

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2023 Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, SCHLOSSBERG, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, PICKETT AND R. BROWN, MARCH 9, 2022

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 25, 2022

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 behavioral MENTAL health awareness education. <--

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. Behavioral MENTAL Health Awareness <--
13 Education.--(a) Beginning with the 2022-2023 2023-2024 school <--
14 year, each school entity may: <--

15 (1) Develop DEVELOP an age-appropriate behavioral MENTAL <--
16 health education program and incorporate the program into the
17 school entity's existing curriculum for students in
18 kindergarten through grade twelve. In developing the program,
19 the school entity may use the model curriculum developed or

1 identified by the department under subsection ~~(b)(1)~~ (B). <--

2 ~~(2) Include training in behavioral health and how to~~ <--
3 ~~identify signs of behavioral health issues in the~~
4 ~~professional development plan submitted by the school entity~~
5 ~~to the secretary for approval under section 1205.1. The~~
6 ~~following apply:~~

7 ~~(i) A school entity may provide four (4) hours of~~
8 ~~training every five (5) years for professional educators.~~

9 ~~(ii) Training under this paragraph may be used to~~
10 ~~satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional~~
11 ~~education requirement under section 1205.2.~~

12 ~~(iii) A school entity may use the materials made~~
13 ~~available by the department under subsection (b)(1) to~~
14 ~~conduct the training.~~

15 (b) No later than June 30, 2022 2023, in consultation with <--
16 at least one organization that addresses behavioral MENTAL <--
17 health issues, the department shall: <--

18 ~~(1) Develop DEVELOP or identify a model behavioral~~ <--
19 ~~MENTAL health curriculum, which may include materials already~~ <--
20 ~~publicly available, and shall make the curriculum available~~
21 ~~to all school entities and, upon request, to nonpublic~~
22 ~~schools.~~

23 ~~(2) Compile, develop and post on the department's~~ <--
24 ~~publicly accessible Internet website recommended guidelines~~
25 ~~and educational materials for the training provided for under~~
26 ~~subsection (a)(2), which may include materials already~~
27 ~~publicly available.~~

28 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
29 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
30 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "MENTAL HEALTH." AN INDIVIDUAL'S CONDITION WITH REGARD TO <--
4 THE INDIVIDUAL'S PSYCHOLOGICAL AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING,
5 INCLUDING ANXIETY, STRESS, TRAUMA OR OTHER MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL
6 IMPAIRMENTS.

7 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school located in this
8 Commonwealth, other than a school entity, where a resident of
9 this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
10 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
11 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
12 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

13 ~~"Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).~~ <--

14 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
15 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
16 intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

17 ~~"Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.~~ <--

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