
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 694 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, SANCHEZ, D. WILLIAMS, FREEMAN, KINSEY,
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FEBRUARY 26, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Integrated Student Supports Program and the
2 Integrated Student Supports Fund; and conferring powers and
3 imposing duties on the Department of Education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Integrated
8 Student Supports Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) High school dropout rates can have a significant
12 negative impact on this Commonwealth's economy as determined
13 by the loss of generated income tax revenue and dependence on
14 government aid, as well as elevated risks for incarceration.

15 (2) Graduation rates in many Pennsylvania school
16 districts have fallen well below the Statewide average.
17 Removing academic and nonacademic barriers to learning

1 through evidence-based integrated student supports helps to
2 reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates.

3 (3) The General Assembly intends to create a fund
4 allowing Pennsylvania public school entities to utilize
5 programming provided by a third-party nonprofit organization
6 in order to decrease dropout rates and increase graduation
7 rates.

8 Section 3. Definitions.

9 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
10 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
11 context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Fund." The Integrated Student Supports Fund established in
15 section 4(c).

16 "Organization." The third-party nonprofit organization
17 designated by the department under section 4(b).

18 "Program." The Integrated Student Supports Program
19 established in section 4(a).

20 "Public school entity." Any of the following:

21 (1) A school district as defined in section 102 of the
22 act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public
23 School Code of 1949.

24 (2) A charter school, cyber charter school or regional
25 charter school as defined in section 1703-A of the Public
26 School Code of 1949.

27 (3) An intermediate unit as established under Article
28 IX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

29 (4) An area career and technical school as established
30 under Article XVIII of the Public School Code of 1949.

1 Section 4. Integrated Student Supports Program.

2 (a) Establishment.--The Integrated Student Supports Program
3 is established to remove academic and nonacademic barriers to
4 learning as a means to enhance student academic success,
5 decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates in public
6 elementary and secondary schools throughout this Commonwealth.
7 Under the program, the department may provide grants to public
8 school entities as provided under section 5 for students in
9 kindergarten through grade 12.

10 (b) Designation.--

11 (1) Within 60 days of the effective date of this
12 section, the Secretary of Education shall:

13 (i) Designate, through a request for proposal
14 process, an organization to serve as the provider of
15 evidence-based community school services to public school
16 entities. The organization must satisfy all of the
17 following:

18 (A) Currently operate in more than 60 public
19 school entities.

20 (B) Provide independent data collection.

21 (C) Provide in-school and out-of-school programs
22 in the following areas:

23 (I) Social, emotional, physical and moral
24 development to include mental health case
25 management.

26 (II) College and career preparation.

27 (III) Behavior intervention.

28 (IV) Parental engagement and support.

29 (V) Student reengagement.

30 (ii) Post notice of the designation on the

1 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

2 (2) This subsection shall be subject to the provisions
3 of 62 Pa.C.S. (relating to procurement).

4 (c) Fund.--The Integrated Student Supports Fund is
5 established in the State Treasury. Money in the fund shall be
6 used to fund the grants provided under section 5. The following
7 shall apply:

8 (1) The department may transfer undistributed money not
9 expended, encumbered or committed from the department's
10 appropriation to the fund for the purpose of funding the
11 grants provided under this section.

12 (2) The fund may include:

13 (i) Grants, donations, contributions or gifts from
14 public or private sources specifically earmarked for
15 deposit into the fund.

16 (ii) Interest, dividends and pecuniary gains from
17 investment of money in the fund.

18 Section 5. Grants.

19 (a) Establishment of advisory councils.--Each public school
20 entity shall establish and manage an advisory council that shall
21 develop the strategic school plan for students in kindergarten
22 through grade 12. An advisory council shall be comprised of a
23 diverse set of public and private stakeholders, including
24 representatives from the public school entity, local and
25 regional industries, private philanthropic foundations,
26 community-based organizations and social service agencies.

27 (b) Provision of grants.--

28 (1) The department may provide grants to a public school
29 entity for the purpose of funding the implementation of the
30 approved strategic plan to provide integrated student

1 supports to remove academic and nonacademic barriers to
2 education.

3 (2) A public school entity seeking funds under this
4 subsection must submit a strategic plan for programming for
5 students in kindergarten through grade 12 to the department.
6 Grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis, based on the
7 department's review of a public school entity's strategic
8 plan, and shall match the public school entity's proposed
9 investment amount in programming on a dollar-for-dollar
10 basis. Strategic plans submitted to the department must
11 demonstrate that a dedicated space exists or will exist
12 within the public school entity for the use of the integrated
13 student supports provider.

14 (3) Grants awarded to public school entities under this
15 subsection shall be used in their entirety for the
16 programming provided by the organization selected by the
17 department.

18 Section 6. Reports.

19 (a) Annual report.--The organization shall provide a report
20 on the progress of the organization's evidence-based programming
21 within each public school entity receiving a grant under section
22 5 to the department within one year of the effective date of
23 this section and annually no later than October 1 of each
24 subsequent year thereafter. The report shall include outcomes
25 for case-managed students, including the following:

26 (1) Grade promotion and graduation rates.

27 (2) Student attendance.

28 (3) Student behavior.

29 (4) Student academics and grade point averages.

30 (b) Publication.--The report shall be published annually on

1 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

2 Section 7. Effective date.

3 This act shall take effect immediately.