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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2493 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BARRAR, BOBACK, DeLUCA, MURT, STEPHENS  
AND VAZQUEZ, JUNE 14, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JUNE 14, 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," providing for threat assessment.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
9 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
10 article to read:

11 ARTICLE XIII-B

12 THREAT ASSESSMENT

13 Section 1301-B. Threat assessment teams and oversight  
14 committees in public school entities.

15 (a) Adoption of policies.--Beginning in the 2018-2019 school  
16 year, each governing authority shall adopt policies for the  
17 establishment of threat assessment teams, including the  
18 assessment of and intervention with students whose behavior may  
19 pose a threat to the safety of school staff or students

1 consistent with the model policies developed by the Office for  
2 Safe Schools. The policies shall include procedures for  
3 referrals to community services boards or health care providers  
4 for evaluation or treatment, when appropriate.

5 (b) Committee.--The chief school administrator may establish  
6 a committee charged with oversight of the threat assessment  
7 teams operating within the public school entity, which may be an  
8 existing committee. The committee shall include individuals with  
9 expertise in human resources, education, school administration,  
10 mental health and law enforcement.

11 (c) Threat assessment team.--Beginning in the 2019-2020  
12 school year, each chief school administrator shall establish,  
13 for each school, a threat assessment team that shall include  
14 persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school  
15 administration and law enforcement. Threat assessment teams may  
16 be established to serve one or more schools as determined by the  
17 chief school administrator. Each team shall:

18 (1) Provide guidance to students, faculty and staff  
19 regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior  
20 that may represent a threat to the community, the school or  
21 students.

22 (2) Identify members of the school community to whom  
23 threatening behavior should be reported.

24 (3) Implement policies adopted by the governing  
25 authority under subsection (a).

26 (d) Report of threat.--Upon a preliminary determination that  
27 a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to the  
28 student or others, a threat assessment team shall immediately  
29 report its determination to the chief school administrator or  
30 his designee. The chief school administrator or his designee

1 shall immediately attempt to notify the student's parent or  
2 legal guardian. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude school  
3 entity personnel from acting immediately to address an imminent  
4 threat.

5 (e) Report.--Each threat assessment team established under  
6 this section shall report quantitative data on its activities  
7 according to guidance developed by the Pennsylvania Commission  
8 on Crime and Delinquency.

9 (f) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
10 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
11 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Governing authority." A local board of school directors, or  
13 the equivalent, of a public school entity.

14 "Public school entity." A school district, intermediate  
15 unit, area vocational-technical school, charter school, regional  
16 charter school or cyber charter school.

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