
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2082 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SHUSTERMAN, HILL-EVANS, MADDEN, SANCHEZ,
SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, FREEMAN, LEE, WEBSTER, KINSEY, CIRESI,
N. NELSON, ROZZI, KENYATTA, D. WILLIAMS, T. DAVIS, McNEILL,
KIM, SCHLEGEL CULVER, GUENST AND WARREN, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, NOVEMBER 12, 2021

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 a pilot program for
6 homeless youth in higher 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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XX-K

13 PILOT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS YOUTH IN HIGHER EDUCATION

14 Section 2001-K. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Homeless student." An enrolled student in an institution of
19 higher education who is either currently without a domicile or

1 who has experienced homelessness within the past two years.

2 "Institution of higher education." A community college
3 operating under Article XIX-A or a university within the State
4 System of Higher Education under Article XX-A.

5 "Pilot program." The Pilot Program for Homeless Youth in
6 Higher Education.

7 Section 2002-K. Pilot program guidelines.

8 (a) Pilot program.--The pilot program is established in the
9 Department of Education.

10 (b) Participants.--The State Board of Education shall select
11 six institutions of higher education, consisting of four
12 community colleges and two universities within the State System
13 of Higher Education which are geographically dispersed, to
14 participate in a pilot program to provide assistance to students
15 experiencing homelessness. The institutions of higher education
16 chosen to participate in the pilot program shall provide
17 accommodations to homeless students, including all of the
18 following:

19 (1) Access to laundry facilities.

20 (2) Access to storage.

21 (3) Access to locker room and shower facilities.

22 (4) Reduced-price meals or meal plans and access to food
23 banks.

24 (5) Access to technology.

25 (6) Access to short-term housing or housing assistance,
26 especially during seasonal breaks.

27 (7) Case management services.

28 (c) Housing.--An institution of higher education
29 participating in the pilot program may establish plans to
30 develop surplus property for affordable housing to accommodate

1 the needs of students experiencing homelessness.

2 (d) Resources.--The institutions of higher education
3 participating in the pilot program shall leverage existing
4 community resources by making available to students in the pilot
5 program information that is available for individuals
6 experiencing homelessness, including through nonprofit
7 organizations, local housing agencies and the Department of
8 Human Services.

9 (e) Report.--By December 1, 2023, the institutions of higher
10 education participating in the pilot program shall provide a
11 report to the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
12 Education Committee of the Senate and the chairperson and
13 minority chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of
14 Representatives that includes at least the following
15 information:

16 (1) The number of students experiencing homelessness or
17 food insecurity who were attending an institution of higher
18 education during the pilot program. The State Board of
19 Education shall coordinate with the institutions of higher
20 education to collect voluntary data on how many students
21 experiencing homelessness or food insecurity are attending
22 institutions of higher education.

23 (2) The number of students assisted by the pilot
24 program.

25 (3) Strategies for accommodating students experiencing
26 homelessness or food insecurity.

27 (4) Recommendations for legislation to better serve
28 students experiencing homelessness or food insecurity.

29 (f) Voluntary participation.--Institutions of higher
30 education not selected to participate in the pilot program may

1 participate voluntarily and may submit the data required of the
2 pilot program participants under subsection (e), regardless of
3 participation status.

4 (g) Expiration.--The pilot program shall operate for a
5 minimum of two academic years, beginning with the academic year
6 that starts at least six months after the effective date of this
7 article.

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