

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 564 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, KORTZ, BIZZARRO, McNEILL, BARRAR, SAINATO, KAUFFMAN, STAATS, O'BRIEN, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, MURT, WATSON, NEILSON, READSHAW, WARD, COX, STURLA, GABLER, FREEMAN, SOLOMON, RADER, PYLE, SACCONI, D. COSTA, TOOHL, ROE, HAHN, PICKETT, ELLIS, DeLISSIO, LONGIETTI, HARKINS, FABRIZIO, YOUNGBLOOD, CUTLER, PASHINSKI, RYAN, DIAMOND, RAVENSTAHL, ENGLISH, ROTHMAN, RAPP, ROEBUCK, EVERETT, BURNS, DALEY, HELM, V. BROWN, JAMES, DONATUCCI, BENNINGHOFF, GOODMAN, DUSH, SCHLEGEL CULVER, STEPHENS, METCALFE, KIM, C. QUINN, R. BROWN, BARBIN, MICCARELLI AND NELSON, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

SENATOR EICHELBERGER, EDUCATION, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED,
MAY 22, 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 high schools, providing for
6 assessment of civic knowledge.

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 1605.1. Assessment of Civic Knowledge.--(a)
13 Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each school entity:
14 (1) Shall administer at least once to students during grades
15 seven through twelve a locally developed assessment of United

1 States history, government and civics that includes the nature,
2 purpose, principles and structure of United States
3 constitutional democracy, the principles, operations and
4 documents of United States government and the rights and
5 responsibilities of citizenship. Each school entity shall
6 determine the form of the assessment and the manner in which the
7 assessment shall be administered and may administer the
8 assessment at the conclusion of the course of study required
9 under section 1605(a) or at the conclusion of another related
10 course or instructional unit. A school entity may use the United
11 States Citizenship and Immigration Services Test to satisfy the
12 requirements of this paragraph.

13 (2) Shall issue a certificate of recognition, DEVELOPED BY <--
14 THE DEPARTMENT, to students who attain a passing grade ACHIEVE A <--
15 PERFECT SCORE on the assessment administered under paragraph
16 (1).

17 (b) The department shall:

18 (1) Within twelve (12) months of the effective date of this
19 section, post on its publicly accessible Internet website links
20 to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Test
21 and any related resources offered by the United States
22 Citizenship and Immigration Services. The department shall also
23 post on its publicly accessible Internet website any additional
24 materials that the department deems useful to school entities in
25 complying with the requirements in this section.

26 (2) Conduct an electronic survey of each school entity at
27 the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year and at the
28 conclusion of every second school year thereafter requesting
29 information concerning compliance with the requirements of this
30 section. Each school entity shall respond to the survey no later

1 than November 30 following the school year for which the survey
2 is conducted. The survey shall only request the following
3 information for the immediately preceding school year:

4 (i) The ~~format~~ TYPE of the assessment administered as <--
5 required under subsection (a)(1).

6 (ii) The total number of students who took the assessment.

7 (iii) The total number of students who attained a passing
8 grade on the assessment.

9 (iv) The grade level or levels in which the assessment was
10 administered.

11 (v) The course or courses in which the assessment was
12 administered.

13 (3) By January 1 of the year following the school year for
14 which the survey is conducted, make the data collected from the
15 surveys conducted under paragraph (2) available on its publicly
16 accessible Internet website.

17 (4) DEVELOP A CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR A STUDENT WHO <--
18 ACHIEVES A PERFECT SCORE ON THE ASSESSMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A)
19 (1) AND MAKE THE CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
20 PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE FOR USE BY A SCHOOL ENTITY.

21 (c) A student with an individualized education program shall
22 not be required to take the assessment administered under
23 subsection (a)(1) if the provisions of the student's
24 individualized education program indicate otherwise.

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

28 "Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the
29 Commonwealth.

30 "Individualized education program" shall mean a written

1 statement for each child with a disability that is developed,
2 reviewed or revised in a meeting in accordance with the
3 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Public Law 91-230,
4 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.) and 22 Pa. Code Ch. 14 (relating to
5 special education services and programs).

6 "School entity" shall mean a school district, area
7 vocational-technical school, intermediate unit, charter school,
8 cyber charter school or regional charter school.

9 "United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Test"
10 shall mean the one hundred (100) question civics test used by
11 the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

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