
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 354 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY SOLOMON, GLEIM, SANCHEZ, GREINER, HILL-EVANS,
BURGOS, KENYATTA, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, HADDOCK, MARCELL, KHAN,
MALAGARI, DONAHUE, STEELE AND GREEN, JANUARY 27, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 27, 2025

AN ACT

1 Providing for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for
2 school entities; and imposing duties on the Department of
3 Education.

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

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "What Is Your
8 Pennsylvania Story" Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

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

13 "Department." The Department of Education of the
14 Commonwealth.

15 "Guidelines." The guidelines developed under section 3(a).

16 "Professional educator." As defined in section 1205.2(o) of
17 the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public
18 School Code of 1949.

1 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area
2 career and technical school, charter school, cyber charter
3 school, regional charter school or nonpublic school.

4 "Social studies." As defined in 22 Pa. Code § 4.12(a)(3)
5 (relating to academic standards).

6 "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story." The understanding and
7 observance of religious freedom and the unique lived experiences
8 that a student and the family of the student bring to the
9 Pennsylvania story, which may include:

10 (1) Awareness of views on an individual's ancestral
11 culture.

12 (2) Attitudes on cultural differences.

13 (3) Cross-cultural skills.

14 Section 3. Guidelines.

15 (a) Development and availability generally.--In anticipation
16 of the United States semiquincentennial and to the extent that
17 funding is available, the department shall develop and make
18 available to each school entity guidelines regarding "What Is
19 Your Pennsylvania Story" that the school entity may implement
20 for instruction in social studies.

21 (b) Information and strategies.--The department shall
22 develop the guidelines in a manner that provides professional
23 educators who teach social studies with information and
24 strategies to be incorporated into instruction for the 2025-2026
25 and 2026-2027 school years to encourage students to share their
26 "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" as the United States
27 approaches its semiquincentennial.

28 (c) Purpose.--The guidelines shall:

29 (1) Enhance the ability of students to interact
30 effectively with one another as students in each county of

1 this Commonwealth with unique backgrounds united by one
2 nation.

3 (2) Encourage students to become more historically and
4 culturally aware of the unique heritage of religious freedoms
5 in this Commonwealth.

6 (d) Mandatory contents.--The guidelines must include:

7 (1) The unique heritage of religious freedom of this
8 Commonwealth, beginning with the voyage of William Penn to
9 Pennsylvania.

10 (2) The relationship between religious freedom and the
11 development of the Constitution of the United States.

12 (3) Information on the United States and its progression
13 as a nation since 1776.

14 (4) Students' experiences with how the students and
15 their families have navigated within the democracy of the
16 United States and embraced religious freedoms in the United
17 States.

18 (5) The ability for students to share their "What Is
19 Your Pennsylvania Story."

20 (6) The unique cultural differences of students that
21 stem from their ancestral family journeys to the United
22 States.

23 (e) Discretionary contents.--The guidelines may include:

24 (1) Materials that educate students by introducing the
25 students to various cultures through the stories that
26 students relay about who the students are and how their
27 families weave into the Pennsylvania and United States
28 experience.

29 (2) Teaching aids that allow students to explore
30 cultures through food, art, books, movies, dance, traditions

1 and cross-cultural experiences.

2 (3) Resources that allow students to explore the
3 cultural experiences of other people and the history,
4 present-day experiences and connections related to American
5 culture.

6 (4) Educational aids that provide students with
7 information on the historical experiences of the inhabitants
8 of this Commonwealth, including their experiences arriving in
9 this Commonwealth and development over the years.

10 (f) Notice.--Each school entity shall provide notice to all
11 parents and guardians of students in the school entity using
12 normal school communication procedures of the opportunity to
13 contribute to the guidelines.

14 Section 4. Expiration.

15 This act shall expire at the conclusion of the 2026-2027
16 school year.

17 Section 5. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect in 60 days.