
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2383 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, HILL-EVANS, WAXMAN, GIRAL, FREEMAN,
SANCHEZ, GALLAGHER AND D. WILLIAMS, JUNE 5, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
JUNE 5, 2024

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program; and
2 providing for duties of the Department of Education, the
3 State Board of Education, intermediate units and public
4 school entities.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Older Adult
9 Mentor Volunteer Program Act.

10 Section 2. Legislative intent.

11 The intent of this act is to facilitate the exchange of
12 knowledge between generations, using the experience and wisdom
13 of retired older adults to enrich the lives and futures of this
14 Commonwealth's young people.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

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

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

3 "Intermediate unit." An intermediate unit established under
4 Article IX-A of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
5 as the Public School Code of 1949.

6 "MVP volunteer." An individual who is approved to
7 participate in the program.

8 "Older adult." An individual who is 55 years of age or
9 older.

10 "Program" or "MVP." The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program
11 established in section 4.

12 "School entity." A public school district, intermediate
13 unit, charter school, regional charter school or area career and
14 technical school.

15 "State board." The State Board of Education.
16 Section 4. Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program.

17 (a) Establishment.--The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program
18 is established in furtherance of expanding opportunities for
19 qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with students
20 before, during or after school hours, in school buildings and
21 facilities and on school grounds. The purpose of the program is
22 to:

23 (1) Enable older adults to impart the wisdom that they
24 have accrued to the next generation and to share their unique
25 professions, skills and experiences with students.

26 (2) Provide opportunities for students to explore areas
27 of interest and develop skills, knowledge and experience in a
28 variety of subjects, trades and hobbies.

29 (b) Participation.--

30 (1) A school entity shall not be required to utilize the

1 services of qualified MVP volunteers or to participate in the
2 program beyond the requirements of section 7(b).

3 (2) The program shall not supersede or restrict a school
4 district volunteer program operating outside of the program.

5 Section 5. Guidelines.

6 The department, in consultation with the State board, shall
7 develop guidelines for the program. The guidelines shall ensure
8 the development of a program that uses the wisdom and talents of
9 older adults to enhance the personal, educational and
10 professional experiences of students. The guidelines shall
11 include the following:

12 (1) The respective roles of school entities and
13 intermediate units in program implementation and evaluation.

14 (2) Policies and procedures for operation of the program
15 by school entities in coordination with intermediate units.

16 (3) Identification of methods for use in fostering
17 participation in the program.

18 (4) Development and dissemination of application forms.

19 Section 6. Registry.

20 The department shall develop and maintain, in coordination
21 with intermediate units, a central registry of older adult
22 volunteers to facilitate matching older adult volunteers with
23 students. The department shall provide electronic access to the
24 registry to intermediate units and school entities.

25 Section 7. Application procedures.

26 (a) General rule.--An interested older adult may apply for
27 participation in the program as an MVP volunteer by submitting
28 an application to an intermediate unit. The applicant shall
29 indicate the school entity or school entities for which the
30 applicant proposes to be an MVP volunteer.

1 (b) Duties of intermediate units, school entities and State
2 and local agencies.--Intermediate units, school entities and
3 area agencies on aging shall furnish program applications to
4 older adults upon request. An individual may submit an
5 application electronically through the publicly accessible
6 Internet websites of the department and the Department of Aging.
7 A school entity or a State or local agency, other than an
8 intermediate unit, that receives an application shall forward
9 the application to the appropriate intermediate unit for review
10 and processing.

11 (c) Review.--Upon receipt of an application, an intermediate
12 unit shall review the application and, subject to 23 Pa.C.S. §
13 6344.2 (relating to volunteers having contact with children),
14 shall approve the application and add the applicant to the
15 registry as an MVP volunteer.

16 (d) Compliance with policies.--An MVP volunteer must comply
17 with the applicable policies of the school entity for which the
18 MVP volunteer has applied to serve.

19 Section 8. Orientation and training.

20 A school entity that uses the services of MVP volunteers
21 shall link older adults with students according to academic
22 interests, professional pursuits, hobbies, skills or an
23 identified need for an enriching exchange with an MVP volunteer.

24 Section 9. Public awareness program.

25 The department shall undertake efforts to make older adults,
26 students and school entities aware of the existence and purpose
27 of the program. The department and school entities shall also
28 undertake efforts aimed at recruiting individuals to become MVP
29 volunteers. School entities shall identify students that may
30 benefit from the program.

1 Section 10. Effective date.

2 This act shall take effect in 60 days.