

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 645 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY LANGERHOLC, CULVER, ROTHMAN, J. WARD, LAUGHLIN,
BROWN, MASTRIANO, PENNYCUICK, VOGEL AND STEFANO,
APRIL 21, 2025

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, APRIL 21, 2025

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 preliminary provisions, further
6 providing for definitions; in terms and courses of study,
7 further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code
8 and providing for handwriting instruction required; and, in
9 charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable
10 to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions
11 of this act and of other acts and regulations.

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

14 Section 1. Section 102 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30,
15 No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by
16 adding a definition to read:

17 Section 102. Definitions.--When used in this act the
18 following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

19 * * *

20 "Cursive handwriting." A style of penmanship in which the
21 symbols of the language are written in a conjoined or flowing
22 manner often with the strokes of successive characters joined

1 and the angles rounded.

2 * * *

3 Section 2. Section 1511 of the act is amended to read:

4 Section 1511. Subjects of Instruction; Flag Code.--In every
5 elementary public and private school, established and maintained
6 in this Commonwealth, the following subjects shall be taught, in
7 the English language and from English texts: English, including
8 spelling, reading and writing, which shall include cursive
9 handwriting, arithmetic, geography, the history of the United
10 States and of Pennsylvania, civics, including loyalty to the
11 State and National Government, safety education, and the humane
12 treatment of birds and animals, health, including physical
13 education, and physiology, music and art. Other subjects shall
14 be taught in the public elementary schools and also in the
15 public high schools as may be prescribed by the standards of the
16 State Board of Education. All such subjects, except foreign
17 languages, shall be taught in the English language and from
18 English texts: Provided, however, That, at the discretion of the
19 [Superintendent of Public Instruction] Secretary of Education,
20 the teaching of subjects in a language other than English may be
21 permitted as part of a sequence in foreign language study or as
22 part of a bilingual education program if the teaching personnel
23 are properly certified in the subject fields. Each school
24 district shall provide and distribute to each pupil, enrolled in
25 the eighth grade of the public schools, one illustrated copy of
26 the National Flag Code, and shall, from time to time, make
27 available such copies as are necessary for replacements from
28 year to year. It shall be the duty of each teacher in the public
29 schools to make such use of the code as may, from time to time,
30 seem proper.

1 Section 3. The act is amended by adding a section to read:

2 Section 1529. Handwriting Instruction Required.--Each
3 student shall receive cursive handwriting instruction to ensure
4 that students have the ability to read and write cursive
5 handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

6 Section 4. Section 1732-A(a) of the act is amended to read:

7 Section 1732-A. Provisions Applicable to Charter Schools.--

8 (a) Charter schools shall be subject to the following:

9 Sections 108, 110, 111, 321, 325, 326, 327, 431, 436, 443,
10 510, 518, 527, 708, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 752, 753, 755,
11 771, 776, 777, 808, 809, 810, 1109, 1111, 1112(a), 1301, 1310,
12 1317, 1317.1, 1317.2, 1318, 1326, 1327, 1327.2, 1329, 1330,
13 1332, 1333, 1333.1, 1333.2, 1333.3, 1303-A, 1513, 1517, 1518,
14 1521, 1523, 1529, 1531, 1547, 2014-A, Article XIII-A and Article
15 XIV.

16 Act of July 17, 1961 (P.L.776, No.341), known as the
17 "Pennsylvania Fair Educational Opportunities Act."

18 Act of July 19, 1965 (P.L.215, No.116), entitled "An act
19 providing for the use of eye protective devices by persons
20 engaged in hazardous activities or exposed to known dangers in
21 schools, colleges and universities."

22 Section 4 of the act of January 25, 1966 (1965 P.L.1546,
23 No.541), entitled "An act providing scholarships and providing
24 funds to secure Federal funds for qualified students of the
25 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who need financial assistance to
26 attend postsecondary institutions of higher learning, making an
27 appropriation, and providing for the administration of this
28 act."

29 Act of July 12, 1972 (P.L.765, No.181), entitled "An act
30 relating to drugs and alcohol and their abuse, providing for

1 projects and programs and grants to educational agencies, other
2 public or private agencies, institutions or organizations."

3 Act of December 15, 1986 (P.L.1595, No.175), known as the
4 "Antihazing Law."

5 * * *

6 Section 5. Section 1749-A(a)(1) of the act, reenacted and
7 amended October 31, 2024 (P.L.1129, No.135), is amended by
8 adding a subparagraph to read:

9 Section 1749-A. Applicability of other provisions of this act
10 and of other acts and regulations.

11 (a) General requirements.--Cyber charter schools shall be
12 subject to the following:

13 (1) The following:

14 * * *

15 (liii.1) Section 1529.

16 * * *

17 Section 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.