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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 1271 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, BROWNE, STREET, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA,  
SCHWANK, COSTA, BLAKE, RAFFERTY AND FARNESE, OCTOBER 2, 2018

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REFERRED TO EDUCATION, OCTOBER 2, 2018

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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 directors, further  
6 providing for school director training programs; in  
7 certification of teachers, further providing for continuing  
8 professional development, providing for trauma-informed  
9 education and further providing for postbaccalaureate  
10 certification and Pennsylvania School Leadership Standards;  
11 in school safety and security, further providing for school  
12 safety and security coordinator and for school safety and  
13 security training; in early learning programs, further  
14 providing for definitions and for duties of department; and,  
15 in the State Board of Education, further providing for  
16 definitions, for powers and duties of the board and for  
17 powers and duties of Council of Basic Education and Council  
18 of Higher Education.

19 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
20 hereby enacts as follows:

21 Section 1. Section 328(a)(1), (2), (b)(1) and (2) of the act  
22 of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School  
23 Code of 1949, added November 6, 2017 (P.L.1142, No.55), are  
24 amended to read:

25 Section 328. School Director Training Programs.--(a)  
26 Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year and in each school year

1 thereafter, the following shall apply:

2 (1) Each newly elected or appointed school director shall  
3 complete, during the first year of the school director's first  
4 term, a training program made available by the Department of  
5 Education, in consultation with a Statewide organization  
6 representing school directors and a Statewide organization  
7 representing school business officials, pertaining to the skills  
8 and knowledge necessary to serve as a school director. The  
9 training program shall consist of a minimum of [four (4)] five  
10 (5) hours of instruction, including, at a minimum, information  
11 regarding the following:

12 (i) Instruction and academic programs.

13 (i.1) A minimum of one (1) hour of instruction shall focus  
14 on best practices related to trauma-informed approaches to  
15 education as defined in section 1205.7(b).

16 (ii) Personnel.

17 (iii) Fiscal management.

18 (iv) Operations.

19 (v) Governance.

20 (vi) Ethics and open meetings, to include the requirements  
21 under 65 Pa.C.S. Pt. II (relating to accountability).

22 (2) Within one (1) year after each reelection or  
23 reappointment to the board of school directors, each school  
24 director shall complete an advanced training program made  
25 available by the Department of Education in consultation with a  
26 Statewide organization representing school directors and a  
27 Statewide organization representing school business officials.  
28 The advanced training program shall consist of a minimum of [two  
29 (2)] three (3) hours of instruction, including information on  
30 relevant changes to Federal and State public school law and

1 regulations, fiscal management, trauma-informed approaches to  
2 education and other information deemed appropriate by the  
3 Department of Education to enable the school director to serve  
4 effectively.

5 \* \* \*

6 (b) Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, and in each  
7 school year thereafter, the following shall apply:

8 (1) Each newly appointed trustee of a charter school entity  
9 shall complete, within the trustee's first year of service, a  
10 training program made available by the Department of Education,  
11 in consultation with Statewide organizations representing  
12 charter school entities, pertaining to the skills and knowledge  
13 necessary to serve as a charter school entity trustee. The  
14 training program shall consist of a minimum of [four (4)] five  
15 (5) hours of instruction, including, at a minimum, the  
16 information listed in subsection (a)(1) and information  
17 concerning Article XVII-A.

18 (2) During the fifth year of a trustee's service on the  
19 board of trustees and every four (4) years thereafter, each  
20 trustee shall complete an advanced training program made  
21 available by the Department of Education in consultation with  
22 Statewide organizations representing charter school entities.  
23 The advanced training program shall consist of a minimum of [two  
24 (2)] three (3) hours of instruction, including information on  
25 relevant changes to Federal and State public school law and  
26 regulations, including Article XVII-A, fiscal management,  
27 trauma-informed approaches to education and other information  
28 deemed appropriate by the Department of Education to enable the  
29 trustee to serve effectively.

30 \* \* \*

1 Section 2. Section 1205.1 of the act is amended by adding a  
2 subsection to read:

3 Section 1205.1. Continuing Professional Development.--\* \* \*

4 (b.1) The professional education plan of each school entity  
5 shall include a minimum of one (1) hour of required training in  
6 trauma-informed approaches to education as defined in section  
7 1205.7(b).

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

10 Section 1205.7. Trauma-Informed Education.--(a) School  
11 entities shall provide school employes with training on trauma-  
12 informed approaches to education. The following apply:

13 (1) Training shall address, but shall not be limited to, the  
14 following topics:

15 (i) Recognition of the signs of trauma in students.

16 (ii) Best practices for trauma-informed schools and  
17 classrooms, including utilization of multi-tiered systems of  
18 support.

19 (iii) The school entity's policies related to trauma-  
20 informed education, which may include policies related to  
21 schoolwide positive behavior supports, restorative justice and  
22 resiliency.

23 (2) Training shall be evidence-based and reflect current  
24 best practices related to trauma-informed approaches to  
25 education.

26 (3) School employes shall complete a minimum of one (1) hour  
27 of training annually.

28 (4) School employes required to undergo continuing  
29 professional education under section 1205.2 or 1205.5 shall  
30 receive credit toward their continuing professional education

1 requirements if the training program has been approved by the  
2 Department of Education.

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

7 (b) As used in this section, the following words and phrases  
8 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection:

9 "Evidence-based" shall have the meaning given in section  
10 8101(21) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95,  
11 129 Stat. 1802).

12 "School employe" shall have the meaning given in section  
13 1101(1).

14 "School entity" shall mean a public school, including a  
15 school district, charter school, cyber charter school, multiple  
16 charter school organizations, regional charter school,  
17 intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school, a private  
18 school or a nonpublic school.

19 "Trauma" shall include results from an event, series of  
20 events or set of circumstances that is experienced by an  
21 individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening  
22 and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's  
23 functioning and physical, social, emotional or spiritual well-  
24 being.

25 "Trauma-informed approach" shall mean an approach to  
26 education that recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in  
27 students, families and staff and responds by fully integrating  
28 knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures and practices  
29 for the purposes of recognizing the presence and onset of  
30 trauma, resisting the reoccurrence of trauma and promoting

1 resiliency.

2 Section 4. Section 1207.1(a)(3)(i) of the act is amended by  
3 adding a clause to read:

4 Section 1207.1. Postbaccalaureate Certification.--(a)  
5 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the  
6 Secretary of Education shall have all of the following powers  
7 and duties with regard to postbaccalaureate certification  
8 programs:

9 \* \* \*

10 (3) Develop guidelines for the approval of flexible  
11 postbaccalaureate instructional certification programs. Such  
12 program guidelines shall address:

13 (i) Instruction and training in the following:

14 \* \* \*

15 (H) Trauma-informed approaches to education as defined in  
16 section 1205.7(b).

17 \* \* \*

18 Section 5. Section 1217(a)(1) of the act is amended by  
19 adding a subparagraph to read:

20 Section 1217. Pennsylvania School Leadership Standards.--(a)  
21 Programs provided under section 1205.5(c) and (d) to prepare  
22 school or system leaders and for purposes of issuing  
23 administrator certificates or letters of eligibility and  
24 approved programs for the induction and continuing professional  
25 education of school or system leaders shall address:

26 (1) The following core standards:

27 \* \* \*

28 (iv) Understanding the impact of trauma on a child's  
29 educational experience and applying trauma-informed approaches  
30 to education to inform decision-making at all levels of the

1 system.

2 \* \* \*

3 Section 6. Section 1309-B(c) (2) and 1310-B(1) of the act,  
4 added June 22, 2018 (P.L.327, No.44), are amended to read:

5 Section 1309-B. School safety and security coordinator.

6 \* \* \*

7 (c) Specific duties.--The school safety and security  
8 coordinator shall:

9 \* \* \*

10 (2) Coordinate training and resources for students and  
11 school entity staff in matters relating to situational  
12 awareness, trauma-informed [education awareness,] approaches  
13 to educational awareness as defined in section 1205.7(b),  
14 behavioral health awareness, suicide and bullying awareness,  
15 substance abuse awareness and emergency procedures and  
16 training drills, including fire, natural disaster, active  
17 shooter, hostage situation and bomb threat.

18 \* \* \*

19 Section 1310-B. School safety and security training.

20 School entities shall provide their employees with mandatory  
21 training on school safety and security subject to the following:

22 (1) Training shall address the following:

23 (i) Situational awareness.

24 (ii) Trauma-informed [education awareness.]

25 approaches to educational awareness as defined in section  
26 1205.7(b).

27 (iii) Behavioral health awareness.

28 (iv) Suicide and bullying awareness.

29 (v) Substance use awareness.

30 (vi) Emergency training drills, including fire,

1 natural disaster, active shooter, hostage situation and  
2 bomb threat.

3 \* \* \*

4 Section 7. Section 1511-D of the act is amended by adding a  
5 definition to read:

6 Section 1511-D. Definitions.

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

10 \* \* \*

11 "Trauma-informed approach." As defined in section 1205.7(b).

12 Section 8. Section 1513-D of the act is amended by adding a  
13 paragraph to read:

14 Section 1513-D. Duties of department.

15 The department shall have the following powers and duties:

16 \* \* \*

17 (8) To encourage the integration of trauma-informed  
18 approaches to education as defined in section 1205.7(b) into  
19 the program curriculum and the professional development of  
20 personnel of the eligible provider who have regular contact  
21 with children.

22 Section 9. Sections 2601-B and 2603-B(d) of the act are  
23 amended by adding clauses to read:

24 Section 2601-B. Definitions.--When used in this article the  
25 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

26 \* \* \*

27 (3) "Trauma-informed approach" shall have the same  
28 definition as under section 1205.7(b).

29 Section 2603-B. Powers and Duties of the Board.--\* \* \*

30 (d) The board shall also have the authority and duty to:



1 \* \* \*

2 (9.1) Adopt policies encouraging the inclusion of trauma-  
3 informed approaches to education, as defined in section  
4 1205.7(b), in the curriculum of programs of professional  
5 education in all public and private institutions of higher  
6 education in this Commonwealth issuing degrees to persons who  
7 may desire to teach in the schools of this Commonwealth.

8 \* \* \*

9 Section 10. Section 2604-B(b) (2) (vii) and (viii) are amended  
10 and subsection (b) (2) is amended by adding a subclause to read:

11 Section 2604-B. Powers and Duties of Council of Basic  
12 Education and Council of Higher Education.--\* \* \*

13 (b) The Council of Basic Education shall have the power, and  
14 its duty shall be to:

15 \* \* \*

16 (2) investigate programs, conduct research studies and  
17 formulate policy proposals in all educational areas not within  
18 the purview of higher education, including, but not limited to:

19 \* \* \*

20 (vii) the subjects to be taught and the activities to be  
21 conducted in elementary, secondary, adult education and other  
22 schools; [and]

23 (viii) the qualifications for employment of professional  
24 personnel in the public schools; and

25 (ix) the education and training of children impacted by  
26 trauma as defined in section 1205.7;

27 \* \* \*

28 Section 11. This act shall take effect in 60 days.