
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1713 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY CIRESI, KINSEY, DRISCOLL, LONGIETTI, MALAGARI,
SANCHEZ, HOHENSTEIN AND DELLOSO, JULY 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JULY 8, 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 school safety and security,
6 providing for COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education
7 grants for 2021-2022 school year.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
11 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
12 section to read:

13 Section 1314-B. COVID-19 pandemic trauma-informed education
14 grants for 2021-2022 school year.

15 (a) Legislative findings.--The General Assembly finds and
16 declares as follows:

17 (1) The COVID-19 pandemic inflicted trauma on many
18 students.

19 (2) It is necessary to provide instruction and mental
20 and behavioral health supports through trauma-informed

1 approaches for the purpose of improving the social and
2 emotional well-being of students and fostering a nurturing
3 learning environment.

4 (b) Appropriation.--In addition to any other funds
5 appropriated to the committee for grants under this article, the
6 sum of \$50,000,000 is appropriated to the committee from the
7 COVID-19 Response Restricted Account from funds received by the
8 Commonwealth under section 2001(f) of the American Rescue Plan
9 Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 4) to make grants under
10 this section. The appropriation under this subsection shall not
11 lapse.

12 (c) Compliance and monitoring.--The committee shall monitor
13 grant recipients under this section to ensure appropriate use of
14 grant funds and compliance with Federal guidelines and
15 regulations and the provisions of this section.

16 (d) Purpose of grants.--The committee shall provide grants
17 under this section to each qualifying school entity for the
18 specific purpose under section 1306-B(j) (20), (21) or (22).

19 (e) Amount of grants.--

20 (1) Except as provided under paragraph (2), the amount
21 of a grant awarded to a qualifying school entity shall not be
22 less than \$20,000.

23 (2) The committee may award an additional grant amount
24 to a qualifying school entity with a large student population
25 or a qualifying school entity with a high level of student
26 poverty in accordance with the guidelines developed under
27 subsection (h).

28 (f) Availability of applications.--The committee shall
29 notify and make applications available for grants under this
30 section to each school entity within 60 days of the effective

1 date of this section. The application requirements shall include
2 the school entity's contact information and specific purpose for
3 the grant under section 1306-B(j)(20), (21) or (22) and any
4 other requirements specified by the committee in the guidelines
5 developed under subsection (h).

6 (g) Deadlines for applications.--A school entity must submit
7 an application for grant funds under this section no later than
8 30 days after the committee makes the application available
9 under subsection (f).

10 (h) Guidelines.--The committee shall develop guidelines to
11 implement this section to ensure the appropriate use of grant
12 funds.

13 (i) Definitions.--As used in this section, the term "school
14 entity" means a public school, charter school, area career and
15 technical school or nonpublic school. The term shall not include
16 a cyber charter school.

17 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.