

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1986 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY MARCELL, MERCURI, HOGAN, GILLEN, GREEN, LABS,
LEADBETER, M. MACKENZIE, R. MACKENZIE, MENTZER, OWLETT,
PICKETT, RAPP AND ROWE, JANUARY 31, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 2024

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 further providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights
7 violations instruction.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1554(b) and (g) of the act of March 10,
11 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 are amended and the section is amended by adding a subsection to
13 read:

14 Section 1554. Holocaust, Genocide and Human Rights
15 Violations Instruction.--* * *

16 (a.1) (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each
17 school year thereafter, a school entity that offers instruction
18 under subsection (a) shall post the title or Internet link for
19 every primary resource used by the school entity and a course
20 syllabus or a written summary of the instruction offered by the

1 school entity on the school entity's publicly accessible
2 Internet website. The information shall be updated no later than
3 thirty (30) business days after the list of primary resources,
4 syllabi and course descriptions used by the school entity are
5 revised.

6 (2) The chief school administrator or a designee shall
7 implement the requirements of this subsection.

8 (3) This subsection shall not be construed to require a
9 school entity to violate the copyright, trademark or other
10 intellectual property right of the creator or owner of
11 curriculum.

12 (b) (1) The Department of Education shall establish
13 curriculum guidelines no later than twelve (12) months after the
14 effective date of this section. The guidelines shall encourage
15 the inclusion of all of the following subjects where appropriate
16 in the instruction:

17 (i) The breadth of the history of the Holocaust, including
18 the Third Reich dictatorship, concentration camp system,
19 persecution of Jews and non-Jews, Jewish and non-Jewish
20 resistance and post-World War II trials.

21 (ii) The definition, history, response and actions taken in
22 the face of genocide, including the Holocaust and any other
23 genocide perpetrated against humanity, including the Rwandan
24 genocide and other genocides committed in Africa, Asia and
25 Europe.

26 (iii) Human rights violations.

27 (iv) Anti-Semitism, racism and the abridgment of civil
28 rights.

29 (2) The Department of Education shall work in consultation
30 with organizations and individuals that provide educational

1 expertise and resources related to the Holocaust, genocide and
2 human rights violations to develop the curriculum guidelines.
3 The guidelines shall state the minimum amount of instruction
4 necessary to adequately educate students on the Holocaust,
5 genocide and human rights violations.

6 (3) The Department of Education shall post the curriculum
7 guidelines on the Department of Education's publicly accessible
8 Internet website.

9 * * *

10 (g) [For purposes of this section, the term "school entity"
11 shall mean a] As used in this section, the following words and
12 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection
13 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Chief school administrator." The superintendent of a school
15 district, administrative director of an area career and
16 technical school, executive director of an intermediate unit or
17 chief executive officer of a charter school, cyber charter
18 school or regional charter school.

19 "Primary resource." A textbook, resource or online material
20 approved by the governing board of a school entity that is used
21 as the basis or primary source of instruction for a course and
22 consistently by a majority of students in the course.

23 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional
24 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area
25 career and technical school.

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