

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 878 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY GUZMAN, MADDEN, BOROWSKI, SCHLOSSBERG, HILL-EVANS, HANBIDGE, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, KHAN, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, CIRESI, OTTEN, DONAHUE, WAXMAN, PROBST, BURGOS, PIELLI, KAZEEM, BELLMON AND HADDOCK, APRIL 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 10, 2023

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 the Read to Succeed  
 6 Program.

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 XV-N

13 READ TO SUCCEED PROGRAM

14 Section 1501-N. Establishment of program.

15 The Read to Succeed Program is established within the  
 16 Department of Education. The Read to Succeed Program shall  
 17 provide competitive grants to school districts and charter  
 18 schools to build strong reading skills in Pennsylvania students.  
 19 The Read to Succeed Program shall emphasize students with the

1 greatest need for intensive reading instruction and school  
2 programs that will enable students to learn to read by the end  
3 of the third grade.

4 Section 1502-N. Eligibility requirements.

5 (a) Eligibility.--The Department of Education shall  
6 establish eligibility criteria to be used to select schools and  
7 students in kindergarten through third grade to participate in  
8 the Read to Succeed Program.

9 (b) Matching requirements.--The Secretary of Education shall  
10 establish matching requirements for grant recipients under the  
11 Read to Succeed Program.

12 Section 1503-N. Program requirements.

13 School districts and charter schools shall apply for grants  
14 under the Read to Succeed Program in a manner determined by the  
15 Department of Education. The application shall contain the  
16 following:

17 (1) Identification of students with the greatest need.

18 (2) Methods of ongoing assessment.

19 (3) Reading instruction based on current reading  
20 research.

21 (4) Integration with the reading instruction programs  
22 and activities of the school district.

23 (5) Professional development plan.

24 (6) Opportunities for extended learning time.

25 (7) Coordination with community-based reading  
26 activities, including family literacy programs.

27 (8) Staff and program facilities.

28 (9) A multiyear plan that shows how the school district  
29 or charter school will assume full financial and programmatic  
30 responsibility for the Read to Succeed Program at the

1 conclusion of the grant period.

2 (10) The estimated budget for each specific program  
3 activity.

4 Section 1504-N. Technical assistance and monitoring.

5 The Department of Education shall provide technical  
6 assistance and establish methods to ensure the quality of the  
7 school program receiving a grant, including program monitoring  
8 and onsite visitation.

9 Section 1505-N. Reports.

10 (a) Reports.--A school district or charter school  
11 participating in the Read to Succeed Program shall provide  
12 program and fiscal reports as required by the Department of  
13 Education.

14 (b) Submission.--Beginning in 2023, the Department of  
15 Education shall submit a report on the Read to Succeed Program  
16 by December 31 of each year to the chair and minority chair of  
17 the Education Committee of the Senate and the chair and minority  
18 chair of the Education Committee of the House of  
19 Representatives.

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