

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 148 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, CIRESI, ROZZI AND ARMANINI, MARCH 8, 2023

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, APRIL 21, 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 school health services, providing
6 for ~~parent educational information regarding eating disorders~~ <--
7 EATING DISORDER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION. <--

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 1426. Parent Educational Information Regarding~~ <--
14 ~~Eating Disorders. (a) Each school entity shall annually~~
15 ~~provide parent educational information regarding eating~~
16 ~~disorders for pupils in grades six through twelve. The~~
17 ~~information shall be consistent with guidelines established~~
18 ~~under this section.~~

19 ~~(b) Each school entity shall provide the annual parent~~
20 ~~educational information to all parents and guardians via email,~~

1 ~~first class mail or on the school entity's publicly accessible~~  
2 ~~Internet website.~~

3 ~~(c) The following shall apply:~~

4 ~~(1) The Department of Education, in conjunction with the~~  
5 ~~Department of Health, shall develop an Eating Disorders Task~~  
6 ~~Force that shall develop and implement guidelines for providing~~  
7 ~~parent educational information regarding eating disorders. The~~  
8 ~~guidelines shall be developed with input from specialized~~  
9 ~~organizations and entities, including boards of school~~  
10 ~~directors, school superintendents, the National Alliance for~~  
11 ~~Eating Disorders, the Pennsylvania Association of School Nurses~~  
12 ~~and Practitioners, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American~~  
13 ~~Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania Academy of Family~~  
14 ~~Physicians, the International Association of Eating Disorders~~  
15 ~~Professionals Foundation and the Academy for Eating Disorders.~~

16 ~~(2) The Eating Disorders Task Force shall meet at least two~~  
17 ~~times per school year to reassess the information provided to~~  
18 ~~schools and to parents. The task force shall meet at least once~~  
19 ~~prior to the school year beginning and shall meet at least once~~  
20 ~~in the beginning of the calendar year.~~

21 ~~(d) The Department of Education, the Department of Health~~  
22 ~~and the Eating Disorders Task Force shall identify and develop~~  
23 ~~appropriate additions or revisions to this Commonwealth's school~~  
24 ~~health regulations and materials related to the development of~~  
25 ~~parent educational information, including guidance regarding the~~  
26 ~~clear delineation of health information from other~~  
27 ~~administrative documentation.~~

28 ~~(e) The guidelines developed under this section shall~~  
29 ~~include the following:~~

30 ~~(1) The development of a letter for key school personnel,~~

1 ~~including school principals, vice principals and school~~  
2 ~~counselors and psychologists, on the importance of eating~~  
3 ~~disorder prevention education and resources for schools.~~

4 ~~(2) The development of a letter to parents and guardians~~  
5 ~~that includes warning signs, risk factors, resources and other~~  
6 ~~information about eating disorders.~~

7 ~~(f) As used in this section, the term "school entity" means~~  
8 ~~an area career and technical school, a charter school, a cyber~~  
9 ~~charter school, an intermediate unit, a nonpublic school or a~~  
10 ~~school district.~~

11 ~~Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.~~

12 ~~SECTION 1426. EATING DISORDER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION.-- (A) <--~~  
13 ~~A SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL ANNUALLY PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING~~  
14 ~~EATING DISORDER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION FOR PUPILS IN GRADES SIX~~  
15 ~~THROUGH TWELVE TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND KEY SCHOOL PERSONNEL.~~  
16 ~~THE INFORMATION SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE EDUCATIONAL~~  
17 ~~INFORMATION AND MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ESTABLISHED UNDER~~  
18 ~~THIS SECTION.~~

19 ~~(B) A SCHOOL ENTITY SHALL PROVIDE THE EDUCATIONAL~~  
20 ~~INFORMATION AND MATERIALS TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND KEY SCHOOL~~  
21 ~~PERSONNEL ANNUALLY VIA EMAIL, FIRST CLASS MAIL OR ON THE SCHOOL~~  
22 ~~ENTITY'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE INTERNET WEBSITE.~~

23 ~~(C) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF~~  
24 ~~HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS AND~~  
25 ~~MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDING INFORMATION REGARDING EATING~~  
26 ~~DISORDER AWARENESS AND EDUCATION TO PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND KEY~~  
27 ~~SCHOOL PERSONNEL.~~

28 ~~(D) THE EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION AND MATERIALS AND~~  
29 ~~RECOMMENDATIONS SHALL:~~

30 ~~(1) BE DEVELOPED WITH INPUT FROM THE EATING DISORDERS~~

1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.

2 (2) BE POSTED ON THE DEPARTMENT'S PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE  
3 INTERNET WEBSITE IN A VARIETY OF LANGUAGES FOR DISSEMINATION TO  
4 PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND KEY SCHOOL PERSONNEL BY SCHOOL ENTITIES.

5 (3) EXPLAIN THE IMPORTANCE OF EATING DISORDER PREVENTION  
6 EDUCATION AND RESOURCES FOR SCHOOL ENTITIES AND KEY SCHOOL  
7 PERSONNEL.

8 (4) LIST THE WARNING SIGNS, RISK FACTORS AND RESOURCES ABOUT  
9 EATING DISORDERS.

10 (E) THE SECRETARY SHALL ESTABLISH THE EATING DISORDERS  
11 ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO OFFER RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT  
12 AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONCERNING EATING DISORDER  
13 AWARENESS AND EDUCATION, INCLUDING THE TYPES AND WARNING SIGNS  
14 OF EATING DISORDERS, WEIGHT AND BODY IMAGE DISORDER, EXCESSIVE  
15 COMPULSIVE EXERCISE AND ORTHOREXIA NERVOSA.

16 (F) THE SECRETARY SHALL APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE EATING  
17 DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE FROM SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS AND  
18 ENTITIES, INCLUDING THE PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION,  
19 THE PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, THE  
20 NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR EATING DISORDERS, THE PENNSYLVANIA  
21 ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NURSES AND PRACTITIONERS, THE PENNSYLVANIA  
22 CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS, THE PENNSYLVANIA  
23 ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS, THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
24 EATING DISORDERS PROFESSIONALS FOUNDATION AND THE ACADEMY FOR  
25 EATING DISORDERS.

26 (G) MEMBERS OF THE EATING DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL  
27 SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

28 (H) DURING THE FIRST YEAR AFTER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
29 EATING DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT  
30 LEAST TWO TIMES PER SCHOOL YEAR AT THE CALL OF THE SECRETARY OR

1 THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE, WHO SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON. THE  
2 FIRST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL OCCUR WITHIN SIXTY (60)  
3 DAYS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS SECTION.

4 (I) DURING SUBSEQUENT YEARS, THE EATING DISORDERS ADVISORY  
5 COMMITTEE SHALL MEET AT LEAST ONE TIME PER SCHOOL YEAR TO  
6 REASSESS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO SCHOOL ENTITIES AND TO  
7 PARENTS.

8 (J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE THE EDUCATIONAL  
9 INFORMATION AND MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS DEVELOPED UNDER  
10 THIS SECTION TO SCHOOL ENTITIES WITHIN ONE YEAR AFTER THE  
11 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EATING DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

12 (K) THE DEPARTMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE EATING  
13 DISORDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SHALL IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP  
14 APPROPRIATE ADDITIONS OR REVISIONS TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S SCHOOL  
15 HEALTH REGULATIONS AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
16 PARENT EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING GUIDANCE REGARDING THE  
17 CLEAR DELINEATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION FROM OTHER  
18 ADMINISTRATIVE DOCUMENTATION.

19 (L) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS AND PHRASES  
20 SHALL HAVE THE MEANINGS GIVEN TO THEM IN THIS SUBSECTION:

21 "DEPARTMENT." THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OF THE  
22 COMMONWEALTH.

23 "KEY SCHOOL PERSONNEL." INCLUDES SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, VICE  
24 PRINCIPALS, SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

25 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC SCHOOL,  
26 WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH:

27 (1) IN WHICH A RESIDENT OF THIS COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY  
28 FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
29 ACT; AND

30 (2) THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF 42 U.S.C. CH. 21 SUBCH. V

1 (RELATING TO FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROGRAMS) (TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL  
2 RIGHTS ACT OF 1964).

3 "SCHOOL ENTITY." A SCHOOL DISTRICT, AREA CAREER AND  
4 TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CHARTER SCHOOL, CYBER CHARTER SCHOOL, REGIONAL  
5 CHARTER SCHOOL, INTERMEDIATE UNIT OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

6 "SECRETARY." THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

7 SECTION 2. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IN 30 DAYS.