

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1039 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY KIM, MALONE, COSTA, FONTANA, SANTARSIERO, HAYWOOD, KANE, HUGHES, COLLETT, PENNYCUICK AND SAVAL, OCTOBER 15, 2025

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 15, 2025

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," in student supports, further
6 providing for definitions and for student supports and
7 providing for the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid
8 Training Program; and, in school safety and security, further
9 providing for the School Safety and Security Grant Program.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 1301-A of the act of March 10, 1949
13 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
14 amended by adding definitions to read:

15 Section 1301-A. Definitions.--As used in this article,

16 * * *

17 "Department" shall mean the Department of Education of the
18 Commonwealth.

19 "Nonpublic school" shall mean any school, other than a public
20 school within this Commonwealth, wherein a resident of this
21 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school

attendance requirements of this act and which meets the
requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Public
Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

* * *

"School-wide staff" shall mean any individual within the
control of, or acting on behalf of, the district, including:

(1) district employees;

(2) after-school providers;

(3) contractors;

(4) consultants;

(5) volunteers;

(6) vendors;

(7) school security personnel;

(8) school resource officers as defined in section 1301-C;

and

(9) service providers.

* * *

Section 2. Section 1302-A(b) (3) of the act is amended and
subsection (b) (1) is amended by adding a subparagraph to read:

Section 1302-A. Student Supports.--* * *

(b) The Department of Education shall have the power and
duty to implement the following:

(1) To collect, develop and disseminate information,
policies, strategies and other information to assist in the
development of programs that support students, reduce
unnecessary student disciplinary actions and promote an
environment of greater productivity, safety and learning,
including, but not limited to:

* * *

(viii.1) School-wide staff training programs conducted by a

1 certified trainer to recognize and respond appropriately to
2 indicators of mental distress and suicidal ideation in students.
3 The training program shall be offered to school entities and
4 nonpublic schools no less than two times throughout a school
5 year. No fee may be assessed for participation in the training
6 program implemented under this subparagraph.

7 * * *

8 (3) To assist in collaboration and coordination with the
9 School Safety and Security Committee established under section
10 1302-B and school entities and nonpublic schools on the
11 development of policies to be used regarding:

12 (i) possession of weapons by any person, acts of violence
13 and protocols for coordination with and reporting to law
14 enforcement officials and the Department of Education[.]; and

15 (ii) training programs implemented under paragraph (1)
16 (viii.1) for school-wide staff. The policies developed under
17 this subparagraph shall include, at a minimum, the policy
18 requirements for the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid
19 Training Program established under section 1303.2-A(a). A school
20 entity or nonpublic school shall not be required to provide a
21 training program or to adopt related policies if the school
22 entity or nonpublic school does not provide school-wide staff
23 training.

24 * * *

25 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

26 Section 1303.2-A. Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid
27 Training Program.--(a) The Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid
28 Training Program is established for the purpose of providing
29 student supports and guidance to school entities and nonpublic
30 schools in identifying student mental health struggles and

deterioration in accordance with this section.

(b) (1) A school entity or nonpublic school is not required to offer student supports that include staff participation in a school-wide staff training program. For a school entity or nonpublic school that offers student supports that include staff participation in a school-wide staff training program that was implemented:

(i) by the department under section 1302-A(b)(1)(viii.1), the school entity or nonpublic school shall adopt or amend existing policy in accordance with section 1302-A(b)(3)(ii); or

(ii) by the school entity or the nonpublic school under this section, the school entity or nonpublic school shall adopt or amend existing policy in accordance with this section.

(2) No later than January 1, 2026, the department shall develop a model policy pursuant to section 1302-A(b)(3)(ii) on which a school entity or nonpublic school may model an existing policy relating to a training program to be conducted by a certified trainer for school-wide staff. The policy must include:

(i) Training to recognize indicators of student mental distress.

(ii) Training to recognize mental health decline and mental struggle in students.

(iii) Training to learn appropriate responses and intervention techniques to use when a student displays an indicator of mental distress, mental health decline or mental health struggles.

(iv) Providing up-to-date contact information for student self-care programs or mental health programs.

(v) Any other school-wide staff skill development or

information that the school entity or nonpublic school deems necessary to address student suicide awareness and educator and staff preparedness.

(3) The policy amended or adopted under paragraph (1) shall identify:

(i) The school-wide staff eligible for training under the program.

(ii) The appropriate school staff person to receive reports of incidents of student mental health concerns. An incident report shall include the student mental health concern of the staff person making the report and the course of action advised to the student.

(iii) A process for submission of documented certification of each school-wide staff completing the training to the appropriate school staff person and a retention process that includes requirements for removal of expired certification and any renewal of certification requirements.

(iv) A process to notify school-wide staff of the availability of training conducted by a certified trainer. Training shall be provided by the school entity or nonpublic school at least two times each school year.

(4) Each school entity and nonpublic school shall review the policy amended or adopted under paragraph (1) every three (3) years and annually provide the department with a copy of the policy relating to student mental health, which shall also include:

(i) Information related to the development and implementation of any student mental health distress prevention, intervention and education program.

(ii) Data of incidents, with identifying information

1 redacted, of mental health concerns reported to the designated
2 school staff person under the school entity or nonpublic
3 school's policy.

4 (c) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, and each
5 school year thereafter, each school entity that offers a
6 training program conducted by a certified trainer for school-
7 wide staff to recognize and respond appropriately to indicators
8 of mental distress and suicidal ideation in students may include
9 the training in the continuing education plan submitted by the
10 school entity to the department for approval pursuant to section
11 1205.1 for no more than four (4) hours of training, every five
12 (5) years.

13 (d) Each school entity and nonpublic school shall make the
14 policy adopted or amended under this section available on the
15 publicly accessible Internet website of the school entity or
16 nonpublic school, if available, and in every classroom. Each
17 school entity shall post the policy at a prominent location
18 within each school building where notices are usually posted.
19 Each school entity shall ensure that the policy and procedures
20 for reporting bullying incidents are reviewed with students
21 within ninety (90) days after adoption and at least once each
22 school year thereafter.

23 Section 4. Section 1306-B(j) of the act is amended by adding
24 a paragraph to read:

25 Section 1306-B. School Safety and Security Grant Program.

26 * * *

27 (j) Specific purposes.--The committee shall provide grants
28 to school entities for programs that address school mental
29 health and safety and security, including:

30 * * *

1 (17.1) Staff training programs conducted by a certified
2 trainer to recognize and respond appropriately to indicators
3 of mental distress and suicidal ideation in students,
4 including costs associated with participation in a training
5 program implemented by the department under section 1302-A(b)
6 (1)(viii.1) for school-wide staff training or incurred by a
7 school entity or nonpublic school that implements a policy
8 under section 1303.2-A.

9 * * *

10 Section 5. This act shall take effect in 60 days.