

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 169 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY BURNS, NEILSON, D. COSTA, O'BRIEN, BIZZARRO,
 YOUNGBLOOD, BISHOP, COHEN, BROWNLEE, READSHAW, THOMAS AND
 KINSEY, JANUARY 22, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 22, 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," establishing parent involvement
 6 programs and policies in school districts and the school
 7 health services task force.

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

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

13 Section 528. Parent Involvement Programs and Policies.--(a)
 14 The board of school directors in a school district of the first
 15 class, first class A, second class, third class or fourth class
 16 shall establish a parent involvement program, parent involvement
 17 policy and parent involvement committee. No school entity shall
 18 be required to establish a new program or policy under this
 19 section if one currently exists and reasonably fulfills the
 20 requirements of this section.

1 (b) A parent involvement program established by a board of
2 school directors shall include the following:

3 (1) Identification of existing resources, activities or
4 materials in the school district that may be used by parents to
5 improve the academic achievement of students in the school
6 district.

7 (2) Identification of existing resources, activities or
8 materials in the school district that may be used by parents to
9 improve or supplement techniques used by parents at home to
10 support and improve the academic achievement of students in the
11 school district.

12 (3) Identification of a districtwide system of communicating
13 information between parents and school officials regarding the
14 curriculum, academic goals and strategic plan of the school
15 district.

16 (4) Identification of any supplemental academic services
17 available to students whose score on any Pennsylvania System of
18 School Assessment test is below proficient.

19 (5) Identification of any mechanism through which parents
20 can provide recommendations to the board of school directors
21 regarding programs that may improve the academic achievement of
22 students in the school district.

23 (6) Identification of any mechanism through which the school
24 district can provide information to parents regarding resources,
25 activities or materials in the school district that may be used
26 by parents to improve the academic achievement of their
27 students.

28 (c) A parent involvement policy established by a board of
29 school directors shall include the following:

30 (1) Identification of goals and objectives for the

1 involvement of parents in the improvement of the academic
2 achievement of students in the school district.

3 (2) Identification of specific strategies to meet the goals
4 and objectives required under paragraph (1).

5 (3) Explanation of the resources, activities, materials and
6 mechanisms identified in the parent involvement program.

7 (4) Explanation of the role of the parent involvement
8 committee established under subsection (d).

9 (d) A parent involvement committee established by a board of
10 school directors shall consist of parents of students enrolled
11 in the school district and shall be responsible for providing
12 the board of school directors with recommendations on the school
13 district's parent involvement program and parent involvement
14 policy. If a school district currently has established a
15 committee of parents that makes recommendations on school
16 policies, the board of school directors may utilize that
17 committee to meet the requirements of this subsection.

18 (e) A board of school directors shall provide for the
19 publication and dissemination of information related to the
20 school district's parent involvement program and parent
21 involvement policy. The board of school directors shall:

22 (1) Provide a copy of the parental involvement policy to the
23 parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the district.

24 (2) Make copies of the parent involvement program and parent
25 involvement policy available for inspection in the
26 administrative office of the school district and provide copies
27 upon request.

28 (3) Provide copies of the parent involvement program and
29 parent involvement policy to the Department of Education no
30 later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this

1 section.

2 Section 1425. School Health Services Task Force.--(a) The
3 General Assembly finds that:

4 (1) School health personnel deliver valuable services that
5 address the physical, mental, emotional and social health of
6 their students.

7 (2) The ways and means by which those health services are
8 provided vary across school districts and regions across this
9 Commonwealth.

10 (3) While student health issues are increasing in
11 complexity, earlier this decade the number of school nurse
12 certificates issued by the Department of Education showed a
13 trend to decline, and State subsidies for school district health
14 services have remained relatively flat over the past five years.

15 (4) Studies project a shortage of registered nurses in
16 Pennsylvania and nationally, school districts face numerous
17 challenges in providing health services to students.

18 (b) (1) There is established a task force on school health
19 services. The task force shall consist of ten members composed
20 of the following individuals:

21 (i) Two members of the Senate, one each to be chosen by the
22 President pro tempore and the Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 (ii) Two members of the House of Representatives, one each
24 chosen by the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader of the
25 House of Representatives.

26 (iii) One member chosen by the Secretary of Education from
27 among persons recommended by the Department of Education.

28 (iv) One representative from each of the following:

29 (A) An organization representing school nurses.

30 (B) An organization representing school board directors.

1 (C) An organization representing school administrators.

2 (D) An organization representing school business officials.

3 (E) An organization representing school principals.

4 (2) The members shall be appointed within thirty days of the
5 effective date of this section. Names shall be furnished to the
6 Secretary of Education. A majority of the members of the task
7 force shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
8 Official action by the task force shall require the approval of
9 a majority of the members of the task force. The task force
10 shall elect one of its members to serve as chairperson. If there
11 is a vacancy for any cause, a replacement shall be appointed in
12 the same way with the same qualifications as set forth in this
13 section and shall hold office for the unexpired portion of the
14 term. Members of the task force shall not be entitled to
15 compensation or reimbursement and shall serve as volunteers on
16 the task force.

17 (3) The task force shall convene no later than sixty days
18 after the effective date of this section. The task force is
19 authorized to hold hearings, take testimony and make its
20 investigations at such places in this Commonwealth as it deems
21 necessary. The task force shall meet at such times and places
22 specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the
23 members of the task force. In undertaking its investigations
24 regarding school health services, the task force shall do all of
25 the following:

26 (i) Adopt rules necessary for the operation of the task
27 force.

28 (ii) Meet and conduct hearings with representatives of the
29 public school districts of this Commonwealth, including, but not
30 limited to, school administrators and school health providers,

1 school board members, representatives of the Department of
2 Education and the Department of Health and other health
3 officials and medical professionals.

4 (iii) Identify, evaluate and make recommendations on topics
5 involved with school health care, including, but not limited to,
6 the following:

7 (A) The number of school nurse certifications issued
8 annually by the Department of Education over the last ten years.

9 (B) The number of waivers and emergency certification
10 permits issued for school nurses annually by the Department of
11 Education over the last ten years, both across this Commonwealth
12 and by region.

13 (C) The number of other school health personnel employed
14 over the last ten years by districts under Article XIV.

15 (D) The cost of delivering school health services mandated
16 by law and as otherwise provided by the district.

17 (E) Availability and coordination of Federal and State
18 funding for school nurse services.

19 (F) Best practices to improve school health services in this
20 Commonwealth's public schools.

21 (G) Alternative health care services, programs and staffing
22 options that could assist school districts in offering a
23 flexible and comprehensive delivery of school health services in
24 this Commonwealth's public schools.

25 (iv) Make and transmit a report of its activities, findings
26 and recommendations, including possible legislation, to the
27 chairperson of the Public Health and Welfare Committee of the
28 Senate, the chairperson of the Education Committee of the
29 Senate, the chairperson of the Health Committee of the House of
30 Representatives and the chairperson of the Human Services

1 Committee of the House of Representatives and the chairperson of
2 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives within
3 one year of the task force's first meeting.

4 (c) The Department of Education and the Department of Health
5 shall provide staff support to the task force.

6 (d) The task force shall cease to exist upon the receipt by
7 all four committee chairpersons of the task force's report as
8 described in subsection (b) (3) (iii) (D), unless it is
9 reestablished by action of the General Assembly.

10 (e) As used in this section--

11 "School nurse" shall have the same meaning as under section
12 1401.

13 "Task force" means the task force on school health services
14 established under this section.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect as follows:

16 (1) The addition of section 528 of the act shall take
17 effect in 180 days.

18 (2) The addition of section 1425 of the act shall take
19 effect in 60 days.

20 (3) This section shall take effect immediately.