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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 907 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, SANCHEZ,  
D. WILLIAMS, PISCIOTTANO, NEILSON, ISAACSON, McNEILL, ROZZI,  
FREEMAN, CIRESI, MADDEN, DALEY, HOWARD AND KINSEY,  
MARCH 15, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 15, 2021

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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 certification of teachers, further  
6 providing for continuing professional development;  
7 establishing the Access to Advanced Placement Courses for  
8 Students Program; and imposing duties on the department and  
9 on school entities.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 1205.1(c.1)(3) of the act of March 10,  
13 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
14 is amended to read:

15 Section 1205.1. Continuing Professional Development.--\* \* \*

16 (c.1) The continuing professional education plan shall  
17 specify the professional education needs that will be met by  
18 completion of each continuing professional education option and  
19 how it relates to areas of assignment and certification or  
20 potential administrative certification. The options may include,

1 but shall not be limited to:

2 \* \* \*

3 (3) Other programs, activities or learning experiences taken  
4 for credit or hourly, to include:

5 (i) curriculum development and other program design and  
6 delivery activities at the school entity or grade level as  
7 determined by the school entity and approved by the board of  
8 directors;

9 (ii) participation in professional conferences and  
10 workshops;

11 (iii) education in the workplace, where the work relates to  
12 the professional educator's area of assignment and is approved  
13 by the board of directors;

14 (iv) review, redesign and restructuring of school programs,  
15 organizations and functions as determined by the school entity  
16 and approved by the board of directors;

17 (v) in-service programs that comply with guidelines  
18 established by the department;

19 (vi) early childhood and child development activities for  
20 professional educators whose area of assignment includes  
21 kindergarten through third grade;

22 (vii) special education activities for professional  
23 educators whose area of assignment includes students with  
24 special needs;

25 (viii) successful completion of department training for  
26 service as a Distinguished Educator if the professional educator  
27 participates in and completes at least one assignment in the  
28 Distinguished Educators Program;

29 (ix) other continuing professional education courses,  
30 programs, activities or learning experiences sponsored by the

1 department; [or]

2 (x) visits by educators to a manufacturing workplace for  
3 orientation and demonstrations to give the professional educator  
4 a greater understanding of job opportunities in manufacturing  
5 for students; or

6 (xi) access to the advanced placement courses for all  
7 students program under section 1703-D.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

10 ARTICLE XVII-D

11 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT

12 COURSES FOR ALL STUDENTS

13 Section 1701-D. Scope of article.

14 This article relates to access to advanced placement courses  
15 for all students.

16 Section 1702-D. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
19 context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "Advanced placement course." A course of study authorized by  
21 the college board that allows a student to study college-level  
22 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced  
23 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on  
24 the course-related Advanced Placement exam.

25 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
26 Commonwealth.

27 "Eligible school entities." School entities that do not have  
28 at least one advanced placement course in the four core academic  
29 areas or computer science, or will no longer have an advanced  
30 placement course in one of the four core academic areas or

1 computer science due to the retirement or loss of a teacher who  
2 teaches an advanced placement course.

3 "Eligible teacher." A professional employee who is certified  
4 in the subject area of the advanced placement course that the  
5 professional employee will be teaching. In the case of a  
6 computer science course, the term means an individual who has  
7 received professional development to teach computer science even  
8 if the individual is certified in a different subject area.

9 "Four core academic areas." Mathematics, English language  
10 arts, science and social science.

11 "Poverty level." The percentage of students in a school  
12 district eligible for free or reduced-price lunch.

13 "Program." The Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program  
14 established under section 1703-D(b).

15 "School entity." A public school district, intermediate  
16 unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school or cyber  
17 charter school operating in this Commonwealth.

18 "Teacher training entities." Institutions of higher  
19 education, intermediate units or organizations endorsed by the  
20 college board to train teachers to teach advanced placement  
21 courses.

22 "Virtual learning instruction." The provision of academic  
23 courses and instruction to students through the Internet or the  
24 use of technology.

25 Section 1703-D. Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

26 (a) Purpose.--The purpose of the program is to provide  
27 access to advanced placement courses in the four core academic  
28 areas and computer science for students by eligible teachers at  
29 all high schools that do not currently provide the courses. The  
30 Pennsylvania School Performance Profile, established in 2012,

1 includes advanced placement participation and performance in a  
2 high school as an indicator of academic achievement that  
3 determines a high school's academic performance score.

4 (b) Establishment.--The Advanced Placement Teacher Training  
5 Program is established within the department to train teachers  
6 in eligible school entities to teach advanced placement courses  
7 in the four core academic areas and computer science.

8 (c) Teacher training.--A school entity that has an advanced  
9 placement course in one or more of the four core academic areas  
10 or computer science but not in all five areas shall be eligible  
11 only to have a teacher trained in those academic areas in which  
12 the school entity does not currently have an advanced placement  
13 course.

14 (d) Limitation.--No more than one teacher in an academic  
15 area of an eligible school entity shall be trained under the  
16 program.

17 (e) Joint application.--More than one eligible school entity  
18 may apply jointly to the program to train a teacher in an  
19 advanced placement course instruction if the teacher will  
20 provide instruction in more than one school entity through  
21 classroom instruction, virtual learning instruction or a blended  
22 learning model.

23 (f) Publication.--A school entity that offers advanced  
24 placement courses to students because of the program shall  
25 publish on the school's publicly accessible Internet website the  
26 advanced placement courses offered and notify parents of the  
27 availability of the advanced placement courses and guidelines.

28 Section 1704-D. Application.

29 The application for an eligible school entity seeking funding  
30 for the program must include the following:

1           (1) The subject areas that currently have advanced  
2 placement courses in the school entity.

3           (2) The four core academic areas or computer science  
4 that do not have advanced placement courses in the school  
5 entity.

6           (3) The following information:

7                 (i) The names of the eligible teachers.

8                 (ii) The high school where the teachers are  
9 teaching.

10                (iii) The advanced placement academic subject area  
11 for which the teacher would provide instruction.

12                (iv) Whether the instruction will be in a classroom,  
13 through virtual learning instruction or a blended  
14 learning model.

15           (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities  
16 that would provide training to teach advanced placement  
17 courses.

18           (5) An agreement to offer the advanced placement courses  
19 for high school students for at least three years.

20           (6) Guidelines the school entity will use to determine  
21 which students may be eligible to enroll in an advanced  
22 placement course, subject to the following:

23                 (i) In developing the guidelines, the school entity  
24 shall utilize data and information on the academic  
25 performance of students, which may include the academic  
26 performance of students on the preliminary scholastic  
27 aptitude test and the scholastic aptitude test in  
28 consultation with the college board, shall eliminate  
29 barriers that restrict access to advanced placement  
30 courses for student populations that have been

1 traditionally underserved and shall make every effort to  
2 ensure that advanced placement courses reflect the  
3 diversity of the student population.

4 (ii) The school entity may not unlawfully  
5 discriminate on any basis in enrollment of students.

6 (7) A statement agreeing to comply with the reporting  
7 requirement under section 1705-D.

8 Section 1705-D. Report to department.

9 For each of the four core academic areas and computer science  
10 for which an eligible teacher's training was funded by the  
11 program a school entity shall annually report to the department  
12 the following:

13 (1) Number of students who took advanced placement  
14 courses.

15 (2) Grade levels for which advanced placement courses  
16 are taught.

17 (3) Number of students who took advanced placement  
18 examinations.

19 (4) Number of students who scored a three or higher on  
20 advanced placement examinations.

21 (5) Number of teachers who taught advanced placement  
22 courses within the school entity.

23 Section 1706-D. Powers and duties of department.

24 (a) General rule.--The department shall promulgate rules,  
25 regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of  
26 this article, including the following:

27 (1) Certify teacher training entities, that are endorsed  
28 by the college board, that may provide training to teachers  
29 to teach advanced placement courses in the four core academic  
30 areas or computer science. In certifying teacher training

1 entities, the department shall ensure that the training  
2 locations and times are geographically accessible for  
3 teachers from eligible school entities to attend or are  
4 administered in a manner that is not in person.

5 (2) The department shall ensure that training provided  
6 by teacher training entities provides eligible teachers with  
7 the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills to  
8 prepare students for success in advanced placement courses  
9 and examinations.

10 (b) Report.--Starting at the end of the first year of the  
11 program and then annually thereafter, the department shall issue  
12 a report to the General Assembly on the program that includes:

13 (1) The number of teachers who received training in  
14 advanced placement instruction in school entities in each of  
15 the four core areas and computer science.

16 (2) The number and percentage of high schools that offer  
17 advanced placement programs in all four core academic areas  
18 and computer science.

19 (3) The number and percentage of high schools that offer  
20 advanced placement courses in each of the four core academic  
21 areas and computer science.

22 (4) The number and percentage of students who took  
23 advanced placement courses at school entities in each of the  
24 four core academic areas and computer science.

25 (5) The number and percentage of students who scored a  
26 three or more on an advanced placement examination at school  
27 entities in each of the four core academic areas and computer  
28 science.

29 (6) The names of the school entities and high schools  
30 that do not offer advanced placement courses.



1           (7) The number of teachers who were trained outside the  
2           four core academic areas or computer science who are teaching  
3           other advanced placement courses.

4 Section 1707-D. Funding to teacher training entities.

5           To the extent funds are available for the program, the  
6           department shall allocate funds to certified teacher training  
7           entities based on teacher attendance upon completion of the  
8           training program.

9 Section 1708-D. Program funding.

10          (a) Funding.--Funding for the program shall be made from  
11          available Federal funds and annual appropriations made by the  
12          General Assembly to the department for that purpose or private  
13          sources.

14          (b) Priorities.--In the event of insufficient funds in any  
15          fiscal year, the department shall prioritize funding of eligible  
16          school entities based on the poverty level of the school entity.

17          Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.