

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 850 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, BROWNE, MASTRIANO, KILLION, PHILLIPS-HILL, DiSANTO, MENSCH, AUMENT, BARTOLOTTA, MUTH, YUDICHAK, SCHWANK AND DINNIMAN, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, FEBRUARY 3, 2020

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 community engaged
6 schools.

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:

ARTICLE XV-K

COMMUNITY ENGAGED SCHOOLS

14 Section 1501-K. Short title.

15 This chapter related to the Community Engaged Schools for
16 Success Pilot Program Act.

17 Section 1502-K. 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 "Community engaged school." A school that is designated by
3 the secretary to participate in the program and is engaged in
4 developing and implementing a community engagement plan to
5 provide engaged student support services.

6 "Community partner." A community group, parent organization,
7 early childhood learning program, business organization, dental
8 care provider, health care provider, mental health provider,
9 civic organization, local governmental agency, school employee
10 organization, institution of higher education or other
11 organization that is able to provide engaged student support
12 services to students in a school setting.

13 "Coordinator." An individual who works full-time within a
14 community engaged school, in consultation with school leaders
15 and staff, to promote and coordinate the provision of engaged
16 student support services.

17 "Department." The Department of Education of the
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Engaged student support services." ~~Services provided~~ <--
20 SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL OR COMMUNITY <--
21 PARTNERS, OR BOTH, to students in a school setting that remove
22 academic and nonacademic barriers to success, including the <--
23 following services: BUT DO NOT SUPPLANT SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER <--
24 THE TERMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO IN
25 ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT OF JULY 23, 1970 (P.L.563, NO.195),
26 KNOWN AS THE "PUBLIC EMPLOYE RELATIONS ACT." THE TERM INCLUDES
27 THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- 28 (1) Academic assistance.
29 (2) Behavior interventions.
30 (3) Community and service learning.

- 1 (4) Family engagement.
- 2 (5) Mental health services.
- 3 (6) Health care services.
- 4 (7) Dental health services.
- 5 (8) Basic needs.
- 6 (9) College and career preparation.
- 7 (10) Enrichment activities.
- 8 (11) Life skills.

9 "Program." The Community Engaged School for Success Pilot
10 Program.

11 "Program manager." A nonprofit community-based organization
12 that works on behalf of a community engaged school or schools to
13 identify, implement, manage and evaluate the provision of
14 engaged student support services to students.

15 "Secretary." The Secretary of Education of the Commonwealth.
16 Section 1503-K. Community Engaged School Eligibility.

17 Any school operated by a school district in this Commonwealth
18 is eligible for designation by the secretary as a community
19 engaged school if it meets at least one of the following
20 criteria:

21 (1) The school is ranked in the lowest 15% of the
22 school's designation as an elementary school or a secondary
23 school based on combined mathematics and reading scores from
24 the annual assessment administered in the previous school
25 year.

26 (2) The school is located in a school district where the
27 acute poverty percentage as calculated under section 2502.53
28 is equal to or greater than 30% and the school's enrollment
29 is representative of the school district's acute poverty
30 percentage.

1 Section 1504-K. Community engaged school designation.

2 (a) Application.--A school that seeks to be designated as a
3 community engaged school must submit an application to the
4 department in a form and with information as determined by the
5 department.

6 (b) Duty of secretary.--No later than September 30, 2020,
7 the secretary shall designate no less than 20 schools that have
8 made application under this article as community engaged
9 schools.

10 (c) Requirements of designees.--A school designated by the
11 secretary as a community engaged school shall:

12 (1) Appoint a program manager for the school within 60
13 days of the designation.

14 (2) Appoint a coordinator for the school within 60 days
15 of the designation.

16 (3) Develop, implement and carry out the provisions of a
17 community engagement plan approved by the secretary.

18 Section 1505-K. Community engagement plan.

19 (a) Development.--The community engagement plan of a
20 community engaged school shall include the following:

21 (1) An evaluation and analysis of indicators of school
22 and student performance needs that includes the following:

23 (i) Academic performance, including achievement and
24 growth.

25 (ii) Graduation and promotion rates.

26 (iii) Chronic absenteeism.

27 (iv) Disciplinary information.

28 (v) School safety information.

29 (vi) Unique student populations.

30 (vii) Other factors and information necessary to

1 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in
2 school.

3 (2) A qualitative and quantitative analysis that
4 assesses areas of need through surveys, forums and focus
5 groups with parents and other stakeholders, including the
6 following:

7 (i) Student needs regarding food, clothing, shelter
8 and employment.

9 (ii) Student needs and access to health care
10 services, mental health services and behavior health
11 services.

12 (iii) Family literacy.

13 (iv) Student and parent access to job training and
14 placement programs.

15 (v) Student access to early childhood education.

16 (vi) Family engagement in school activities.

17 (vii) Student engagement in out-of-school academic
18 programs.

19 (viii) School culture and climate.

20 (ix) School safety.

21 (x) An evaluation of current programs and services
22 currently provided by the community engaged school.

23 (xi) Other factors and information necessary to
24 identify academic and nonacademic barriers to success in
25 the community engaged school.

26 (b) Plan submission to secretary.--No later than March 30,
27 2021, a community engaged school shall utilize the results of
28 the evaluation and analysis in subsection (a) and submit a
29 community engagement plan to the secretary for approval. The
30 community engagement plan shall include the following:

1 (1) An organizational chart for the community engaged
2 school that reflects upon the relationship of school
3 leadership, staff, the coordinator and program manager.

4 (2) A list of areas of need and any academic and
5 nonacademic barriers to achievement.

6 (3) A list of the specific engaged student support
7 services and programs to be provided to students, including:

8 (i) The community partners providing the services
9 and programs.

10 (ii) A description of the services and programs to
11 be provided.

12 (4) Performance goals and benchmarks to measure academic
13 performance and other areas of need.

14 (5) Procedures to formally evaluate performance.

15 (6) A plan for reporting progress and outcomes related
16 to the services and programs provided in the community
17 engagement plan on an annual basis to the school board of
18 directors and the department no later than August 31 of each
19 year.

20 (7) A budget approved by the school board of directors
21 to accomplish the community engagement plan that identifies
22 the resources allocated to support the community engaged
23 school and its community engagement plan.

24 (8) Policies and procedures to ensure appropriate data
25 sharing with the coordinator, program manager and community
26 partner.

27 (9) Other items required by the secretary to ensure the
28 success of the community engagement plan.

29 (c) Plan approval.--

30 (1) Within 30 days of receipt of the community

1 engagement plan, the secretary shall approve the community
2 engagement plan or notify the school district that revisions
3 to the community engagement plan are needed and transmit
4 suggested revisions to the board of school directors.

5 (2) A community engagement plan that is denied by the
6 secretary may be revised and resubmitted at the direction of
7 the secretary.

8 Section 1506-K. Duties of program manager.

9 (a) General rule.--The duties of the program manager shall
10 include the following:

11 (1) The development of the evaluation and analysis of
12 indicators of student performance needs under section 1505-
13 K(a).

14 (2) The development of a site plan to be provided to the
15 community engaged school within 60 days of the appointment of
16 the program manager. The site plan shall include the
17 following:

18 (i) A summary of the needs identified under section
19 1505-K(a).

20 (ii) The goals and measures for addressing the
21 identified needs of the community engaged school.

22 (III) THE MANNER IN WHICH THE PROGRAM MANAGER WILL <--
23 WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH STAFF OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGED
24 SCHOOL.

25 (3) The development of the annual report under section
26 1505-K(b) (6).

27 Section 1507-K. Duties of department.

28 (a) Application.--The department shall develop an
29 application process for a school district to apply on behalf of
30 an eligible school for designation as a community engaged

1 school.

2 (B) PROGRAM GUIDELINES.--WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE <--
3 DATE OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP GUIDELINES
4 SPECIFYING MINIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS FOR AN ORGANIZATION TO
5 QUALIFY AS A PROGRAM MANAGER UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

6 ~~(b)~~ (C) Technical assistance.-- <--

7 (1) The department shall provide technical assistance to
8 community engaged schools, including academic expertise and
9 assistance, training, program design, grant writing
10 assistance and data collection and analysis.

11 (2) The department may enter into a contract to provide
12 the technical assistance required under paragraph (1).

13 ~~(c)~~ (D) Best practices.--The department shall facilitate the <--
14 sharing of best practices among community engaged schools and
15 with other schools in this Commonwealth.

16 ~~(d)~~ (E) Annual report.--No later than December 31, 2021, and <--
17 each year thereafter, the department shall submit an annual
18 report of the information collected from the community engaged
19 schools under section 1505-K(b) (6) to the Governor, chairperson
20 and minority chairperson of the Appropriations Committee of the
21 Senate, the chairperson and minority chairperson of the
22 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives, the
23 chairperson and minority chairperson of the Education Committee
24 of the Senate and the chairperson and minority chairperson of
25 the Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

26 ~~Section 1508-J~~ 1508-K. Community engaged school grants. <--

27 (a) Amount.--The department may award community engaged
28 school grants to school districts on behalf of schools
29 designated as community engaged schools upon approval of the
30 school's community engagement plan. The amount of the grant

1 under this section may not exceed \$125,000 for each community
2 engaged school.

3 (b) Matching requirement.--A school district must match the
4 amount of the grant with school district funds at least equal to
5 the State allocation.

6 (c) Duration.--To the extent that funding for grants is
7 available and the school continues to follow its community
8 engagement plan to the secretary's satisfaction, an annual award
9 shall be made in five consecutive years.

10 (d) Limitation.--No school district may receive an annual
11 grant allocation that exceeds 10% of the funds available under
12 the program.

13 (e) Diversity.--The secretary shall ensure that the grant
14 funding under this program is geographically dispersed
15 throughout this Commonwealth.

16 (f) Use and audit.--Grant funds shall be used exclusively
17 for the purpose of supporting a community engaged school's
18 community engagement plan and are subject to audit by the
19 department and the Auditor General.

20 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.