

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 847 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, SMUCKER, DINNIMAN, MENSCH AND
EICHELBERGER, APRIL 11, 2013

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 11, 2013

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 guidelines on religious expression.

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 1516.2. Guidelines on Religious Expression.--(a)
13 Beginning with school year 2013-2014, the Secretary of Education
14 shall post on the Department of Education's publicly accessible
15 Internet website for informational purposes the entire "Guidance
16 on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and
17 Secondary Schools" published by the United States Department of
18 Education, as updated from time to time.

19 (b) In addition to the information required under subsection
20 (a), the Secretary of Education may include on the Department of

1 Education's publicly accessible Internet website any additional
2 information it deems relevant to religious activity in public
3 schools, including applicable Federal and State laws.

4 (c) The Secretary of Education shall direct school districts
5 to post the guidelines under subsection (a) and any other
6 relevant information posted by the department under subsection
7 (b) on the school districts' publicly accessible Internet
8 websites for informational purposes for school board members,
9 district school superintendents, school principals, teachers and
10 the general public.

11 (d) School districts shall annually, through normal
12 communications, inform public school employees and parents or
13 guardians of students of the information posted under this
14 section and how they may access it on the school districts'
15 publicly accessible Internet website.

16 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.