
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1998 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY HOHENSTEIN, GUENST, SMITH-WADE-EL, TAKAC, HILL-
EVANS, MADDEN, BOROWSKI, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ, STURLA, OTTEN,
DELLOSO, BRIGGS, FIEDLER, WEBSTER, T. DAVIS, KHAN, KRAJEWSKI,
CERRATO AND WAXMAN, 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," providing for Diversity Inclusive
6 Curriculum Pilot Program.

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 an
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XVII-E

13 DIVERSITY INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM PILOT PROGRAM

14 Section 1701-E. Scope of article.

15 This article establishes the Diversity Inclusive Curriculum
16 Pilot Program.

17 Section 1702-E. Definitions.

18 The following words and phrases when used in this article
19 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the

1 context clearly indicates otherwise:

2 "Department." The Department of Education of the
3 Commonwealth.

4 "LGBTQ+." Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer,
5 asexual, intersex or other similar characteristic of an
6 individual.

7 "Pilot program." The Diversity Inclusive Curriculum Pilot
8 Program established under this article.

9 "School entity." A school district, charter school, regional
10 charter school, cyber charter school, intermediate unit or area
11 career and technical school.

12 Section 1703-E. Diversity Inclusive Curriculum Pilot Program.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Diversity Inclusive Curriculum Pilot
14 Program is established in the department to provide instruction
15 to students on the political, economic and social contributions
16 of individuals of the LGBTQ+ community.

17 (b) Operation.--The pilot program shall operate for three
18 full school years, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

19 (c) Selection of school entities.--

20 (1) By July 15, 2024, the department may select school
21 entities and nonpublic schools to participate in the pilot
22 program.

23 (2) To be eligible for the pilot program, a school
24 entity or nonpublic school must submit a proposal to the
25 department by May 15, 2024, that identifies how the school
26 entity or nonpublic school will meet the guidelines
27 established by the department for the pilot program.

28 Section 1704-E. Department responsibilities.

29 (a) Funding.--The department may use Federal, State and
30 other money to the extent that it is made available for the

1 pilot program.

2 (b) Consultation.--No later than six months after the
3 effective date of this subsection, the department shall consult
4 with professional organizations operating in this Commonwealth
5 that serve diverse populations, including LGBTQ+ individuals in
6 establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program.

7 (c) Guidelines.--By March 15, 2024, the department shall
8 establish guidelines and procedures for the pilot program in
9 consultation with professional organizations that serve diverse
10 populations, including LGBTQ+ individuals. The department shall
11 consider curriculum offered by organizations with 50% or greater
12 LGBTQ+ leadership that specialize in and have expertise with
13 LGBTQ+ individuals before selecting the curriculum to be used
14 for the pilot program.

15 Section 1705-E. Pilot program evaluation.

16 (a) Report by school entities.--A participating school
17 entity or nonpublic school shall annually report to the
18 department data and information about the operation of the pilot
19 program, in the manner prescribed by the department. At a
20 minimum, a participating school entity or nonpublic school shall
21 annually report to the department about how the participating
22 school entity or nonpublic school met the objectives of the
23 pilot program and any difficulty encountered in seeking to meet
24 the objectives of the pilot program.

25 (b) Evaluation.--The department shall contract with a
26 nationally recognized educational evaluation institution or
27 organization to provide an evaluation of the pilot program to
28 review the effectiveness of the implementation of a curriculum
29 inclusive to diverse individuals. The evaluation shall be
30 published on the department's publicly accessible Internet

1 website.

2 (c) Report by department.--The department shall compile an
3 annual report based on the data and information received about
4 the operation of the pilot program under subsection (a). The
5 department shall annually submit the report under this
6 subsection by August 1 to all of the following:

7 (1) The chair and minority chair of the Education
8 Committee of the Senate.

9 (2) The chair and minority chair of the Education
10 Committee of the House of Representatives.

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