

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 678 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY BOSCOLA, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, COSTA AND SAVAL,  
MAY 15, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, MAY 15, 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," in terms and courses of study,  
6 providing for blood donation education.

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 1529. Blood Donation Education.--(a) The Department  
13 of Education shall, in cooperation with the Department of  
14 Health:

15 (1) Establish a unit of instruction to educate students in  
16 grades eleven and twelve regarding blood donation, to emphasize  
17 the need for donated blood and to encourage blood donation and  
18 participation in blood donation programs for students.

19 (2) Develop and distribute appropriate educational materials  
20 and resources to educators and public and nonpublic schools.

1 (b) The unit of instruction required under subsection (a)  
2 shall be integrated within the health course of study required  
3 in accordance with the State Board of Education regulations  
4 contained in 22 Pa. Code Ch. 4 (relating to academic standards  
5 and assessment). The Department of Education may utilize any  
6 appropriate public or private materials, personnel and other  
7 resources in developing and implementing this unit of  
8 instruction.

9 (c) The unit of instruction required under subsection (a)  
10 shall include:

11 (1) A physiology component relating to blood, blood types  
12 and the circulatory system.

13 (2) A need and usage component that includes information  
14 relating to:

15 (i) The frequency and types of situations where donated  
16 blood is needed.

17 (ii) Procedures utilized for the collection of donated blood  
18 and the safety of those procedures.

19 (iii) Procedures utilized for the storage of donated blood  
20 and the various uses of donated blood.

21 (iv) Specific instances where an available donated blood  
22 supply assisted individuals in need.

23 (3) A participation component to encourage students to  
24 donate blood and volunteer at local blood banks, which component  
25 emphasizes the personal rewards and community benefits from  
26 donation and participation.

27 (d) (1) A student shall be excused from participation in  
28 the unit of instruction required under subsection (a) if the  
29 student or, if the student is under eighteen (18) years of age,  
30 the student's parent or guardian objects in writing to

1 participation on religious grounds.

2 (2) No student excused under paragraph (1) may be penalized  
3 for the excuse. During the time period that the unit of  
4 instruction is presented, a substitute unit of instruction shall  
5 be provided to the student in accordance with regulations  
6 promulgated by the State Board of Education.

7 (e) The State Board of Education shall promulgate  
8 regulations necessary for the implementation of this section.

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