

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2074 Session of 2014

INTRODUCED BY BOBACK, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, HELM, SAMUELSON, HARHAI, THOMAS, COHEN, BISHOP, GROVE, SWANGER, FRANKEL, GIBBONS, MURT, CLYMER, SAINATO AND DAVIDSON, MARCH 10, 2014

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MARCH 19, 2014

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Governor's Schools of Excellence; and making an
2 appropriation.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Governor's
7 Schools of Excellence Act.

8 Section 2. Legislative intent.

9 It is the intent of the General Assembly to establish the
10 permanent operation of the Governor's Schools of Excellence in
11 order to afford students of all socioeconomic backgrounds the
12 opportunity to pursue in-depth and advanced studies in ~~the~~ <--
13 ~~fields of~~ FIELDS THAT MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, <--
14 agricultural sciences, engineering and technology or sciences.

15 Section 3. Definitions.

16 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall

1 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
2 context clearly indicates otherwise:

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

5 "Governor's Schools of Excellence." Schools established by
6 the department under section 5.

7 "Host site." The college or university where a Governor's
8 School of Excellence is located.

9 "Program." The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.
10 Section 4. Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

11 The Governor's Schools of Excellence Program is hereby
12 established within the department.

13 Section 5. Duties of department.

14 (a) Disciplines.--The department shall establish ~~a minimum~~ <--
15 ~~of three~~ Governor's Schools of Excellence ~~in the following~~ <--
16 ~~disciplines~~ at host sites throughout this Commonwealth. ~~The~~ IN <--
17 disciplines ~~shall include all~~ THAT MAY INCLUDE ANY of the <--
18 following:

19 (1) Agricultural sciences.

20 (2) Engineering and technology.

21 (3) Sciences.

22 (4) OTHER DISCIPLINES DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT. <--

23 (b) Locations.--Governor's Schools of Excellence may be
24 sponsored by and located at Pennsylvania institutions of higher
25 education designated by the department.

26 (c) Administration.--In administering the program, the
27 department shall do all of the following:

28 (1) Make STUDENT applications available to every public <--
29 and nonpublic school in this Commonwealth and include the
30 application on the department's publicly accessible Internet

1 website.

2 (2) Ensure that each Governor's School of Excellence is
3 utilizing a process whereby students are selected on the
4 basis of their performance and achievement through a
5 competitive selection process and seek to ensure an
6 economically, socially and geographically diverse student
7 population.

8 (3) Ensure the program complies with subsection (e),
9 enabling all qualified students the opportunity to enroll in
10 the program regardless of their economic circumstances.

11 (d) Scheduling.--Governor's Schools of Excellence shall be
12 held, to the extent possible, during the summer months between
13 the end and the beginning of the school year. The department may
14 grant permission for a school to be held at other times during
15 the school year when circumstances and programming options
16 warrant such a change.

17 (e) Costs.--Students attending a Governor's School of
18 Excellence shall not be required to pay any tuition or fees to
19 attend and participate in a Governor's School of Excellence.
20 Students are responsible for their own costs relating to
21 transportation to and from the program.

22 Section 6. Appropriation.

23 For the 2014-2015 fiscal year, the General Assembly shall
24 appropriate funding in the amount of \$350,000 to the department
25 for the purpose of the Governor's Schools of Excellence Program.

26 Section 7. Effective date.

27 This act shall take effect immediately.