3 well-being throughout a pandemic.

4 (g) The State Board of Education shall promulgate or revise  
5 regulations subject to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633,  
6 No.181), known as the "Regulatory Review Act," necessary to  
7 implement this section.

8 (h) Until the completion of model curriculum under  
9 subsection (c), a school entity shall, to the extent  
10 practicable, provide teachers with resources on how they can, in  
11 meaningful and age-appropriate language, engage in discussions  
12 with students on the subject of pandemics.

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

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

18 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional  
19 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area  
20 career and technical school.

21 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 30 days.