

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2045 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, GUENST, LEWIS DELROSSO, MIHALEK, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, SCHMITT, JAMES, GAYDOS, JOZWIAK AND INNAMORATO, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 3, 2021

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 professional employees, providing
 6 for teacher support in the Science of Reading Program.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1195.1 of the act of March 10, 1949
 10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
 11 amended to read:

12 Section 1195.1. [(Reserved).] Teacher support in the Science of
 13 Reading Program.

14 (a) Legislative intent.--

15 (1) It is the intent of the General Assembly that
 16 teachers be equipped to facilitate high-quality reading
 17 instruction grounded in the science of reading and
 18 intervention services to address student reading needs.

19 (2) The program provided in this section will assist

1 school districts in providing professional development for
2 teachers in foundational skills and instructional
3 interventions based on the science of reading and selecting
4 district personnel to serve as reading coaches to support
5 teachers in delivering high-quality reading instruction.

6 (b) Program to be conducted.--

7 (1) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, the
8 Department of Education shall conduct a program with school
9 districts that volunteer to participate according to the
10 implementation of professional development and applied
11 practice in the science of reading as selected school
12 district personnel provide in-class demonstration, modeling
13 and coaching support to improve reading and literacy
14 outcomes.

15 (2) Selected coaches must have at least five years of
16 experience in the teaching of reading by demonstrating their
17 skills in the instruction of and intervention with students,
18 including those with dyslexia and other language-related
19 disabilities.

20 (3) The department may contract with multiple service
21 providers to develop and implement the program so that
22 experienced support is available locally with providers who
23 can demonstrate application success.

24 (4) Training workshops and meetings do not constitute
25 the professional development required under the program.

26 (5) Local education agencies and institutions of higher
27 education that have successful implementation of literacy
28 outcomes are eligible to provide professional development and
29 onsite demonstration and coaching support in the program.

30 (c) Professional learning for kindergarten, first, second,

1 third and fourth grade teachers.--Teachers in participating
2 school districts shall participate in training and in-class
3 application and demonstration of the foundational skills and
4 evidence-based intervention practices on the science of reading,
5 including explicit and systematic instruction in phonological
6 and phonemic awareness, the alphabetic principle, decoding and
7 encoding, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension and
8 building content knowledge, to ensure that all teachers have the
9 knowledge and skill to teach all students to read, including
10 students with dyslexia and other language-based learning
11 disabilities.

12 (d) Duties of department.--The Department of Education
13 shall:

14 (1) Select schools interested and committed to the
15 curricular, instructional and professional development
16 changes required for the program and create criteria for
17 selection for participation based on the number and
18 percentages of students scoring in the lowest two achievement
19 levels on State assessment for grades three and four, as well
20 as other district-initiated reading, screening and other
21 relevant data for kindergarten and grades one and two.

22 (2) Select an in-district teacher who has demonstrated
23 literacy success to work as a coach within each school to be
24 responsible for the faithful implementation of the program.
25 Additional support for all school district coaches will be
26 provided as part of the program as needed.

27 (e) Definition.--For purposes of this section, the term
28 "science of reading" shall mean evidence-based instructional and
29 assessment practices that address the multimodal approach that
30 integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling and writing in

1 the acquisition of oral and written language skills that can be
2 differentiated to meet the needs of individual students.

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