
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1478 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY CEPHAS, FEE, MADDEN, HILL-EVANS, GUENST, PARKER,
SANCHEZ, M. JONES, GIRAL, GALLAGHER, CIRESI, HADDOCK, CURRY
AND DONAHUE, JUNE 21, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 21, 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 school health services, further
6 providing for dental examinations and dental hygiene
7 services.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. Section 1403 of the act of March 10, 1949
11 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
12 amended to read:

13 Section 1403. Dental [Examinations] Screenings and Dental
14 Hygiene Services.--(a) All children of school age in the
15 Commonwealth, (i) upon original entry into the school, (ii)
16 while in the third grade, and (iii) while in the seventh grade,
17 shall be given a dental [examination] screening by a school
18 dentist or public health dental hygiene practitioner: Provided,
19 however, That this requirement shall not apply to those school
20 districts or joint school boards which have instituted a program

1 of dental hygiene services as provided in subsection (b) of this
2 section.

3 (b) Any school district or joint school board may institute
4 a program of dental hygiene services for children of school age,
5 which program shall be approved by the Secretary of Health, and
6 for that purpose may employ dental hygienists.

7 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school
8 district or joint school board that has not instituted a program
9 of dental hygiene services as provided under subsection (b) may
10 use a public health dental hygiene practitioner to satisfy the
11 requirements under this section.

12 (d) As used in this section, the term "public health dental
13 hygiene practitioner" shall have the same meaning given to that
14 term in section 2 of the act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.216, No.76),
15 known as "The Dental Law."

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