
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1724 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY DALEY, FREEMAN, MADDEN, T. DAVIS, STEELE, KUTZ,
HANBIDGE, HADDOCK, KHAN, SANCHEZ, OTTEN, KAZEEM, JAMES, HILL-
EVANS, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ AND SHUSTERMAN, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, SEPTEMBER 27, 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," in certification of teachers, further
6 providing for child abuse recognition and reporting training;
7 and, in terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse
8 awareness and prevention.

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

11 Section 1. Section 1205.6(a)(3) and (4) of the act of March
12 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of
13 1949, are amended and paragraph (1) is amended by adding a
14 subparagraph to read:

15 Section 1205.6. Child Abuse Recognition and Reporting
16 Training.--(a) School entities and independent contractors of
17 school entities shall provide their employees who have direct
18 contact with children with mandatory training on child abuse
19 recognition and reporting. The following apply:

20 (1) Training shall address, but shall not be limited to, the

1 following topics:

2 * * *

3 (v) Child abuse awareness and prevention as described in
4 section 1529.

5 * * *

6 (3) Employees shall complete a minimum of [three (3)] four
7 (4) hours of training every five (5) years.

8 (4) Employees required to undergo continuing professional
9 education under section 1205.2 shall receive credit toward their
10 continuing professional education requirements if the training
11 program has been approved by the Department of Education in
12 consultation with the Department of [Public Welfare] Human
13 Services.

14 * * *

15 Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

16 Section 1529. Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention.--(a)
17 Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, each school entity
18 shall develop an age-appropriate child abuse awareness and
19 prevention education program and incorporate the program into
20 the school entity's existing curriculum for students in
21 kindergarten through grade twelve. In developing the program,
22 the school entity shall use the model curriculum developed by
23 the department under subsection (b) (1).

24 (b) The department, in consultation with the Department of
25 Human Services and at least one organization addressing child
26 abuse, shall:

27 (1) Develop a model child abuse awareness and prevention
28 curriculum, which may include materials already publicly
29 available, and make the curriculum available to all school
30 entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools.

1 (2) Compile, develop and post on its publicly accessible
2 Internet website recommended guidelines and educational
3 materials regarding child abuse awareness and prevention, which
4 may include materials already publicly available and which may
5 be used for the purposes of the training specified under section
6 1205.6(a)(1)(v).

7 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
9 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

10 "Child abuse." As defined in 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303(b.1)
11 (relating to definitions).

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school
15 entity, where a resident of this Commonwealth may legally
16 fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this
17 act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
18 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 42 U.S.C. § 2000d et
19 seq.).

20 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
21 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
22 intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

23 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.