

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

**HOUSE BILL****No. 2159** Session of  
2018

INTRODUCED BY STAATS, QUIGLEY, LEWIS, PICKETT, IRVIN, ROEBUCK,  
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M. QUINN, MILLARD, GOODMAN, ENGLISH, ROTHMAN, MICCARELLI,  
DUSH AND WATSON, APRIL 6, 2018

SENATOR EICHELBERGER, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,  
OCTOBER 2, 2018

## 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 transfers of credits between  
6 institutions of higher education, further providing for  
7 definitions, for duties of public institutions of higher  
8 education and State-related institutions, for Transfer and  
9 Articulation Oversight Committee and for duties of  
10 department.

11 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
12 hereby enacts as follows:

13 Section 1. Section 2001-C of the act of March 10, 1949  
14 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,  
15 amended November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55), is amended to read:  
16 Section 2001-C. Definitions.

17 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
18 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Advanced Placement Program." A program authorized by the  
3 college board that allows a student to study college-level  
4 subjects while enrolled in high school and to receive advanced  
5 placement and college credit for earning a qualified score on  
6 the course-related Advanced Placement Program exam.

7 "Career, technical or applied courses." Courses usually  
8 offered as part of an associate degree curriculum designed to  
9 prepare students for entry-level professions, not for transfer  
10 to baccalaureate programs for advanced studies.

11 "College-Level Examination Program." A set of standardized  
12 tests developed by the college board for various subjects, and  
13 on which a qualifying score can be used to earn college credit.

14 "Community college." An institution created pursuant to  
15 Article XIX-A or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484),  
16 known as the Community College Act of 1963.

17 "Credit for prior learning." College-level credit granted  
18 toward the award of a postsecondary degree or certificate for  
19 experiential learning that can be demonstrated through various  
20 means of assessment to be the equivalent of learning gained  
21 through formal collegiate instruction, including an Advanced  
22 Placement Program exam, International Baccalaureate Diploma  
23 Program exam, a College-Level Examination Program exam and  
24 Dantes Subject Standardized Tests.

25 "Dantes Subject Standardized Tests." A set of subject exams  
26 approved by the American Council on Education that tests  
27 knowledge of both lower-level and upper-level college material.

28 ["Degree objective courses." Courses required for completion  
29 of a major in a subject area.]

30 "Department." The Department of Education of the

1 Commonwealth.

2 "Developmental or remedial courses." Courses typically  
3 consisting of reading, writing and math designed to prepare  
4 students for college-level courses and that are not  
5 transferable.

6 "Equivalent courses." Courses determined to have generally  
7 equivalent content and level as determined by the faculty of an  
8 institution of higher education consistent with the policy at  
9 each institution of higher education.

10 "Foundation courses." Courses required to be completed by  
11 students that provide an academic foundation for the degree,  
12 general education or advanced study in a major.

13 "Independent institution of higher education." An  
14 institution of higher education which is operated not for  
15 profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the  
16 Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in 24  
17 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to  
18 apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as  
19 provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by  
20 the State Board of Education pursuant to 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65  
21 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

22 "Industry-recognized credential." A credential that:

23 (1) is sought or accepted by employers within the  
24 industry or sector involved as a recognized, preferred or  
25 required credential for recruitment, screening, hiring,  
26 retention or advancement purposes;

27 (2) where appropriate, is endorsed by a nationally  
28 recognized trade association or organization representing a  
29 significant part of the industry or sector; and

30 (3) is approved by the department.

1 "Institution of higher education." Any of the accredited  
2 following:

3 (1) A public institution of higher education.

4 (2) A rural regional college.

5 (3) A State-related institution.

6 (4) The Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

7 "International Baccalaureate Diploma Program." An  
8 academically challenging two-year precollege diploma program  
9 comprised of three core requirements and six academic subject  
10 areas with final examinations that prepare students, 16 to 19  
11 years of age, for higher education and life in a global society.

12 "Public institution of higher education." A community  
13 college or an institution which is part of the State System of  
14 Higher Education pursuant to Article XX-A.

15 "Public school." Any of the following:

16 (1) A school district.

17 (2) An intermediate unit.

18 (3) An area vocational-technical school.

19 (4) A charter school, as defined in section 1703-A.

20 (5) A regional charter school, as defined in section  
21 1703-A.

22 (6) A cyber charter school, as defined in section 1703-  
23 A.

24 "Rural regional college." A rural regional college operating  
25 under Article XIX-G.

26 "State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State  
27 University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University,  
28 Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

29 "Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee." The  
30 committee established under section 2004-C.

1 Section 2. Section 2003-C of the act is amended to read:  
2 Section 2003-C. Duties of [public] institutions of higher  
3 education and [State-related institutions] public  
4 schools.

5 (a) Agreements.--Each [public] institution of higher  
6 education and [State-related institution] public school shall  
7 provide the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee and  
8 the department with copies of all articulation agreements for  
9 inclusion in the electronic database or software program and  
10 portal provided for under section 2005-C(4) within 180 days of  
11 the effective date of this section and within 30 days of  
12 entering into any subsequent articulation agreement.

13 (b) Reporting requirements.--The following shall apply to  
14 reporting requirements:

15 (1) Each [public] institution of higher education [and  
16 State-related institution] shall submit to the department a  
17 series of interim reports that describe the status of the  
18 institution's articulation agreements, which shall include  
19 all of the following:

20 (i) The number of students who have transferred to  
21 the [public] institution of higher education [or State-  
22 related institution] by institution of origin within the  
23 last academic year or since submittal of the  
24 institution's last interim report required under this  
25 section.

26 (ii) The total number of credits completed by  
27 transfer students at the institution of origin.

28 (iii) The total number of credits from each  
29 institution of origin that transferred to the [public]  
30 institution of higher education [or State-related

1           ~~institution]~~ for each academic year.

2           (iv) An explanation of the credit transfer process  
3           at the institution.

4           (v) Any other information related to the credit  
5           transfer process as requested by the department,  
6           including the useability of transfer credits.

7           (2) Each [public] institution of higher education [and  
8           State-related institution] shall submit its first interim  
9           report required under this section 180 days after the  
10          effective date of this section ~~and by September 30, 2018, and~~ <--  
11          ~~each September 30 OF EACH YEAR thereafter.~~ <--

12          Section 3. Section 2004-C(a)(1) introductory paragraph is  
13          amended and subsection (c) is amended by adding a paragraph to  
14          read:

15          Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

16          (a) Establishment and membership.--

17                 (1) In order to develop and implement equivalency  
18                 standards as provided for in subsection (c)(1) and provide  
19                 access to articulation agreements, there is hereby  
20                 established within the department, the Transfer and  
21                 Articulation Oversight Committee. The committee shall be  
22                 comprised of the following members:

23                         \* \* \*

24          (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight  
25          Committee.--The committee shall:

26                         \* \* \*

27                         (7) Meet on a regular basis at least quarterly.

28          Section 4. Section 2005-C(4) of the act is amended to read:

29          Section 2005-C. Duties of department.

30          The department shall:

1 \* \* \*

2 (4) Provide for an electronic database or software  
3 program and portal for the purpose of providing access to all  
4 of the following information on an Internet website:

5 (i) Articulation agreements and agreements that  
6 award credit for an industry-recognized credential  
7 entered into by [public institutions of higher education  
8 and institutions that elect to participate under section  
9 2006-C.] institutions of higher education, public schools  
10 and institutions described under clause (C). The  
11 following shall apply:

12 (A) The department shall extract transfer  
13 information from each articulation agreement and each  
14 agreement that awards credit for an industry-  
15 recognized credential and enter the information into  
16 the electronic database or software program and  
17 portal and provide a meaningful, user-friendly and  
18 interactive search engine for access to the  
19 information.

20 (B) The department shall, within 60 days of  
21 receiving an articulation agreement or agreement that  
22 awards credit for an industry-recognized credential,  
23 update the database and post each articulation  
24 agreement and each agreement that awards credit for  
25 an industry-recognized credential on its publicly  
26 accessible Internet website.

27 (C) An institution which is not subject to the  
28 duties under section 2003-C may submit to the  
29 department any articulation agreement or agreement  
30 that awards credit for an industry-recognized

1           credential into which the institution enters. Each  
2           submitted articulation agreement and each agreement  
3           that awards credit for an industry-recognized  
4           credential shall be subject to this paragraph.

5           (ii) The annual report to the General Assembly as  
6           required by section 2004-C(c) (5).

7           [(iii) At the request of a public institution of  
8           higher education or an institution that elects to  
9           participate under section 2006-C, any articulation  
10          agreements.]

11          Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.