
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1049 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY D. MILLER, MERSKI, D. WILLIAMS, HILL-EVANS,
A. DAVIS, DELLOSO, MADDEN, SANCHEZ, ISAACSON, HOWARD,
WEBSTER, O'MARA AND SCHWEYER, APRIL 21, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 21, 2021

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 certification of teachers,
6 providing for remote instruction tools and training.

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 a
11 section to read:

12 Section 1205.8. Remote Instruction Tools and Training.--(a)
13 School entities shall provide school employes, including
14 professional educators and instructional paraprofessionals, with
15 training to promote the effective and competent delivery of
16 remote instruction. The following apply:

17 (1) Training shall address:

18 (i) Teaching methodology and technological devices and
19 programs available to school employes to implement remote

1 instruction and design and facilitate online learning.

2 (ii) Best practices for school entities regarding remote
3 instruction, including student engagement.

4 (iii) Recognition of the signs of a mental, educational or
5 emotional impact of remote instruction on students and
6 appropriate resources for students who are experiencing such
7 impact.

8 (iv) The school entity's policies regarding remote
9 instruction strategies.

10 (v) The school entity's policies regarding connecting
11 students with school-sponsored educational, medical and social
12 services that are traditionally administered when students are
13 in attendance in person.

14 (2) Training shall be developed according to evidence-based
15 or evidence-informed programs that are tailored to the local
16 community and reflect current best practices related to remote
17 instruction and online learning design, development and
18 strategies.

19 (3) School employes required to undergo continuing
20 professional education under section 1205.2 or 1205.5 shall
21 receive credit toward the school employes' continuing
22 professional education requirements if the training program has
23 been approved by the department.

24 (4) The school entity shall make a reasonable effort to
25 facilitate a time and location for school employes under this
26 section to participate in the training during paid working hours
27 or in-service training.

28 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a
29 baccalaureate teacher preparation program operating in this
30 Commonwealth shall provide courses and experiences in

1 professional studies that seek to develop knowledge and skills
2 related to the most current remote instruction and online
3 learning tools, program design and methodology. The
4 baccalaureate teacher preparation program shall review its
5 curriculum related to remote instruction and implement the
6 necessary changes and updates to remain current with evidence-
7 based findings as deemed necessary by the department.

8 (c) The department shall promulgate regulations that:

9 (1) are related to the competencies and concepts that shall
10 be provided and completed in the remote and online instruction
11 training; and

12 (2) seek to offer guidance to baccalaureate teacher
13 preparation programs operating in this Commonwealth.

14 (d) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

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

18 "Evidence-based" shall have the meaning given in section
19 8101(21) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95,
20 129 Stat. 1802).

21 "Instructional paraprofessional" shall mean a school employe
22 who works under the direction of a certificated staff member to
23 support and assist in providing instructional programs and
24 services to eligible students.

25 "Remote instruction" shall mean a method in which academic
26 lessons, activities, assignments and examinations are performed
27 and delivered when students and instructors are not physically
28 present in a traditional setting.

29 "School employe" shall have the meaning given to the term
30 "professional employe" in section 1101(1).

1 "School entity" shall mean a public school, including a
2 school district, charter school, cyber charter school, regional
3 charter school, intermediate unit or area career and technical
4 school, a private school or a nonpublic school.

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.