
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 887 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY GROVE, ORTITAY, MOUL AND ROWE, APRIL 10, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 10, 2023

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 professional employees relating to
6 revised rating system, further providing for definitions; and
7 providing for Student-Centered Assessment Pilot Program.

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

10 Section 1. The definition of "assessment" in section 1138.1
11 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the
12 Public School Code of 1949, is amended and the section is
13 amended by adding a definition to read:

14 Section 1138.1. Definitions.

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

18 "Assessment." The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
19 test, including blended adaptive assessments, the Keystone Exams
20 or another test established by the State Board of Education or
21 approved by an act of the General Assembly to meet the

1 requirements of section 2603-B(d)(10)(i) and the requirements of
2 the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95, 129 Stat.
3 1802) or its successor statute or required to achieve other
4 standards established by the department for the school or school
5 district.

6 "Blended adaptive assessment." An adaptive test performed
7 under Article XV-N.

8 * * *

9 Section 2. The act is amended by adding an article to read:

10 ARTICLE XV-N

11 STUDENT-CENTERED ASSESSMENT PILOT PROGRAM

12 Section 1501-N. Definitions.

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

16 "Adaptive testing." Periodic testing over the course of the
17 academic year taken by a student on a computer which tracks
18 student growth, provides instructional data regarding the
19 student's achievement level and assigned grade and complies with
20 the requirements under 20 U.S.C. Ch. 70 (relating to
21 strengthening and improvement of elementary and secondary
22 schools) for proficiency for students at the respective grade
23 levels.

24 "Board." The State Board of Education of the Commonwealth.

25 "Department." The Department of Education of the
26 Commonwealth.

27 "Diagnostic testing." Testing administered by a school
28 district to determine student growth and guide classroom
29 instruction during the school year.

30 "Elementary school student." A student who attends a public

1 school in grades one through five.

2 "Eligible student." An elementary school student, a middle
3 school student or a high school student who attends a school
4 district that participates in the program.

5 "High school student." A student who attends a public school
6 in grades 9 through 12.

7 "Middle school student." A student who attends a public
8 school in grades six through eight.

9 "Program." The Student-Centered Assessment Pilot Program
10 established under section 1502-N(a).

11 "Student growth." A calculation of a student's academic
12 improvement during the current academic year in comparison to
13 prior assessments during the academic year.

14 Section 1502-N. Student-Centered Assessment Pilot Program.

15 (a) Establishment.--The Student-Centered Assessment Pilot
16 Program is established within the department. The department, in
17 consultation with the board and school districts that
18 participate in the program, shall administer the program.

19 (b) Nonadaptive assessments.--

20 (1) A public school of a school district participating
21 in the program shall be exempt from administering the
22 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment test authorized
23 under sections 2603-B and 2604-B to eligible students. The
24 exemption under this subsection shall begin after sufficient
25 data collection for a comparability study with existing tests
26 as stipulated by Federal peer review.

27 (2) A school district participating in the program shall
28 only utilize the adaptive tests administered under section
29 1504-N for diagnostic testing.

30 (c) Eligibility.--A school district shall be eligible to

1 participate in the program if the school district administered
2 State-approved adaptive testing prior to January 1, 2023.

3 Section 1503-N. Duties of department and board.

4 (a) Establishment.--The department, in consultation with the
5 board, shall establish blended criteria for adaptive testing of
6 eligible students. The criteria shall conform to academic
7 standards established for elementary school students, middle
8 school students and high school students under this act.

9 (b) Regulations.--The department shall establish policies
10 and promulgate regulations necessary to implement this article.

11 Section 1504-N. Duties of school districts.

12 (a) Duties.--A school district that participates in the
13 program shall have the following duties:

14 (1) The school district shall administer approved
15 adaptive testing to eligible students.

16 (2) In preparing eligible students for adaptive testing,
17 the school district shall provide the necessary methods to
18 minimize the amount of test preparation in the classroom.

19 (3) No later than 48 hours after eligible students
20 complete adaptive testing, the school district shall make
21 available the results of the adaptive testing to each
22 elementary school, middle school and high school teacher and
23 school administrator who administered the adaptive testing.

24 (b) Administration.--The school district shall administer
25 approved adaptive testing three times during the academic year
26 as follows:

27 (1) The first adaptive test shall be administered by the
28 end of the first month of the academic year.

29 (2) The second adaptive test shall be administered no
30 later than December 31 of each year and used to determine

1 student growth from the start of the academic year.

2 (3) The third adaptive test shall be administered no
3 later than the last month of the academic year and used to
4 determine each student's mastery of the subjects in
5 accordance with the Federal requirements concerning academic
6 testing.

7 (c) Third-party providers.--The department may contract with
8 a third-party provider to administer the program.

9 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.