

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2023 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY KAUFER, SCHLOSSBERG, HANBIDGE, HILL-EVANS, PICKETT
AND R. BROWN, MARCH 9, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 9, 2022

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 terms and courses of study,
6 providing for behavioral health awareness education.

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 1529. Behavioral Health Awareness Education.--(a)
13 Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, each school entity
14 may:

15 (1) Develop an age-appropriate behavioral health
16 education program and incorporate the program into the school
17 entity's existing curriculum for students in kindergarten
18 through grade twelve. In developing the program, the school
19 entity may use the model curriculum developed or identified
20 by the department under subsection (b)(1).

1 (2) Include training in behavioral health and how to
2 identify signs of behavioral health issues in the
3 professional development plan submitted by the school entity
4 to the secretary for approval under section 1205.1. The
5 following apply:

6 (i) A school entity may provide four (4) hours of
7 training every five (5) years for professional educators.

8 (ii) Training under this paragraph may be used to
9 satisfy a professional educator's continuing professional
10 education requirement under section 1205.2.

11 (iii) A school entity may use the materials made
12 available by the department under subsection (b)(1) to
13 conduct the training.

14 (b) No later than June 30, 2022, in consultation with at
15 least one organization that addresses behavioral health issues,
16 the department shall:

17 (1) Develop or identify a model behavioral health
18 curriculum, which may include materials already publicly
19 available, and shall make the curriculum available to all
20 school entities and, upon request, to nonpublic schools.

21 (2) Compile, develop and post on the department's
22 publicly accessible Internet website recommended guidelines
23 and educational materials for the training provided for under
24 subsection (a)(2), which may include materials already
25 publicly available.

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

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

1 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school located in this
2 Commonwealth, other than a school entity, where a resident of
3 this Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
4 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
5 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
6 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

7 "Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o).

8 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
9 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
10 intermediate unit or area career and technical school.

11 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

12 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.