

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1332 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, JUNE 23, 2016

SENATOR SMUCKER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, JUNE 27, 2016

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 administrative
6 partnerships between school districts and for Administrative
7 Partnership Grant Pilot 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:

ARTICLE XV-H

ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

SUBARTICLE A

PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

17 Section 1501-H. Legislative intent.

18 It is the intent of the General Assembly to help school
19 districts save money and operate more efficiently by encouraging
20 partnerships of routine administrative functions between school
21 districts. It is also the intent of the General Assembly to

1 provide for additional opportunities between school districts to
2 cooperatively develop joint or shared educational programs for
3 students and educators.

4 Section 1502-H. Definitions.

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

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

10 "Grant program." The Administrative Partnership Grant Pilot
11 Program established under this article.

12 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

13 SUBARTICLE B

14 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

15 Section 1511-H. Authorization of administrative partnerships.

16 Consistent with the provisions of 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 23 (relating
17 to intergovernmental cooperation), two or more school districts
18 may enter into an agreement to share the following between the
19 school districts:

20 (1) A superintendent or assistant superintendent, duly
21 elected in accordance with law, for the general supervision
22 and direction of all operations of each district and to
23 perform for each district those duties imposed upon a
24 superintendent or assistant superintendent under this act.

25 (2) Superintendent office personnel to perform for each
26 district those duties imposed on superintendent office
27 personnel under this act.

28 (3) A business administrator, business manager or other
29 business office personnel who perform the business management
30 responsibilities under section 433 and other duties as

1 imposed by the board of school directors including, but not
2 limited to, financial and budgeting services, receiving and
3 disbursing funds, payroll services, financial accounting,
4 internal auditing and property accounting services for each
5 district.

6 (4) The management of student transportation services,
7 including activities related to ensuring the safe and
8 efficient conveyance of students to and from school.

9 (5) The management of school facilities, including
10 directing and supervising of the operation and maintenance of
11 school buildings and grounds.

12 ~~(6) The management of health services, including~~ <--
13 ~~providing students with appropriate medical, dental and nurse~~
14 ~~services.~~

15 ~~(7) (6) The management of purchasing services, including~~ <--
16 ~~purchasing supplies, furniture, equipment and materials used~~
17 ~~in the operation of a school district.~~

18 ~~(8) (7) The management and sharing of technology~~ <--
19 ~~resources, including information technologies, networks,~~
20 ~~hardware or personnel.~~

21 ~~(9) (8) Other managerial functions as deemed appropriate~~ <--
22 ~~by two or more school districts to share as approved by the~~
23 ~~secretary.~~

24 SUBARTICLE C

25 ADMINISTRATIVE PARTNERSHIP GRANT PILOT PROGRAM

26 Section 1521-H. Establishment.

27 The Administrative Partnership Grant Pilot Program is
28 established in the department to provide financial assistance to
29 facilitate the sharing of administrative functions between
30 school districts as authorized under Subarticle B.

1 Section 1522-H. Application.

2 The department shall develop a procedure for awarding grants
3 under the program. Two or more school districts may apply for a
4 grant under the program as prescribed by the department. The
5 application at a minimum shall contain the following:

6 (1) A detailed description of the administrative
7 functions the school districts intend to share under
8 Subarticle B.

9 (2) The amount of grant funding being requested.

10 (3) An estimate of the cost savings or other
11 efficiencies that the partnership will achieve.

12 (4) Any additional benefits to students and educators.

13 (5) Adoption of a resolution by the boards of school
14 directors of the school districts approving the partnership
15 described in paragraph (1).

16 Section 1523-H. Grant awards.

17 (a) General rule.--The secretary shall make no more than
18 four grant awards each fiscal year in an amount not to exceed
19 \$250,000 per grant award.

20 (b) Grant prioritization.--The secretary shall give priority
21 to an application for grant funding under this subarticle to
22 those applicants who have demonstrated an existing partnership
23 consistent with this article.

24 (c) Construction.--Nothing in this section shall be
25 construed to prohibit the secretary from making a grant award to
26 the same applicants in subsequent years.

27 Section 1524-H. Funds.

28 The department may use the following to award grants under
29 the program:

30 (1) Appropriations made by the General Assembly for the

1 program.

2 (2) Funding appropriated to the department for general
3 government operations.

4 (3) Up to \$250,000 annually of undistributed funds not
5 expended, encumbered or committed from appropriations for
6 grants and subsidies made to the department to award grants.
7 The funds shall be transferred by the Secretary of the Budget
8 to a restricted account as necessary to award grants and,
9 when transferred, are hereby appropriated to carry out the
10 provisions of this subarticle.

11 Section 1525-H. Technical assistance.

12 The department shall provide technical assistance to school
13 districts ~~seeking~~ APPLYING to share administrative functions <--
14 under this article.

15 Section 1526-H. Reports by school districts.

16 School districts that are awarded a grant under this
17 subarticle shall make a preliminary report to the department
18 detailing the progress made toward achieving the shared services
19 outlined in its grant application ~~every~~ 180 days following the <--
20 ~~initial~~ A grant award and make a final report no later than 60 <--
21 days after the completion of the administrative partnership
22 outlined in the grant application. The reports required under
23 this section shall include, at a minimum, the following:

24 (1) Actual cost savings, either directly or through
25 avoided costs, achieved by the sharing of services authorized
26 under this article.

27 (2) A description of how operational efficiencies were
28 improved as a result of the sharing of services authorized
29 under this article.

30 (3) Information relating to any impediments the

1 districts experienced in successfully implementing the
2 sharing of services under this article.

3 (4) Information relating to any enhancements or
4 additions to educational programming or improvements in
5 student achievement as a result of the sharing of services
6 authorized under this article.

7 (5) Any other information a district may deem necessary.

8 Section 1527-H. Reports by department.

9 The department shall compile the reports it receives under
10 section 1526-H and transmit them to the chairperson of the
11 Appropriations Committee of the Senate, the chairperson of the
12 Education Committee of the Senate, the chairperson of the
13 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives and the
14 chairperson of the Education Committee of the House of
15 Representatives annually beginning no later than June 30, 2017.

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