
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 714 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, PENNYCUICK, MILLER,
SANTARSIERO, LAUGHLIN, BOSCOLA, STEFANO, A. WILLIAMS AND
ROBINSON, JUNE 14, 2023

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 14, 2023

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 the STEM Grant Program;
6 and making an appropriation.

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 XV-N

13 STEM GRANT PROGRAM

14 Section 1501-N. Scope of article.

15 This article relates to the STEM Grant Program.

16 Section 1502-N. Definitions.

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

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

3 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a public
4 school, in this Commonwealth where a resident of this
5 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
6 attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
7 requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
8 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq.).

9 "Program." The STEM Grant Program under section 1503-N.

10 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.

11 "STEM subject." A class for which the instruction relates to
12 the topics of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.
13 Section 1503-N. Administrations.

14 (a) Selection of administrator.--Within 30 days of the
15 effective date of this section, the department shall issue a
16 request for applications for an intermediate unit to administer
17 the program.

18 (b) Applications.--The selected administrator shall develop
19 an application process for the program consistent with the
20 provisions of section 1504-N(a).

21 (c) Notification.--The selected administrator shall annually
22 notify all educators employed by the school districts within
23 this Commonwealth of the program and shall submit a list of all
24 eligible educators who express interest in participating in the
25 program to the department by January 15 of each year. The
26 secretary shall post the list on the department's publicly
27 accessible Internet website by January 30 of each year.

28 (d) Awards.--The selected administrator shall be responsible
29 for the distribution of awards as provided for under section
30 1505-N.

1 (e) Fees.--The selected administrator shall utilize no more
2 than 5% of the total appropriation for the program for
3 administrative costs associated with this article.

4 Section 1504-N. Application and acceptance.

5 (a) Application.--A nonpublic school that elects to
6 participate in the program shall submit an application to the
7 secretary in a manner and on a form as determined by the
8 secretary. The secretary shall establish the application
9 deadlines for each school year. An application shall include the
10 following:

11 (1) The names of the nonpublic school and eligible
12 educator that shall form a STEM partnership under the
13 program.

14 (2) A statement from the nonpublic school and the
15 eligible educator that the eligible educator shall teach at
16 the nonpublic school during hours when the educator has no
17 conflicting public school duties.

18 (3) The proposed schedule and grades to be taught by the
19 eligible educator at the nonpublic school.

20 (4) The number of students, based on enrollment
21 projections, who will receive instruction from the eligible
22 educator under the proposed schedule at the nonpublic school.

23 (5) A certification from the nonpublic school that the
24 eligible educator shall provide only secular instruction at
25 the nonpublic school.

26 (6) Any other information specified by the secretary.

27 (b) Notification.--Upon receiving an application under
28 subsection (a), the secretary shall, within 10 business days of
29 receipt of the application, notify the school district where the
30 educator is employed of the partnership between the nonpublic

1 school and the educator and shall detail the proposed schedule
2 and grades to be taught by the educator at the nonpublic school.
3 Section 1505-N. Grant awards.

4 (a) Award.--The secretary shall award grants under the
5 program based on review of the applications and subject to the
6 limit of money appropriated or otherwise made available for the
7 program. Grant money for approved applications shall be
8 allocated by the department to the selected administrator.

9 (b) Use of funds.--The selected administrator shall use the
10 funds to provide compensation to a participating nonpublic
11 school as reimbursement for costs incurred during the previous
12 school year for the services of an eligible educator under the
13 program. The secretary shall establish the amount of each grant
14 awarded to a participating nonpublic school using the following
15 calculation:

16 (1) An eligible educator shall receive an amount equal
17 to the educator's hourly wage multiplied by the number of
18 hours the educator teaches STEM classes at a nonpublic school
19 under the program multiplied by a factor of 1.25 to account
20 for preparatory time.

21 (2) In the event that sufficient money is not
22 appropriated to fully fund the compensation to be provided to
23 eligible educators under paragraph (1), the secretary shall
24 apportion the amount appropriated for the implementation of
25 this article among the eligible educators in proportion to
26 the compensation each participating eligible educator would
27 have received had the full amount been appropriated.

28 (c) Limitations.--

29 (1) Money appropriated to the department for the program
30 shall be used exclusively for the hiring of eligible

1 educators to teach STEM subjects at a participating nonpublic
2 school. The eligible educator shall teach only the classes
3 stipulated under the program.

4 (2) The program may not infringe on the collective
5 bargaining agreement between the majority representative of
6 the collective negotiations unit in which the eligible
7 educator is a member and the school district in which the
8 educator is employed.

9 (3) At the conclusion of each school year, a nonpublic
10 school participating in the program shall submit a report to
11 the secretary containing information on the implementation of
12 the program in the nonpublic school. The report shall
13 include:

14 (i) The days and classroom hours that the eligible
15 educator taught in the nonpublic school.

16 (ii) Any scheduling obstacles that were encountered
17 and how they were addressed.

18 (iii) Any recommendations to improve the program and
19 the effectiveness of the program.

20 (iv) Any other information pertinent to the program.

21 Section 1506-N. Appropriation.

22 The sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated from the General Fund
23 to the department for the purposes of this article. The
24 appropriation under this section shall not lapse.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.