
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2666 Session of
2022

INTRODUCED BY RIGBY, HENNESSEY, M. MACKENZIE, IRVIN, STRUZZI,
CIRESI, E. NELSON, MALAGARI AND HERSHEY, JUNE 13, 2022

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 13, 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," providing for paraprofessional-to-
6 teacher certification program; and establishing the
7 Paraprofessional-To-Teacher Grant Program.

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 an
12 article to read:

13 ARTICLE XV-K

14 PARAPROFESSIONAL-TO-TEACHER

15 CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

16 Section 1501-K. Scope of article.

17 This article relates to the Paraprofessional-to-Teacher
18 Certification Program.

19 Section 1502-K. Legislative intent.

20 It is the intent of the General Assembly to produce new

1 teachers with the knowledge, understandings and skills to
2 promote student learning.

3 Section 1503-K. Definitions.

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

7 "Department." The Department of Education of the
8 Commonwealth.

9 "Grant program." The Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Grant
10 Program.

11 "Institution of higher education." Any of the following:

12 (1) A university within the State System of Higher
13 Education under Article XX-A.

14 (2) A State-related institution as defined in section
15 2001-C.

16 (3) An accredited private or independent college or
17 university.

18 "Paraprofessional." An instructional paraprofessional within
19 the meaning of 22 Pa. Code § 14.105 (relating to personnel).

20 "Paraprofessional-to-teacher certification program." A
21 teacher preparation program offered by an institution of higher
22 education designed for a paraprofessional to achieve a teacher
23 certification.

24 Section 1504-K. Paraprofessional-to-teacher certification
25 program.

26 (a) Guidance.--The department shall provide guidance to
27 institutions of higher education to establish a
28 paraprofessional-to-teacher certification program to aid
29 paraprofessionals to meet Pennsylvania instructional
30 certification requirements.

1 (b) Comprehensive materials.--The program shall be designed
2 to be comprehensive and delivered through a combination of
3 university academic classroom, school and other appropriate
4 settings and shall include the following components:

5 (1) Ensure that paraprofessional candidates for
6 professional educator certification master both the content
7 and methodology of their discipline and meet the standards
8 for academic performance as defined in 22 Pa. Code § 354.24
9 (relating to academic performance) and professional educator
10 curriculum as defined in 22 Pa. Code § 354.25 (relating to
11 preparation program curriculum) and that candidates are
12 supported in their achievement of the learning principles
13 under 22 Pa. Code § 354.33 (relating to professional
14 competency).

15 (2) Enable a paraprofessional to complete college
16 credits for the work performed in their role as a
17 paraprofessional.

18 (3) Enable a paraprofessional to use wage-earning
19 classroom time towards required student teaching hours.
20 Classroom teaching experiences are expected to include face-
21 to-face components.

22 (4) Allow for utilization of online course options.

23 Section 1505-K. Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Grant Program.

24 (a) Establishment.--The Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Grant
25 Program is established in the department for the purpose of
26 awarding grants to institutions of higher education to develop
27 paraprofessional-to-teacher certification programs.

28 (b) Duties.--The department shall:

29 (1) Adopt guidelines for the approval of grant
30 applications.

1 (2) Determine the form and manner in which an
2 application for a grant may be filed with the department.

3 (3) Provide notice of the program to institutions of
4 higher education.

5 (4) Make grant applications available to all
6 institutions of higher education along with details relating
7 to the application process.

8 (5) Beginning no later than 90 days after the effective
9 date of this subsection, begin accepting and processing
10 applications. For all subsequent years, the department shall
11 establish an application period during which applications for
12 grants under this article are accepted.

13 (c) Eligibility.--An institution of higher education that
14 develops and implements a paraprofessional-to-teacher
15 certification program in compliance with department criteria and
16 guidelines established under section 1504-K may apply to the
17 department for a grant.

18 (d) Application.--An eligible institution of higher
19 education may apply for a grant by submitting an application to
20 the department at such time and in the manner prescribed by the
21 department. The department shall determine the amount of a grant
22 award in accordance with the department's guidelines.

23 (e) Allocation.--Grants shall be awarded from funds
24 appropriated to the department for this purpose.

25 (f) Limitations.--An institution of higher education may not
26 receive an annual grant allocation that exceeds 20% of the funds
27 available under the grant program.

28 (g) Permitted uses.--The grant shall be used by an eligible
29 institution of higher education for the following:

30 (1) To fund the establishment and implementation of a

1 paraprofessional-to-teacher certification program that offers
2 flexibility by utilizing both in-person and asynchronous
3 learning and allows the paraprofessional to remain employed
4 while in the program.

5 (2) To provide a discounted or reduced tuition rate to
6 participants enrolled in the paraprofessional educational
7 program.

8 (h) Other funding sources.--Funds received by an institution
9 of higher education under the grant program may be used in
10 conjunction with funds received from any other public or private
11 source.

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