
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 340 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY N. NELSON, MADDEN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HILL-EVANS,
DONAHUE, BELLMON, SANCHEZ, GREEN, D. WILLIAMS AND KINSEY,
MARCH 12, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 12, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Department of Education to expand the PAsmart
2 initiative to include grants for science, technology,
3 engineering and mathematics and computer science innovation
4 ethics programs.

5 WHEREAS, The Department of Education operates the PAsmart
6 initiative, which offers grants that connect Pennsylvanians with
7 the resources needed to innovate and discover careers; and

8 WHEREAS, The PAsmart initiative targets the needs of the 21st
9 century and, since 2018, has invested more than \$60 million in
10 expanding the access to science, technology, engineering and
11 mathematics (STEM) and computer science teaching and learning;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Two types of grants are available through the
14 PAsmart initiative, including targeted grants of up to \$35,000
15 to assist local education agencies in implementing computer
16 science in schools with limited to no existing programs and
17 advancing grants of up to \$500,000 to assist with the creation
18 of partnerships to expand access to computer science and STEM

1 education, particularly in underserved communities, and promote
2 diversity and inclusion in these fields; and

3 WHEREAS, Today, more than 5 billion people use the Internet,
4 and more than 4 billion people use social media; and

5 WHEREAS, Our accelerated technological growth has brought
6 much good to our world, but we must remain wary of the
7 disruptive power that it can have; and

8 WHEREAS, The expansion of technology and the Internet bring
9 on new privacy concerns and crimes such as theft, phishing,
10 cyberbullying and espionage, among many others; and

11 WHEREAS, It is vital that our students are taught ethical and
12 responsible decision making regarding STEM and computer science
13 innovation and how to properly use the tools they are given for
14 the common good; and

15 WHEREAS, Ethics courses promote social responsibility and
16 help to minimize the risks of innovation; and

17 WHEREAS, The establishment of programs regarding innovation
18 and ethics will help to guide the leaders of tomorrow as they
19 utilize new forms of technology that will foster further
20 innovation in our world; therefore be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
22 Department of Education to expand the PAsmart initiative to
23 include grants for science, technology, engineering and
24 mathematics and computer science innovation ethics programs.