
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 897 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY KINKEAD, ISAACSON, CIRESI, MADDEN, McANDREW,
WARREN, SIEGEL, SANCHEZ, MALAGARI, HILL-EVANS, PARKER, ROZZI,
CONKLIN AND NEILSON, APRIL 17, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, APRIL 17, 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 transfers of credits between
6 institutions of higher education, further providing for
7 duties of public institutions of higher education, providing
8 for guaranteed admission, for articulation agreements, for
9 reports to General Assembly and for dispute resolution and
10 further providing for Transfer and Articulation Oversight
11 Committee and for applicability.

12 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
13 hereby enacts as follows:

14 Section 1. Section 2002-C(c)(1) of the act of March 10, 1949
15 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
16 amended to read:

17 Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher
18 education.

19 * * *

20 (c) Other duties.--Each public institution of higher
21 education shall do all of the following:

22 (1) Agree to accept with full junior standing the

1 associate of arts or associate of science degree [into a] and
2 to apply all credits earned at the community college,
3 including major requirements and general education
4 requirements, toward the parallel baccalaureate program as
5 outlined in paragraph (3) by the timelines established by the
6 Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee but no later
7 than December 31, 2011. For purposes of this paragraph, an
8 associate of arts or associate of science degree is a degree
9 designed primarily for transfer to a baccalaureate
10 institution and must contain a minimum of 60 credits. The
11 following shall apply:

12 (i) A student transferring between public
13 institutions of higher education shall not be required to
14 satisfactorily complete more than 60 credits to earn a
15 120 credit baccalaureate degree in a parallel program,
16 regardless of the courses the student took to earn the
17 associate degree prior to transferring.

18 (ii) A student shall have the same requirements for
19 admission to a particular academic program at a public
20 institution of higher education and for retention as a
21 student who began education at that public institution of
22 higher education.

23 (iii) A student transferring to a baccalaureate
24 program with an associate of science or associate of arts
25 degree in a parallel academic program shall be guaranteed
26 admission to the parallel academic program, subject to
27 capacity, as long as the student meets criteria for
28 admission required of students who began education at a
29 State System university.

30 (iv) A university may designate majors or programs

1 of study that are limited access by reason of
2 accreditation, clinical or resource-based capacity.

3 * * *

4 Section 2. The act is amended by adding sections to read:

5 Section 2003.1-C. Guaranteed admission.

6 An institution of higher education shall ensure the
7 following:

8 (1) An undergraduate student transferring from a public
9 community college shall be guaranteed admission into the
10 parallel program at an institution of higher education except
11 in programs that have mandated admission requirements,
12 including:

13 (i) A program for teacher preparation.

14 (ii) A program requiring an audition.

15 (iii) A program with GPA requirements.

16 (iv) A program with additional entrance requirements
17 imposed by an accreditor.

18 (2) Undergraduate students from a community college in
19 this Commonwealth with an associate degree who fulfill the
20 requirements of paragraph (1) shall receive priority for
21 admission to the upper division of a State System of Higher
22 Education or State-related university program over out-of-
23 State students.

24 Section 2003.2-C. Articulation agreements.

25 (a) Agreements.--Any agreements between community colleges
26 and institutions of higher education shall ensure the following:

27 (1) For the purpose of transferring credits between a
28 community college and a public institution of higher
29 education, no articulation agreements under this article
30 shall be required. Those portions of articulation agreements

1 which place requirements on students or community colleges
2 above those required by this article shall no longer be
3 valid.

4 (2) For the purpose of accepting students from a
5 community college with at least 60 credits as a student with
6 junior standing to a public institution of higher education,
7 no articulation agreements under this section shall be
8 required. Those portions of articulation agreements which
9 place requirements on students or community colleges above
10 those required by this article shall no longer be valid.

11 (b) Validity.--The provisions of section 2007-C shall not
12 apply to this section.

13 Section 2003.3-C. Reports to General Assembly.

14 For each academic year, the department shall report to the
15 General Assembly the following:

16 (1) Details of the progress made by an institution of
17 higher education and an institution that elects to
18 participate under section 2006-C in furtherance of enabling
19 the transfer of credits between institutions, and which
20 recommends further action to be taken to ensure all students
21 which have completed credits in community colleges, shall be
22 able to transfer those credits to an institution of higher
23 education.

24 (2) Details of the ability of a student to transfer from
25 community colleges to institutions of higher education,
26 including the ability of students to graduate from
27 institutions of higher education. The report under this
28 section shall annually identify any issues encountered by
29 students in transferring from community colleges to
30 institutions of higher education, as well as issues

1 encountered by transfer students in graduating from
2 institutions of higher education.

3 (3) Any other information related to student transfer,
4 awarding of credit for prior learning or difficulties in the
5 ability of a student to transfer between public institutions
6 of higher education.

7 Section 2003.4-C. Dispute resolution.

8 The department shall establish and maintain a dispute
9 resolution committee for disputes arising over the acceptance of
10 transfer students and credits. The dispute resolution committee
11 shall:

12 (1) Be composed of the following membership:

13 (i) The Secretary of Education or a designee, who
14 shall serve as chair of the dispute resolution committee.

15 (ii) Three members representing community colleges.

16 (iii) Three members representing the State System of
17 Higher Education.

18 (iv) One member representing State-related
19 institutions.

20 (v) One member representing independent institutions
21 of higher education that have elected to participate
22 under section 2006-C.

23 (vi) Other members as appointed by the chair of the
24 committee to the dispute resolution committee.

25 (2) Continue to develop dispute resolution policies and
26 procedures to be utilized when disputes arise relating to the
27 transfer and application of credits under this article.

28 (3) Resolve disputes involving disagreement over the
29 transfer or award of credits or the placement of students
30 between community colleges and institutions of higher

1 education.

2 (4) Resolve appeals from students transferring from
3 community colleges who have been denied acceptance to an
4 institution of higher education after the completion of an
5 associate degree at a community college or who have been
6 denied the acceptance of credits completed at a community
7 college.

8 (5) Report decisions regarding dispute resolutions and
9 appeals as well as the dispute resolution committee's reasons
10 for those decisions. Reports under this paragraph shall be
11 provided regularly to institutions of higher education and
12 community colleges to inform the application of the
13 articulation process.

14 Section 3. Sections 2004-C(b) and (c) (5) and 2007-C of the
15 act are amended to read:

16 Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

17 * * *

18 [(b) Dispute resolution subcommittee.--

19 (1) The chair of the committee shall appoint a dispute
20 resolution subcommittee comprised of:

21 (i) Three members appointed under subsection (a) (1)

22 (ii) (A).

23 (ii) Three members appointed under subsection (a) (1)

24 (ii) (B).

25 (iii) One member appointed under subsection (a) (1)

26 (ii) (D).

27 (2) The chair of the committee may add members to the
28 dispute resolution subcommittee.

29 (3) The dispute resolution subcommittee shall develop
30 dispute resolution policies and procedures to be utilized

1 when disputes arise relating to the transfer and application
2 of credits under this article.]

3 (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight

4 Committee.--The committee shall:

5 * * *

6 [(5) Submit an annual report to the General Assembly
7 that details the progress made by the public institutions of
8 higher education and institutions that elect to participate
9 under section 2006-C in furtherance of enabling the transfer
10 of credits between such institutions and which recommends
11 further action to be taken.]

12 * * *

13 Section 2007-C. Applicability.

14 [~~Nothing~~] Except as otherwise provided, nothing in this
15 article shall [~~do any of the following~~]:

16 (1) Preclude any institution of higher education from
17 establishing institution-to-institution articulation
18 agreements.

19 (2) Void articulation agreements that have been
20 established prior to the effective date of this section.

21 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.