

---

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 227 Session of  
2023

---

INTRODUCED BY BOROWICZ, M. MACKENZIE, ROAE, HAMM, ZIMMERMAN,  
ROWE, LEADBETER AND WATRO, MARCH 10, 2023

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, MARCH 10, 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 security, providing for  
6 school armed guards.

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

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

12 Section 1316-C. School armed guards.

13 (a) Guards and designation.--Within one year of the  
14 effective date of this section, each school entity that has met  
15 the tier 1 baseline criteria for physical security established  
16 by the School Safety and Security Committee shall:

17 (1) Assign at least one school armed guard to each  
18 school building.

19 (2) Designate a point or points of entry and exit in  
20 each school building through which each individual must enter

1 and exit, except in the event of a fire drill, school  
2 security drill or emergency evacuation.

3 (3) Equip each exterior door of a school building that  
4 has not been designated a point of entry and exit with:

5 (i) a clearly marked sign designating the door as an  
6 emergency exit only; and

7 (ii) an audible alarm that sounds when the door is  
8 opened.

9 (b) Assignment.--A school armed guard assigned to a school  
10 building shall be present at all times in the school building  
11 during the school day and extracurricular activities that occur  
12 outside the school day in the school building.

13 (c) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following  
14 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this  
15 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

16 "School armed guard." An individual who:

17 (1) Is employed by a school entity or third-party  
18 vendor.

19 (2) Maintains a current and valid certification in the  
20 use and handling of a firearm issued under any of the  
21 following:

22 (i) The act of October 10, 1974 (P.L.705, No.235),  
23 known as the Lethal Weapons Training Act.

24 (ii) The act of December 13, 2005 (P.L.432, No.79),  
25 known as the Retired Law Enforcement Identification Act.

26 (iii) 44 Pa.C.S. Ch. 74 Subch. C (relating to  
27 sheriff and deputy sheriff education and training).

28 (iv) 53 Pa.C.S. Ch. 21 Subch. D (relating to  
29 municipal police education and training).

30 "School building." A building owned by or under the control

1 of a school entity where classes are taught or extracurricular  
2 activities are conducted on a regular basis.

3 "School entity." The following:

4 (1) A school district, intermediate unit, area career  
5 and technical school, charter school, cyber charter school or  
6 regional charter school.

7 (2) An approved private school that is participating in  
8 the School Safety and Security Grant Program.

9 "School Safety and Security Committee." The School Safety  
10 and Security Committee established under section 1302-B.

11 "Third-party vendor." A company or entity approved by the  
12 Office for Safe Schools under section 1302-A(b)(8) or the  
13 commission under section 1315-C(2) that provides school security  
14 services.

15 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.