

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1283 Session of
2025

INTRODUCED BY HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, SANCHEZ, FREEMAN AND CEPEDA-
FREYTIZ, APRIL 22, 2025

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 22, 2025

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Integrated Student Supports Program and the
2 Integrated Student Supports Fund; and conferring powers and
3 imposing duties on the Department of Education.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Integrated
8 Student Supports Act.

9 Section 2. Legislative intent.

10 The General Assembly finds and declares as follows:

11 (1) High school dropout rates can have a significant
12 negative impact on this Commonwealth's economy as determined
13 by the loss of generated income tax revenue and dependence on
14 government aid, as well as elevated risks for incarceration.

15 (2) Graduation rates in many Pennsylvania school
16 districts have fallen well below the Statewide average.
17 Removing academic and nonacademic barriers to learning
18 through evidence-based integrated student supports helps to

1 reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates.

2 (3) The General Assembly intends to create a fund
3 allowing Pennsylvania public school entities to utilize
4 programming provided by a third-party nonprofit organization
5 in order to decrease dropout rates and increase graduation
6 rates.

7 Section 3. Definitions.

8 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
9 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
10 context clearly indicates otherwise:

11 "Department." The Department of Education of the
12 Commonwealth.

13 "Fund." The Integrated Student Supports Fund established in
14 section 4(c).

15 "Organization." The third-party nonprofit organization
16 designated by the department under section 4(b).

17 "Program." The Integrated Student Supports Program
18 established in section 4(a).

19 "Public school entity." Any of the following:

20 (1) A school district as defined in section 102 of the
21 act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public
22 School Code of 1949.

23 (2) A charter school, cyber charter school or regional
24 charter school as defined in section 1703-A of the Public
25 School Code of 1949.

26 (3) An intermediate unit as established under Article
27 IX-A of the Public School Code of 1949.

28 (4) An area career and technical school as established
29 under Article XVIII of the Public School Code of 1949.

30 Section 4. Integrated Student Supports Program.

1 (a) Establishment.--The Integrated Student Supports Program
2 is established to remove academic and nonacademic barriers to
3 learning as a means to enhance student academic success,
4 decrease dropout rates and increase graduation rates in public
5 elementary and secondary schools throughout this Commonwealth.
6 Under the program, the department may provide grants to public
7 school entities as provided under section 5 for students in
8 kindergarten through grade 12.

9 (b) Designation.--

10 (1) Within 60 days of the effective date of this
11 section, the Secretary of Education shall:

12 (i) Designate, through a request for proposal
13 process, an organization to serve as the provider of
14 evidence-based community school services to public school
15 entities. The organization must satisfy all of the
16 following:

17 (A) Currently operate in more than 60 public
18 school entities.

19 (B) Provide independent data collection.

20 (C) Provide in-school and out-of-school programs
21 in the following areas:

22 (I) Social, emotional, physical and moral
23 development to include mental health case
24 management.

25 (II) College and career preparation.

26 (III) Behavior intervention.

27 (IV) Parental engagement and support.

28 (V) Student reengagement.

29 (ii) Post notice of the designation on the
30 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(2) This subsection shall be subject to the provisions of 62 Pa.C.S. (relating to procurement).

(c) Fund.--The Integrated Student Supports Fund is established in the State Treasury. Money in the fund shall be used to fund the grants provided under section 5. The following shall apply to money in the fund:

(1) The department may transfer undistributed money not expended, encumbered or committed from the department's appropriation to the fund for the purpose of providing grants under this section.

(2) The fund may include:

(i) Grants, donations, contributions or gifts from public or private sources specifically earmarked for deposit into the fund.

(ii) Interest, dividends and pecuniary gains from investment of money in the fund.

Section 5. Grants.

(a) Establishment of advisory councils.--Each public school entity shall establish and manage an advisory council that shall develop the strategic school plan for students in kindergarten through grade 12. An advisory council shall be comprised of a diverse set of public and private stakeholders, including representatives from the public school entity, local and regional industries, private philanthropic foundations, community-based organizations and social service agencies.

(b) Provision of grants.--

(1) The department may provide grants to a public school entity for the purpose of funding the implementation of the approved strategic plan to provide integrated student supports to remove academic and nonacademic barriers to

1 education.

2 (2) A public school entity seeking grants under this
3 subsection must submit a strategic plan for programming for
4 students in kindergarten through grade 12 to the department.
5 Grants shall be awarded on a competitive basis, based on the
6 department's review of a public school entity's strategic
7 plan, and shall match the public school entity's proposed
8 investment amount in programming on a dollar-for-dollar
9 basis. Strategic plans submitted to the department must
10 demonstrate that a dedicated space exists or will exist
11 within the public school entity for the use of the integrated
12 student supports provider.

13 (3) A grant awarded to a public school entity under this
14 subsection shall be used in its entirety for the programming
15 provided by the organization selected by the department.

16 Section 6. Reports.

17 (a) Annual report.--The organization shall provide a report
18 on the progress of the organization's evidence-based programming
19 within each public school entity receiving a grant under section
20 5 to the department within one year of the effective date of
21 this section and annually no later than October 1 of each
22 subsequent year thereafter. The report shall include outcomes
23 for case-managed students, including the following:

24 (1) Grade promotion and graduation rates.

25 (2) Student attendance.

26 (3) Student behavior.

27 (4) Student academics and grade point averages.

28 (b) Publication.--The report shall be published annually on
29 the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

30 Section 7. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately.