
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2075 Session of
2014

INTRODUCED BY ROEBUCK, O'NEILL, CARROLL, CLAY, LONGIETTI,
O'BRIEN, TRUITT, BISHOP, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
D. COSTA, DeLUCA, FRANKEL, GIBBONS, HAGGERTY, KINSEY, KOTIK,
LUCAS, MCCARTER, MCGEEHAN, MCNEILL, D. MILLER, SCHLOSSBERG,
YOUNGBLOOD AND MURT, MARCH 25, 2014

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MARCH 25, 2014

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," further providing for continuing
6 professional development; and providing for access to
7 advanced placement for all students.

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

10 Section 1. Section 1205.1(c.1)(3) of the act of March 10,
11 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949,
12 amended July 11, 2006 (P.L.1092, No.114), is amended to read:

13 Section 1205.1. Continuing Professional Development.--* * *

14 (c.1) The continuing professional education plan shall
15 specify the professional education needs that will be met by
16 completion of each continuing professional education option and
17 how it relates to areas of assignment and certification or
18 potential administrative certification. The options may include,
19 but shall not be limited to:

1 * * *

2 (3) Other programs, activities or learning experiences taken
3 for credit or hourly, to include:

4 (i) curriculum development and other program design and
5 delivery activities at the school entity or grade level as
6 determined by the school entity and approved by the board of
7 directors;

8 (ii) participation in professional conferences and
9 workshops;

10 (iii) education in the workplace, where the work relates to
11 the professional educator's area of assignment and is approved
12 by the board of directors;

13 (iv) review, redesign and restructuring of school programs,
14 organizations and functions as determined by the school entity
15 and approved by the board of directors;

16 (v) in-service programs that comply with guidelines
17 established by the department;

18 (vi) early childhood and child development activities for
19 professional educators whose area of assignment includes
20 kindergarten through third grade;

21 (vii) special education activities for professional
22 educators whose area of assignment includes students with
23 special needs;

24 (viii) successful completion of department training for
25 service as a Distinguished Educator if the professional educator
26 participates in and completes at least one assignment in the
27 Distinguished Educators Program; [or]

28 (ix) other continuing professional education courses,
29 programs, activities or learning experiences sponsored by the
30 department[.]; or

1 (x) access to the Advanced Placement Course for All Students
2 program.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

5 ARTICLE XVII-C

6 ACCESS TO ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES

7 FOR ALL STUDENTS

8 Section 1701-C. Scope of article.

9 This article relates to access to advanced placement courses
10 for all students.

11 Section 1702-C. Definitions.

12 The following words and phrases when used in this article
13 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
14 context clearly indicates otherwise:

15 "Advanced placement course." A high school-level preparatory
16 course for a college advanced placement test that:

17 (1) incorporates all topics specified by the college
18 board on its standards syllabus for a given subject area; and

19 (2) is authorized by the college board.

20 "Department." The Department of Education of the
21 Commonwealth.

22 "Eligible teacher." A professional employee that is
23 certified in the subject area of the advanced placement course
24 that the teacher will be teaching.

25 "Four core academic areas." Advanced placement courses in
26 mathematics, English language arts, science and social science.

27 "Poverty level." The percentage of students in a school
28 district eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

29 "Program." The Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

30 "School entity." Any public school district, intermediate

1 unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school or cyber
2 charter school.

3 "Teacher training entities." Institutions of higher
4 education, intermediate units or organizations endorsed by the
5 college board to train teachers to teach advanced placement
6 courses.

7 "Virtual learning instruction." Providing academic courses
8 to students via the Internet and the use of technology in
9 providing instruction to students.

10 Section 1703-C. Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program.

11 (a) Purpose.--The purpose of the Advanced Placement Teacher
12 Training Program is to provide access to advanced placement
13 courses in the four core academic areas for all students by
14 training teachers in advanced placement course instruction at
15 all high schools that do not presently provide advanced
16 placement courses in one or more of these disciplines. The
17 importance of providing access to advanced placement courses for
18 all students is evident in the fact that the Pennsylvania School
19 Performance Profiles established in 2012 include advanced
20 placement participation and performance of a high school as an
21 indicator of academic achievement that determines a high
22 school's academic performance score.

23 (b) Establishment.--Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year,
24 the Advanced Placement Teacher Training Program shall be
25 established in the department to train teachers in eligible
26 school entities to teach advanced placement courses in the four
27 core academic areas.

28 (c) Eligible school entities.--Eligible school entities are
29 those that do not have in each of their high schools at least
30 one advanced placement course in the four core academic areas or

1 will no longer have an advanced placement course in one of the
2 four core academic areas due to the retirement or loss of a
3 teacher who teaches an advanced placement course.

4 (1) A school entity that has an advanced placement
5 course in one or more of the four core academic areas but not
6 in all four core academic areas is only eligible to have a
7 teacher trained in those core academic areas in which the
8 school entity does not have an advanced placement course.

9 (2) No more than one teacher per core academic area in
10 each high school of an eligible school entity shall be
11 trained under this program.

12 (3) More than one eligible school entity may apply
13 jointly to the program to train a teacher in advanced
14 placement course instruction if that teacher is to provide
15 such instruction in more than one school entity either
16 through classroom instruction or through virtual learning
17 instruction.

18 (d) Application requirements for eligible school entities.--
19 The application by an eligible school entity seeking funding for
20 the program shall include the following:

21 (1) The subject areas that currently have advanced
22 placement courses in each of the school entity's high
23 schools.

24 (2) The subject areas among the four core academic areas
25 that the school entity does not have an advanced placement
26 course in each of the school entity's high schools.

27 (3) The names of the eligible teachers, including:

28 (i) the high schools where they are teaching;

29 (ii) the advanced placement academic subject area
30 that each of the teachers will be providing instruction;

1 and

2 (iii) whether the instruction will be in a
3 classroom, through virtual learning instruction, or both.

4 (4) The names of the eligible teacher training entities
5 that shall be providing the training for teachers in advanced
6 placement instruction.

7 (5) Agreement to offer the advanced placement course for
8 high school students for at least three years.

9 (6) Guidelines the school entity will use in determining
10 which students may be eligible to enroll in an advanced
11 placement course. In developing the guidelines, a school
12 entity shall utilize data and information on the academic
13 performance of students, which may include the academic
14 performance of students on the Pre-Scholastic Aptitude Test
15 and the Scholastic Aptitude Test in consultation with the
16 college board, and shall eliminate barriers that restrict
17 access to advanced placement courses for student populations
18 that have been traditionally underserved and shall make every
19 effort to ensure that advanced placement classes reflect the
20 diversity of the student population. The school entity shall
21 not discriminate on any basis in enrollment of the students
22 that is illegal under Federal or State law.

23 (7) Agreement to annually report to the department for
24 each of the four core academic areas that were taught by
25 teachers whose training was funded by this program. The
26 agreement shall include the following information:

27 (i) the number of students taking advanced placement
28 courses;

29 (ii) the grade levels where advanced placement is
30 being taught;

1 (iii) the number of students who took advanced
2 placement examinations; and

3 (iv) the number of students scoring a three or
4 higher on advanced placement examinations.

5 (8) Agreement to annually report to the department for
6 each of the four core academic areas the following
7 information:

8 (i) the number of students taking advanced placement
9 courses;

10 (ii) the grade levels where advanced placement is
11 being taught;

12 (iii) the number of students who took advanced
13 placement examinations;

14 (iv) the number of students scoring a three or
15 higher on advanced placement examinations; and

16 (v) the number of teachers teaching advanced
17 placement courses.

18 Section 1704-C. Powers and duties of department.

19 (a) Guidelines.--The department shall promulgate rules,
20 regulations and procedures necessary for the implementation of
21 this article, including the following:

22 (1) In consultation with the college board, certify
23 those teacher training entities that are endorsed by the
24 college board to provide training of teachers to teach
25 advanced placement courses in the four core academic areas.

26 (2) In certifying teacher training entities for this
27 program, the department shall ensure that the training times
28 and locations will be geographically accessible for teachers
29 from eligible school entities to attend.

30 (3) The department, in consultation with the college

1 board, shall ensure that training provided by teacher
2 training entities must provide teachers of advanced placement
3 courses with the necessary content knowledge and
4 instructional skills to prepare students for success in
5 advanced placement courses and examinations.

6 (4) Starting at the end of the first year of the program
7 and every year thereafter the department shall issue a report
8 to the General Assembly on the program that shall include:

9 (i) The number of teachers receiving training in
10 advanced placement instruction in school entities, school
11 districts and high schools in each of the four core
12 academic areas.

13 (ii) The number and percentage of high schools that
14 offer advanced placement courses in all four core
15 academic areas.

16 (iii) The number and percentage of high schools that
17 offer advanced placement courses in each of the four core
18 academic areas.

19 (iv) The number and percentage of students taking
20 advanced placement courses at school entities in each of
21 the four core academic areas.

22 (v) The number and percentage of students scoring a
23 three or more on an advanced placement examination at
24 school entities in each of the four core academic areas.

25 (vi) The number of school entities and high schools
26 that do not offer advanced placement courses.

27 (vii) The number of teachers trained outside the
28 four core academic areas teaching other advanced
29 placement courses.

30 (b) (Reserved).

1 Section 1705-C. Funding to teacher training entities.

2 To the extent funds are appropriated for this program, the
3 department shall allocate the funds based on per teacher
4 attendance to each certified teacher training entity that
5 provides training to a teacher to teach advanced placement
6 courses upon completion of the training program.

7 Section 1706-C. Program funding.

8 (a) Funding.--Funding for this program shall be made from
9 annual appropriations made by the General Assembly to the
10 department for that purpose.

11 (b) Funding priorities.--In the event that insufficient
12 moneys are appropriated in any fiscal year to provide funding
13 for all eligible school entities applying to the program, the
14 department shall prioritize funding of eligible school entities
15 based on the poverty level of the school districts in which high
16 school students who will be taking the advanced placement
17 courses reside.

18 Section 1707-C. Availability of advanced placement courses.

19 (a) Eligibility.--Any school entity offering advanced
20 placement courses to students shall notify parents of their
21 availability and the guidelines the school entity uses in
22 determining which students may be eligible to enroll in an
23 advanced placement course.

24 (b) Publication and guidelines.--Any school entity offering
25 advanced placement courses to students shall publish on the
26 school entity's Internet website the names of the advanced
27 placement courses being offered to students and the guidelines
28 the school entity uses in determining which students may be
29 eligible to enroll in an advanced placement course.

30 Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.