

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1300 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY COX, RAPP, AUMENT, B. BOYLE, CHRISTIANA, CLYMER, CUTLER, DUNBAR, EMRICK, GIBBONS, GROVE, C. HARRIS, HENNESSEY, HICKERNELL, KAUFFMAN, M. K. KELLER, MOUL, ROCK, SANKEY, SWANGER, TALLMAN AND TRUITT, MAY 14, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 14, 2013

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 preliminary provisions, providing
6 for school grading system.

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 123. School grading system.--(a) The department
13 shall develop and maintain, on the department's publicly
14 accessible Internet website, an A, B, C, D and F school grading
15 system that provides school and district-level performance data
16 for all schools. School letter grades shall be administered
17 annually and shall be based on academic indicators including,
18 but not limited to:

19 (1) Academic achievement indicators consisting of:

1 (i) Student performance on the Pennsylvania System of School
2 Assessment test, the Keystone Exam, an equivalent local
3 assessment or another test established by the State Board of
4 Education to meet the requirements of section 2603-B(d)(10)(i)
5 and required under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public
6 Law 107-110, 115 Stat. 1425) or its successor Federal statute or
7 required to achieve other standards established by the
8 department for the public school or school district under 22 Pa.
9 Code 403.3 (relating to single accountability system).

10 (ii) Industry certification exams performance.

11 (iii) Advanced Placement achievement.

12 (iv) SAT/ACT measures.

13 (v) Closure of the achievement gap.

14 (2) Academic growth as measured by the Pennsylvania Value-
15 Added Assessment System (PVASS).

16 (3) Other academic indicators including, but not limited to:

17 (i) Cohort graduation and promotion rates.

18 (ii) Attendance.

19 (iii) Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate
20 (IB) Diploma or Dual Enrollment offerings.

21 (iv) PSAT participation.

22 (b) Academic achievement indicators shall comprise at least
23 fifty percent (50%) of the school grading system, growth
24 measures shall comprise at least forty percent (40%) of the
25 school grading system and other academic indicators shall
26 comprise the remaining percentage of the school grading system.

27 (c) The annual school grading system shall identify schools
28 as having one of the following letter grades based upon the
29 indicators in the previous subsection as follows:

30 (1) "A," schools making excellent progress.

1 (2) "B," schools making above average progress.

2 (3) "C," schools making satisfactory progress.

3 (4) "D," schools making less than satisfactory progress.

4 (5) "F," schools failing to make adequate progress.

5 (d) For schools subject to the rating system contained in
6 section 1123, the department shall also include aggregate State
7 level, district level and building level data related to
8 educator effectiveness as measured by the four categories of the
9 rating system on the publicly accessible Internet website.

10 (e) The department shall collect data necessary to develop
11 and implement the school grading system established by this
12 section.

13 (f) The department may include factors related to school
14 climate and safety and fiscal indicators as it deems fit.

15 (g) The department shall update the letter grade based on
16 the system developed pursuant to this section at least annually
17 beginning July 1, 2013, and by July 1 of each year thereafter
18 using the most recent data available.

19 (h) All school districts, individual school buildings,
20 charter schools, cyber charter schools and comprehensive career
21 and technical centers receiving a letter grade of "D" or "F"
22 shall notify the parents or guardians of all students attending
23 the school district, individual building, charter school, cyber
24 charter school or comprehensive career and technical center of
25 the grade within 30 days of receiving the grade.

26 (i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following
27 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
28 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

29 "Department." The Department of Education of the
30 Commonwealth.

1 "Schools." All public elementary, middle and high schools in
2 this Commonwealth. This term shall include charter schools,
3 cyber charter schools and career and technical centers receiving
4 public funds.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.