

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 971 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY COLEMAN, TARTAGLIONE, ARGALL, DUSH AND COLLETT,  
OCTOBER 31, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 31, 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 safe schools, providing for  
6 parental and employee notification of weapon incidents.

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 1303.2-A. Parental and Employee Notification of  
13 Weapon Incidents.--(a) A school entity shall notify parents and  
14 guardians and school employes of an incident involving the  
15 possession of a weapon on any school property that constitutes a  
16 violation of one of the following:

17 (1) Section 1317.2.

18 (2) 18 Pa.C.S. § 912 (relating to possession of weapon on  
19 school property).

20 (3) A school board's locally established policies relating

1 to weapons.

2 (b) The following shall apply:

3 (1) Unless the circumstances of the incident necessitate  
4 otherwise, the notification shall be made in accordance with the  
5 following:

6 (i) The notification required under subsection (a) shall be  
7 made within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

8 (ii) The notification shall be made using a method of  
9 communication likely to reach parents and guardians and school  
10 employees.

11 (2) If the incident involving the possession of a weapon  
12 occurs at a school building, school entities may limit  
13 notification to parents and guardians of students enrolled in or  
14 attending, or school employes assigned to, the school building  
15 where the incident occurred.

16 (3) If an incident involving the possession of a weapon  
17 occurs at a school-sponsored activity or on a public conveyance  
18 providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored  
19 activity, the following shall apply:

20 (i) The school entity shall ensure that the notification  
21 required under this section reaches the appropriate population  
22 of parents and guardians and school employes.

23 (ii) A notification is not required if the incident is not  
24 directly related to the school-sponsored activity or the  
25 students or staff involved in the activity.

26 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

27 (1) Limit a school entity's responsibility to report  
28 incidents to local law enforcement prior to providing parents  
29 and guardians and school employes with the notification required  
30 under subsection (a).

1     (2) In an emergency, supersede or limit a school entity's  
2 responsibility to follow the procedure in its disaster response  
3 and emergency preparedness plan developed under 35 Pa.C.S. §  
4 7701(g) (relating to duties concerning disaster prevention).

5     (3) Supersede or preempt any provision of a collective  
6 bargaining agreement between a school entity and an employe  
7 organization.

8     (d) Except as required to notify the parent or guardian of a  
9 student found to be in possession of a weapon, or otherwise  
10 permitted, the school entity's notification to parents or  
11 guardians or school employes under this section shall not  
12 contain personally identifiable information about a student.

13     (e) For the purposes of this section, the term "school  
14 property" shall mean any of the following:

15     (1) Any public school grounds.

16     (2) Any school-sponsored activity.

17     (3) Any conveyance providing transportation to a school  
18 entity or school-sponsored activity.

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