
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 988 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SANTARSIERO, HUGHES, FONTANA, COMITTA,
CAPPELLETTI, KEARNEY, SCHWANK AND COSTA, DECEMBER 13, 2021

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, DECEMBER 13, 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 school health services, providing
6 for parent educational information regarding eating
7 disorders.

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

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1426. Parent Educational Information Regarding
14 Eating Disorders.--(a) Each school entity shall annually
15 provide parent educational information regarding eating
16 disorders for pupils in grades six through twelve. The
17 information shall be consistent with guidelines established
18 under this section.

19 (b) Each school entity shall provide the annual parent
20 educational information to all parents and guardians via email

1 or first class mail, as well as on the school entity's portals.

2 (c) The following shall apply:

3 (1) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the
4 Department of Health, shall develop an Eating Disorders Task
5 Force that shall develop and implement guidelines for providing
6 parent educational information regarding eating disorders. The
7 guidelines shall be developed with input from specialized
8 organizations and entities, including boards of school
9 directors, school superintendents, the National Alliance for
10 Eating Disorders, the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses
11 and Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American
12 Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family
13 Physicians, the International Association of Eating Disorders
14 Professionals Foundation and the Academy for Eating Disorders.

15 (2) The Eating Disorders Task Force shall meet at least two
16 times per school year to reassess the information provided to
17 schools and to parents. The task force shall meet at least once
18 prior to the school year beginning and shall meet at least once
19 in the beginning of the calendar year.

20 (d) The Department of Education, the Department of Health
21 and the Eating Disorders Task Force shall identify and develop
22 appropriate additions or revisions to this Commonwealth's school
23 health regulations and materials related to the development of
24 parent educational information, including guidance regarding the
25 clear delineation of health information from other
26 administrative documentation.

27 (e) The guidelines developed under this section shall
28 include the following:

29 (1) The development of a letter for key school personnel,
30 including school principals, vice principals and school

1 counselors and psychologists, on the importance of eating
2 disorder prevention education and resources for schools.

3 (2) The development of a letter to parents and guardians
4 that includes warning signs, risk factors, resources and other
5 information about eating disorders.

6 (f) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means
7 an area career and technical school, a charter school, a cyber
8 charter school, an intermediate unit, a nonpublic school or a
9 school district.

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