

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 97 Session of  
2023

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL, STEFANO AND  
SCHWANK, JANUARY 12, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JANUARY 12, 2023

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," providing for community-engaged  
6 schools; establishing the Community-Engaged School for  
7 Success Pilot Program; and imposing duties on the Department  
8 of Education.

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

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

14 ARTICLE XV-N

15 COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOOLS

16 Section 1501-N. Scope of article.

17 This article relates to the Community-Engaged School for  
18 Success Pilot Program.

19 Section 1502-N. Definitions.

20 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
21 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Community-engaged school." A school that is designated by  
3 the secretary to participate in the program and is engaged in  
4 developing and implementing a community engagement plan to  
5 provide engaged student support services.

6 "Community partner." A community group, parent organization,  
7 early childhood learning program, business organization, dental  
8 care provider, health care provider, mental health provider,  
9 civic organization, local governmental agency, school employee  
10 organization, institution of higher education or other  
11 organization that is able to provide engaged student support  
12 services to students in a school setting.

13 "Coordinator." An individual who works full time within a  
14 community-engaged school, in consultation with school leaders  
15 and staff, to promote and coordinate the provision of engaged  
16 student support services.

17 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Engaged student support services." Supplemental services  
20 provided by school personnel or community partners, or both, to  
21 students in a school setting that remove academic and  
22 nonacademic barriers to success but do not supplant services  
23 provided under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement  
24 entered into in accordance with the act of July 23, 1970  
25 (P.L.563, No.195), known as the Public Employe Relations Act.  
26 The term includes the following services:

27 (1) Academic assistance.

28 (2) Behavior interventions.

29 (3) Community and service learning.

30 (4) Family engagement.

1       (5) Mental health services.

2       (6) Health care services.

3       (7) Dental health services.

4       (8) Basic needs.

5       (9) College and career preparation.

6       (10) Enrichment activities.

7       (11) Life skills.

8       "Program." The Community-Engaged School for Success Pilot  
9 Program established under section 1503-N.

10      "Program manager." A nonprofit community-based organization  
11 that works on behalf of a community-engaged school or schools to  
12 identify, implement, manage and evaluate the provision of  
13 engaged student support services to students.

14      "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.  
15 Section 1503-N. Community-Engaged School for Success Pilot  
16 Program.

17      The Community-Engaged School for Success Pilot Program is  
18 established under the department.

19 Section 1504-N. Community-engaged school eligibility.

20      Any school operated by a school district in this Commonwealth  
21 is eligible for designation by the secretary as a community-  
22 engaged school if it meets at least one of the following  
23 criteria:

24          (1) The school is ranked in the lowest 15% of the  
25 school's designation as an elementary school or a secondary  
26 school based on combined mathematics and reading scores from  
27 the annual assessment administered in the previous school  
28 year.

29          (2) The school is located in a school district where the  
30 acute poverty percentage as calculated under section 2502.53

1 is equal to or greater than 30%, and the school's enrollment  
2 is representative of the school district's acute poverty  
3 percentage.

4 Section 1505-N. Community-engaged school designation.

5 (a) Application.--A school that seeks to be designated as a  
6 community-engaged school must submit an application to the  
7 department in a form and with information as determined by the  
8 department.

9 (b) Duty of secretary.--No later than September 30, 2023,  
10 the secretary shall designate no less than 20 schools that have  
11 applied for designation under this article as community-engaged  
12 schools.

13 (c) Requirements of designees.--A school designated by the  
14 secretary as a community-engaged school shall:

15 (1) Appoint a program manager for the school within 60  
16 days of the designation.

17 (2) Appoint a coordinator for the school within 60 days  
18 of the designation.

19 (3) Develop, implement and carry out the provisions of a  
20 community engagement plan approved by the secretary.

21 Section 1506-N. Community engagement plan.

22 (a) Development.--The community engagement plan of a  
23 community-engaged school shall include the following:

24 (1) An evaluation and analysis of indicators of school  
25 and student performance needs that includes the following:

26 (i) Academic performance, including achievement and  
27 growth.

28 (ii) Graduation and promotion rates.

29 (iii) Chronic absenteeism.

30 (iv) Disciplinary information.

1           (v) School safety information.

2           (vi) Unique student populations.

3           (vii) Other factors and information necessary to  
4 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in  
5 school.

6           (2) A qualitative and quantitative analysis that  
7 assesses areas of need through surveys, forums and focus  
8 groups with parents and other stakeholders, including the  
9 following:

10           (i) Student needs regarding food, clothing, shelter  
11 and employment.

12           (ii) Student needs and access to health care  
13 services, mental health services and behavior health  
14 services.

15           (iii) Family literacy.

16           (iv) Student and parent access to job training and  
17 placement programs.

18           (v) Student access to early childhood education.

19           (vi) Family engagement in school activities.

20           (vii) Student engagement in out-of-school academic  
21 programs.

22           (viii) School culture and climate.

23           (ix) School safety.

24           (x) An evaluation of current programs and services  
25 currently provided by the community-engaged school.

26           (xi) Other factors and information necessary to  
27 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in  
28 the community-engaged school.

29           (b) Plan submission to secretary.--No later than March 30,  
30 2024, a community-engaged school shall utilize the results of

1 the evaluation and analysis in subsection (a) and submit a  
2 community engagement plan to the secretary for approval. The  
3 community engagement plan shall include the following:

4 (1) An organizational chart for the community-engaged  
5 school that reflects upon the relationship of school  
6 leadership, staff, coordinator and program manager.

7 (2) A list of areas of need and any academic and  
8 nonacademic barriers to achievement.

9 (3) A list of the specific engaged student support  
10 services and programs to be provided to students, including:

11 (i) The community partners providing the services  
12 and programs.

13 (ii) A description of the services and programs to  
14 be provided.

15 (4) Performance goals and benchmarks to measure academic  
16 performance and other areas of need.

17 (5) Procedures to formally evaluate performance.

18 (6) A plan for reporting progress and outcomes related  
19 to the services and programs provided in the community  
20 engagement plan on an annual basis to the school board of  
21 directors and the department no later than August 31 of each  
22 year.

23 (7) A budget approved by the school board of directors  
24 to accomplish the community engagement plan that identifies  
25 the resources allocated to support the community-engaged  
26 school and its community engagement plan.

27 (8) Policies and procedures to ensure appropriate data  
28 sharing with the coordinator, program manager and community  
29 partner.

30 (9) Other items required by the secretary to ensure the

success of the community engagement plan.

(c) Plan approval.--

(1) Within 30 days of receipt of the community engagement plan, the secretary shall approve the community engagement plan or notify the school district that revisions to the community engagement plan are needed and transmit suggested revisions to the board of school directors.

(2) A community engagement plan that is denied by the secretary may be revised and resubmitted at the direction of the secretary.

Section 1507-N. Duties of program manager.

The duties of the program manager shall include the following:

(1) The development of the evaluation and analysis of indicators of student performance needs under section 1506-N(a).

(2) The development of a site plan to be provided to the community-engaged school within 60 days of the appointment of the program manager. The site plan shall include the following:

(i) A summary of the needs identified under section 1506-N(a).

(ii) The goals and measures for addressing the identified needs of the community-engaged school.

(iii) The manner in which the program manager will work cooperatively with staff of the community-engaged school.

(3) The development of the annual report under section 1506-N(b)(6).

Section 1508-N. Duties of department.

1     (a) Application.--The department shall develop an  
2 application process for a school district to apply on behalf of  
3 an eligible school under section 1504-N for designation as a  
4 community-engaged school.

5     (b) Program guidelines.--Within 30 days of the effective  
6 date of this subsection, the department shall develop guidelines  
7 specifying minimum quality standards for an organization to  
8 qualify as a program manager under this article.

9     (c) Technical assistance.--

10         (1) The department shall provide technical assistance to  
11 community-engaged schools, including academic expertise and  
12 assistance, training, program design, grant writing  
13 assistance and data collection and analysis.

14         (2) The department may enter into a contract to provide  
15 the technical assistance required under paragraph (1).

16     (d) Best practices.--The department shall facilitate the  
17 sharing of best practices among community-engaged schools and  
18 with other schools in this Commonwealth.

19     (e) Annual report.--No later than December 31, 2024, and  
20 each year thereafter, the department shall submit an annual  
21 report of the information collected from the community-engaged  
22 schools under section 1506-N(b) (6) to the Governor, the  
23 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Appropriations  
24 Committee of the Senate, the chairperson and minority  
25 chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the House of  
26 Representatives, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
27 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and  
28 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of  
29 Representatives.

30     Section 1509-N. Community-engaged school grants.



1     (a) Amount.--The department may award community-engaged  
2 school grants to school districts on behalf of schools  
3 designated as community-engaged schools upon approval of the  
4 school's community engagement plan. The amount of the grant  
5 under this section may not exceed \$125,000 for each community-  
6 engaged school.

7     (b) Matching requirement.--A school district must match the  
8 amount of the grant with school district money at least equal to  
9 the State allocation.

10    (c) Duration.--To the extent that funding for grants is  
11 available and the school continues to follow its community  
12 engagement plan to the secretary's satisfaction, an annual award  
13 shall be made in five consecutive years.

14    (d) Limitation.--No school district may receive an annual  
15 grant allocation that exceeds 10% of the money available under  
16 the program.

17    (e) Diversity.--The secretary shall ensure that the grant  
18 funding under this program is geographically dispersed  
19 throughout this Commonwealth.

20    (f) Use and audit.--Grant money shall be used exclusively  
21 for the purpose of supporting a community-engaged school's  
22 community engagement plan and are subject to audit by the  
23 department and the Auditor General.

24     Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.