

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1207 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY L. WILLIAMS, FONTANA, COSTA, HUGHES, COLLETT,
CAPPELLETTI, PITTMAN AND MUTH, APRIL 26, 2022

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 26, 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 medical emergency response drills.

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 1517.1. Medical Emergency Response Drills.--(a)
13 Each school entity shall conduct mandatory medical emergency
14 response drills for the students of the school entity as
15 follows:

16 (1) Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, each school
17 entity shall conduct an annual medical emergency response drill
18 within ninety (90) days of the commencement of the school year.

19 (2) A medical emergency response drill shall be conducted
20 while the school entity is in session and students are present.

1 (3) The school entity shall adopt policies and protocols for
2 developmentally appropriate medical emergency response drills
3 that shall be included in the school handbook and posted within
4 the school buildings.

5 (b) During a medical emergency response drill in a school
6 entity, the students shall be instructed on and given the
7 opportunity to practice all of the following:

8 (1) Recognizing the signs of a medical emergency.

9 (2) Locating the posted protocol and reviewing the
10 appropriate steps.

11 (3) Reciting a script for seeking help, either by using an
12 emergency phone contact list or by locating an adult in the
13 building.

14 (4) Describing their location and the nature of the medical
15 emergency.

16 (c) A chief school administrator shall provide advance
17 notice of a medical emergency response drill to the parents and
18 legal guardians of the students. The notice shall include
19 information about accommodations available for students with
20 disabilities and other students with sensory needs.

21 (d) For the purpose of satisfying the requirements of this
22 section, school entities are encouraged to seek guidance and
23 coordination with organizations and agencies that specialize in
24 medical emergencies, including their local emergency medical
25 services entities.

26 (e) A cyber charter school may fulfill the requirements of
27 this section through the Internet or other electronic means. If
28 conducted through the Internet or other electronic means, the
29 cyber charter school shall be exempt from the requirements under
30 subsections (a) and (b) specific to school buildings.

1 (f) On or before April 10 of each year, a chief school
2 administrator shall certify to the Department of Education that
3 the medical emergency response drills required under this
4 section have been conducted for that school year.

5 (g) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
6 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
7 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

8 "Chief school administrator" shall mean:

9 (1) the superintendent of a school district or the
10 superintendent of an area career and technical school;

11 (2) the executive director of an intermediate unit; or

12 (3) the chief executive officer of a charter school,
13 regional charter school or cyber charter school.

14 "Medical emergency" shall mean a sudden injury or serious
15 illness that, if not treated promptly, is likely to cause death
16 or serious bodily harm to an unconscious individual who is:

17 (1) a teacher, administrator or other adult providing
18 instruction or services to a student in a school entity; or

19 (2) a student in a location of a school entity where an
20 adult is not present.

21 "School entity" shall mean an area career and technical
22 school, school district, intermediate unit, charter school,
23 regional charter school or cyber charter school.

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