

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 1125 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY MUTH, SAVAL, KANE, KEARNEY, FONTANA, HAYWOOD,
HUGHES, COMITTA AND CAPPELLETTI, DECEMBER 22, 2025

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, DECEMBER 22, 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," providing for welcoming schools.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
9 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an
10 article to read:

11 ARTICLE XIII-F

12 WELCOMING SCHOOLS

13 Section 1301-F. Definitions.

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

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

19 "Enforcement agency." An immigration enforcement agency or a

1 law enforcement agency.

2 "Enforcement official." An official of an enforcement
3 agency.

4 "Immigration enforcement agency." The Department of Homeland
5 Security of the United States and its subagencies, including,
6 but not limited to:

7 (1) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
8 including Homeland Security Investigations.

9 (2) United States Customs and Border Protection.

10 (3) United States Marshals Service.

11 (4) United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

12 (5) United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms
13 and Explosives.

14 (6) Any State or local law enforcement agency acting on
15 behalf of the United States Immigration and Customs
16 Enforcement, or an agent or officer for any Federal, State or
17 local agency attempting to enforce Federal immigration law.

18 (7) Any:

19 (i) individual authorized to conduct enforcement of
20 Federal immigration laws; or

21 (ii) Federal agent charged with enforcement of civil
22 immigration laws.

23 "Law enforcement agency." Any of the following:

24 (1) A police department of a city, borough, incorporated
25 town or township.

26 (2) The Pennsylvania State Police.

27 (3) A district attorney's office.

28 (4) The Office of Attorney General of the Commonwealth.

29 (5) A sheriff or deputy sheriff.

30 "School entity." A school district, intermediate unit, area

career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school or cyber charter school.

"School personnel." An individual within the control of or acting on behalf of a school district, including, but not limited to, a school district employee, school bus driver of a school-district-owned bus, after-school provider, contractor, consultant, volunteer, vendor, school security officer, school resource officer as defined in section 1301-C or service provider.

"School zone." School property owned by, leased by or under the control of a school entity.

Section 1302-F. Welcoming schools.

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year thereafter, each school entity shall provide assurance of continued access of the school entity's school zones to each student, parent, guardian and school personnel, regardless of immigration status.

Section 1303-F. Resolution.

(a) Policies and procedures required.--Within 90 days of the effective date of this subsection, each school entity shall develop policies and procedures for creating and promoting an inclusive learning environment in accordance with section 1304-F.

(a.1) Resolution required.--Each board of directors or governing body of a school entity shall adopt the policies and procedures by resolution, which must be adopted by majority vote at a public meeting. At least 45 days prior to the public meeting, the board of directors or governing body shall make available for public inspection the resolution proposed for adoption.

1 (b) Publication of resolution.--A school entity shall make
2 the resolution required under subsection (a.1) available, in
3 each language spoken by a student at the student's home, to all
4 students, parents, guardians and school personnel no less than
5 30 days prior to the public meeting required under subsection
6 (a.1). A school entity shall publish the resolution in the same
7 manner and as a part of the publication of notice of the public
8 meeting.

9 (c) Review and amendment of policies and procedures.--No
10 later than 30 days before the beginning of each school year, and
11 thereafter each quarter of the school year, a school entity
12 shall review the adopted policies and procedures. If amendment
13 of the policies and procedures is necessary, a school entity
14 shall amend its policies and procedures through the resolution
15 process in this section.

16 Section 1304-F. Policy and procedure.

17 (a) Requirements.--Except as provided in subsection (b), a
18 school entity shall adopt policies and procedures for creating
19 and promoting a welcoming and inclusive learning environment in
20 accordance with this article. The policies and procedures shall
21 include the following requirements:

22 (1) A school entity shall designate a superintendent or
23 other chief administrative officer as:

24 (i) the designated school personnel to perform the
25 duties and to respond under this article to any request
26 subject to this article to enter any part of its school
27 zone; and

28 (ii) an alternate school personnel designated to
29 perform the duties and to respond under this article in
30 the event of the absence of the designated school

1 personnel at the time of the request to enter.

2 (2) A school entity shall designate areas of the school
3 zone that are:

4 (i) public with entry accessible to the public,
5 including, but not limited to, lobby and waiting areas;

6 (ii) nonpublic with entry prohibited to the public,
7 including, but not limited to, the interior areas of a
8 school building, a school bus or the area designated for
9 arrival or departure of students traveling by school bus;
10 and

11 (iii) areas with fluctuating status of public and
12 nonpublic dependent on time and usage of area. A school
13 entity shall develop guidelines for the bases for the
14 status labels of each type of area.

15 (3) A school entity shall post signage that is:

16 (i) permanent for each area designated as public and
17 nonpublic areas; and

18 (ii) adjustable for each area subject to change in
19 status of use.

20 (4) At the time an officer or agent requests entry to a
21 school zone, regardless of a presentment of a signed judicial
22 warrant, the designated school personnel shall:

23 (i) Provide the officer or agent with a copy of the
24 welcoming schools resolution.

25 (ii) Request official identification and contact
26 information from the officers or agents and photocopy the
27 identification and information for the school entity's
28 record.

29 (iii) Document statements and grounds for the
30 request made by the officer or agent requesting entry and

1 statements or acts taken by any officer or agent present.

2 (iv) Document the names of any students or school
3 personnel identified by the officer or agent.

4 (v) Provide digital transmittal of all documentation
5 to the school entity solicitor.

6 (5) The designated school personnel shall:

7 (i) request an enforcement official to present to
8 the designated school personnel a signed judicial warrant
9 that properly extends to the school zone where the
10 subject of the warrant is located; and

11 (ii) photocopy the warrant provided to the school
12 entity for its record and for concurrent digital
13 transmittal to the school entity solicitor.

14 (6) The designated school personnel has no authority to
15 consent to entry and the enforcement official or agent's
16 request to enter is deemed denied in the event that the
17 enforcement official or agent:

18 (i) fails to present a signed judicial warrant;

19 (ii) presents a judicial warrant that is not signed;

20 (iii) presents a judicial warrant that is
21 incomplete, contains inaccurate information or is
22 otherwise improper; or

23 (iv) presents an administrative warrant and no
24 exigent circumstances are specifically claimed to exist.

25 (7) A contract or agreement entered into by a school
26 entity with a school bus company or operator shall include a
27 provision that prohibits the company, operator or its
28 employees from:

29 (i) assisting or providing personal information
30 related to a student assigned to a bus provided by the

1 school bus company or operator, including the student's
2 name, home address, bus stop or immigration status; or
3 (ii) permitting an enforcement official or agent to
4 enter the bus if at least one factor denying entry under
5 paragraph (6) is present.

6 (8) (i) Regardless of whether within a school zone or
7 situate outside the boundaries of a school zone, an
8 individual who is deemed school personnel may not:

9 (A) inquire into the immigration status of a
10 student, a student's family, parent or guardian; or

11 (B) formally or informally provide or discuss
12 information related to the immigration status of a
13 student, a student's parent or guardian, a member of
14 the student's family or an individual who is deemed
15 school personnel.

16 (ii) The board of directors or governing body of a
17 school entity must establish a disciplinary process and
18 procedure for an individual who is deemed school
19 personnel and who violates subparagraph (i).

20 (9) School personnel must refuse an enforcement
21 official's entry to a school zone for the purpose of a
22 wellness check when the designated school personnel, at the
23 personnel's discretion, determines the wellness check
24 requires a lawful warrant.

25 (10) In the event circumstances permit, a request made
26 by an immigration enforcement agency or a law enforcement
27 agency for access to a school entity's building, facility,
28 grounds, school zone or school bus must be directed to the
29 school entity's superintendent and school solicitor 24 hours
30 before the requested time of entry for determination of

1 whether to grant the request. The requesting official must:

2 (i) present official credentials;

3 (ii) have the proper signed judicial warrant; and

4 (iii) receive written approval from the

5 superintendent to enter the school entity's building,

6 facility, grounds or school zone.

7 (11) Regarding a student's parent or guardian, or the
8 student when the student is over 18 years of age, the school
9 entity shall:

10 (i) not share student records or other confidential
11 information protected by Federal or State laws; and

12 (ii) provide notice of the right to opt out of
13 disclosing directory information such as a home address
14 and place of birth at least twice a year in August and
15 January.

16 (b) Notification.--The school entity shall notify the parent
17 or guardian of any student subject to a request for access or
18 entry to a school entity or school zone by an immigration
19 enforcement agency or a law enforcement agency within 48 hours
20 of the request.

21 (c) Review of existing policy.--A school entity that
22 previously adopted a policy satisfying the requirements of
23 subsection (a) shall review and update, if necessary, the
24 existing policy.

25 Section 1305-F. Training.

26 (a) Content of training.--A school entity shall provide
27 school personnel with training that ensures that school
28 personnel understand and are knowledgeable about:

29 (1) the school policies required under this article;

30 (2) determining the scope of a valid judicial warrant,

1 including the distinction between a signed judicial warrant
2 and an administrative warrant;

3 (3) the requirements and effect of a wellness check;

4 (4) when a request for a wellness check exceeds the
5 boundaries of a wellness check; and

6 (5) the procedures to follow and that the required
7 compliance is critical and understood by the school
8 personnel.

9 (b) Annual training.--A school entity shall provide training
10 required in this section, annually, at least 15 days prior to
11 the beginning of each school year. In the event school policies
12 required in this article are amended by resolution and adopted
13 under section 1303-F, training required in this section shall
14 occur within 15 days of the adoption of a resolution.

15 Section 1306-F. Professional development.

16 (a) Training required.--

17 (1) Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each
18 year thereafter, each school entity shall include in the
19 school entity's professional development plan submitted to
20 the department for approval pursuant to section 1205.1 four
21 hours of training required under section 1305-F related to
22 the following:

23 (i) Creating and promoting welcoming schools.

24 (ii) Implementation of the policies of the school
25 entity under this article.

26 (iii) Limitations on enforcement agency ability to
27 disrupt a student's right to an education.

28 (iv) Ensuring the privacy of student records as
29 required by Federal and State law, including a parent's
30 right to opt out of sharing directory information.

1 (2) A school entity may use the materials made available
2 by the department under subsection (b).

3 (b) Information required to be posted.--The department shall
4 compile, develop and post the following on the department's
5 publicly accessible Internet website, which may include
6 materials already publicly available:

7 (1) Recommended guidelines and educational materials for
8 the training required under subsection (a).

9 (2) Recommended resources and age-appropriate education
10 materials on a right to education, the right to access an
11 education free from fear of immigration enforcement and the
12 safeguards on the release of information without consent.

13 (3) Recommended responses to requests for information or
14 access at a school entity or a school zone.

15 (4) Recommended guidelines and education materials for
16 anti-bullying at a school entity or school zone and awareness
17 and prevention of bullying related to immigration status,
18 ethnicity or national origins.

19 (5) Recommended individual and school-wide supportive
20 services and restorative school climate programming to
21 address any fear and trauma experienced by students and
22 school personnel from actual or potential enforcement action.

23 Section 1307-F. Report.

24 No later than five days after an enforcement action occurs at
25 a school entity or school zone, the superintendent shall submit
26 a written incident report to the board of directors or governing
27 body of the school entity. The incident report shall contain the
28 following information:

29 (1) The date and location in which each enforcement
30 action was requested, whether granted or denied by the

1 designated school personnel of the school entity.

2 (2) The type of enforcement action, whether a request
3 for information or a request for entry.

4 (3) The number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken
5 into custody because of granting the request for information
6 or entry to the school zone.

7 (4) The requesting enforcement agency, department and
8 official responsible for the enforcement action.

9 (5) Written notes recorded by the designated school
10 personnel of the school entity documenting:

11 (i) requests made by the enforcement official;

12 (ii) action taken by the enforcement official while
13 in the school zone;

14 (iii) the enforcement official's treatment of the
15 subject of the warrant;

16 (iv) the enforcement official's treatment of the
17 student population of the school entity, if any occurred;

18 (v) the enforcement official's treatment of the
19 school personnel; and

20 (vi) whether the designated school personnel or any
21 other individual in the school zone witnessed any acts by
22 the enforcement official that appeared to have exceeded
23 the lawful authority of the enforcement official while
24 executing the warrant.

25 (6) A thorough description of the circumstances that
26 purportedly justified the enforcement action.

27 (7) A copy of the credentials provided by the
28 enforcement official, including a copy of the official's
29 identification documents and any warrant and subpoena.

30 (8) An overview of individual supportive services and

1 school-wide restorative school climate programming available
2 and offered to students and personnel.

3 Section 1308-F. Department guidelines.

4 Within 30 days of the effective date of this section, the
5 department shall develop and publish guidelines to assist school
6 entities in the implementation of this article. The department
7 shall review and update the guidelines, as necessary, but no
8 less than annually. The guidelines issued under this section
9 shall be posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet
10 website.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.