

## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

**HOUSE BILL****No. 499**      Session of  
2015

---

INTRODUCED BY EMRICK, DUNBAR, HELM, BLOOM, LONGIETTI, TOPPER,  
COHEN, LAWRENCE, PYLE, O'NEILL, TOBASH, ROEBUCK AND TOOHIL,  
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

---

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 4, 2015

---

## 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 certification of teachers, further  
6 providing for evaluation of applications for certification.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1216 of the act of March 10, 1949  
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, added  
11 July 13, 2005 (P.L.226, No.46), is amended to read:

12 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for  
13 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be  
14 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall  
15 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and  
16 include a listing of all materials or information needed to  
17 complete the application. The applicant's pending application  
18 shall remain open for one year following the date of such  
19 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be

1 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in  
2 the letter of denial.

3 (b) The grade point average used by the department in  
4 evaluating the grade point average requirements for  
5 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to  
6 academic performance) shall be as follows:

7 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a  
8 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade  
9 point average in effect on the date of application for  
10 certification.

11 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a  
12 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the  
13 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

14 (c) A teacher preparation program approved by the Department  
15 of Education shall recommend applicants for certification who  
16 meet EITHER OF the standards for grade point average set forth <--  
17 in 22 Pa. Code § 354.33(5) and OR (6) (relating to professional <--  
18 competency).

19 (d) (1) A teacher preparation program approved by the  
20 Department of Education shall not require a student ENROLLED IN <--  
21 THE PROGRAM to obtain a passing score on an assessment  
22 administered pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 49.18 (relating to  
23 assessment) as a condition of PROGRAM COMPLETION OR graduation <--  
24 or include the student's score on the assessment as a component  
25 of a student's grade in any course, provided that the  
26 observational assessment of professional knowledge and practice  
27 may be included as a component of a student's student teaching  
28 grade.

29 (2) SUBJECT TO SECTION 1207.3(A), A TEACHER PREPARATION <--  
30 PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL NOT

1 INCLUDE A STUDENT'S SCORE ON THE ASSESSMENT OF BASIC SKILLS  
2 ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO 22 PA. CODE § 49.18 (RELATING TO  
3 ASSESSMENT) AS A COMPONENT OF A STUDENT'S GRADE IN ANY COURSE.

4 ~~(2)~~ (3) For purposes of this paragraph: <--

5 (i) "Assessment" shall include the assessment of basic <--  
6 skills, the assessment of general knowledge, the assessment of  
7 professional knowledge and practice or the assessment of subject  
8 matter as such terms are defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating  
9 to definitions).

10 ~~(ii) "Assessment of professional knowledge and practice" as~~ <--  
11 ~~defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating to definitions).~~

12 (II) "ASSESSMENT OF BASIC SKILLS" SHALL HAVE THE MEANING <--  
13 GIVEN IN 22 PA. CODE § 49.1.

14 (III) "ASSESSMENT OF PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICE"  
15 SHALL HAVE THE MEANING GIVEN IN 22 PA. CODE § 49.1.

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