



Accomplishments & Activity of the Senate Education Committee 2008-09 and 2009-10 Legislative Session

Act 104 of 2010 (HB 101) - Omnibus Public School Code Amendments

Key Provisions of this Bipartisan Legislation Included:

- Bill:** Senate Bill 56
Sponsor: Piccola
Subject: Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education's (PDE) Office of Safe Schools to: direct all school entities to submit school violence reports by July 31 of each year; verify the existence of corrective action plans to reduce violence; develop reporting forms for school entities and police departments; verify that school entities have a current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local police; post a school violence report on the Internet by November 1 of each year; consider additional types of anti-violence programs for grant funding; and allocate targeted grants through a thorough, competitive review process, including an evaluation of the program after the grant has been awarded.
- Also requires the State Board of Education to work with an advisory committee to promulgate regulations setting forth: a model MOU; protocol for notifying the police of certain offenses, including immediate notification of the most serious offenses; and procedures for addressing students with disabilities.
- Requires police to verify the accuracy of school violence reports; requires school administrators to work with local advisory committees to develop MOUs with police; and imposes penalties on chief school administrators who fail to file accurate reports in a timely manner.
- Bill:** Senate Bill 88
Sponsor: Pippy
Subject: Allows a child with a parent who is called to active military duty outside of Pennsylvania to remain a resident of the child's current school district.
- Bill:** Senate Bill 287
Sponsor: Browne
Subject: Streamlines the required components of the annual financial report to be filed by school districts and intermediate units; requires school officials to certify that the report is consistent with the school entity's audited financial statements and file a revised report if necessary; and imposes penalties for failing to report on a timely basis.
- Bill:** Senate Bill 441
Sponsor: Vance
Subject: Amends the teacher certification requirements; permits medical examinations for certification or employment to be performed by a nurse practitioner; and requires PDE to post Pennsylvania Value Added Assessment System (PVAAS) data on its website.
- Bill:** Senate Bill 687
Sponsor: Pileggi
Subject: Exempts school property owned by or leased to a charter school, cyber charter school or associated nonprofit foundation, which is used for school purposes, from state and local taxes, including payments in lieu of taxes.
- Bill:** Senate Bill 929
Sponsor: Dinniman
Subject: Creates the Higher Education College Textbook Affordability, Accountability and Accessibility Act. In addition to requiring textbook publishers to disclose pricing information up-front to faculty and provide unbundled versions of textbooks, the bill also requires institutions to provide the prices and International Standard Book Numbers of required and recommended textbooks when students register for classes, outlines faculty responsibilities when considering textbook selection (while also explicitly preserving academic freedom and



autonomy in textbook selection), provides general guidance for college textbook rental programs, calls for making electronic versions of textbooks available by 2020, encourages institutions to adopt college textbook adoption policies and creates a statewide college textbook policies advisory committee.

Bill: Senate Bill 954
Sponsor: Piccola
Subject: Allows approved private schools and chartered schools for the deaf and blind to apply directly to PDE for emergency permits for employee certifications.

SENATE/HOUSE COMPANION BILLS INCLUDED IN ACT 104:

Bill:	Senate Bill 674	House Bill 929
Sponsor:	Waugh	Grucela
Subject:	Allows a board of school directors to establish an “Operation Recognition” program to award high school diplomas to honorably discharged veterans of the Vietnam War who would have graduated from high school if not for entering military service.	

Bill:	Senate Bill 736	House Bill 1336
Sponsor:	Orie	M. Smith
Subject:	Requires school entities to develop policies to allow students to self-carry asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, provided the students demonstrate competency to use them.	

Bill:	Senate Bill 766	House Bill 713
Sponsor:	Robbins	Fleck
Subject:	Requires PDE, to the extent funds are appropriated, to administer the Science in Motion program, under which PDE would award grants to higher education institutions that provide science and technology equipment to school entities and assist in teaching science to students and providing professional development for teachers.	

HOUSE BILLS INCLUDED IN ACT 104:

Bill: House Bill 101
Sponsor: Longietti
Subject: Requires PDE to provide school districts with information and curriculum concerning economics, economic education and personal financial literacy and requires PDE to convene a task force to assess trends and needs in this area and make recommendations.

Bill: House Bill 240
Sponsor: Conklin
Subject: Requires institutions of higher education and private licensed schools to establish a sexual violence awareness education program and a student bill of rights.

Bill: House Bill 349
Sponsor: Reed
Subject: Permits Pennsylvania colleges and universities to establish a program to permit older Pennsylvanians to take college courses on a tuition-free basis.

Bill: House Bill 794
Sponsor: Roebuck
Subject: Subject to annual appropriations, requires PDE to pay all or a portion of the cost for teachers to obtain National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification and reimburse school districts for all or a portion of the school district’s substitute fees; gives priority to teachers in struggling school districts; and requires teachers receiving assistance to make a commitment to serve in a Pennsylvania public school for three years.

Bill: House Bill 870
Sponsor: O’Neill
Subject: Requires the Secretary of Education to establish state standards for business, computer and information technology courses.

Bill:	House Bill 1148
Sponsor:	Murt
Subject:	Requires school entities to include food allergy reaction management in their local wellness policies and requires PDE to help districts apply for federal and state funds related to child health, nutrition and food allergy management.
Bill:	House Bill 1618
Sponsor:	Roebuck
Subject:	Requires PDE to report graduation and dropout rates in the Commonwealth and implement and maintain a data collection and reporting system.
Bill:	House Bill 2026
Sponsor:	Conklin
Subject:	Encourages school districts to develop a dating violence policy, conduct dating violence training for staff, and provide dating violence education to students in grades 9-12.

Summary of Public Hearings/Briefings

Date:	February 11, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	School Violence
Date:	February 19, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Keystone Exams
Date:	March 12, 2009 (Lincoln Charter School, York)
Topic:	Charter School Law
Date:	March 25, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Budget Hearings (Higher Education)
Date:	March 26, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Budget Hearings (Part One: Basic Education)
Date:	March 30, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Budget Hearings (Part Two: Basic Education)
Date:	April 22, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Teacher Strikes/Impact on Public Education
Date:	May 13, 2009 (Polaris School, Lebanon)
Topic:	Alternative Education Funding/Standards
Date:	June 2, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Keystone Exams
Date:	June 4, 2009 (West Chester University, West Chester)
Topic:	Higher Education Affordability (Senate Bills 820, 881)
Date:	June 24, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Nominee to Philadelphia School Reform Commission (Joseph Dworetzsky)
Date:	July 14, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Keystone Exams Compromise (Briefing by State Board of Education Chair Joe Torsella)
Date:	August 7, 2009 (St. Francis University, Loretto)
Topic:	School Consolidation
Date:	September 14, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Nominee to Philadelphia School Reform Commission (David Girard-diCarlo)
Date:	November 10, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Briefing by Superintendent of Philadelphia School District/School Reform (Dr. Arlene Ackerman)
Date:	November 17, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Intermediate Unit Services
Date:	December 8, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Costing-Out Study
Date:	December 16, 2009 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Briefing on House Resolution 424/Valley Forge Military College



Date:	January 22, 2010 (Pittsburgh Milliones University Prep School, Pittsburgh)
Topic:	Education Empowerment Act
Date:	March 4, 2010 (York College, York)
Topic:	Education Empowerment Act
Date:	March 17, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Mandate Waivers
Date:	April 9, 2010 (Widener University, Chester)
Topic:	Charter Schools
Date:	April 14, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Funding for Approved Private and Chartered Schools for Students with the Most Severe Disabilities (Senate Bill 982)
Date:	May 4, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Briefing by State Board of Education
Date:	June 8, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Briefing on School District Consolidation (Senate Bill 1321)
Date:	September 21, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Overhaul of Special Education Funding (House Bill 704)
Date:	September 24, 2010 (St. Vincent College, Latrobe)
Topic:	College and Career Readiness
Date:	September 28, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Briefing by Superintendents from Philadelphia/Pittsburgh School Districts and Teacher Union Leadership (Teacher Contracts)
Date:	October 8, 2010 (York Adams Academy, York)
Topic:	School Success/Education for Non-Traditional Students
Date:	October 12, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	Student Data Privacy in Higher Education
Date:	October 13, 2010 (Harrisburg)
Topic:	School Choice



Legislation Voted Out of Committee

School & Student Safety

Senate Bill 55

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Establishes a list of crimes that would automatically ban a person from working in a school.

Senate Bill 56

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Promotes better working relationships between school administrators and local police departments.

Basic Education

Senate Bill 88

Sponsor: Pippy

Subject: Allows a child with a parent who is called to active military duty outside of Pennsylvania to remain a resident of the child's current school district.

Senate Bill 213

Sponsor: Robbins

Subject: Authorizes the Commonwealth to join the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Senate Bill 281

Sponsor: Orie

Subject: Prohibits PDE from developing or implementing any graduation competency assessment without an act of the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 287

Sponsor: Browne

Subject: Changes financial accounting standards for the annual report provided by school entities to PDE.

Senate Bill 329

Sponsor: Brubaker

Subject: Increases the threshold for competitive bidding for contracts.

Senate Bill 332

Sponsor: Eichelberger

Subject: Provides for adjustments to the amounts at which competitive bidding is required based on the Consumer Price Index; and further provides for the costs at which work must be done under separate contracts; multiple price quotations must be obtained, work may be done by school district personnel, and projects must be advertised.

Senate Bill 553

Sponsor: Rafferty

Subject: Requires a two-thirds majority vote for a board of school directors to increase a district's tax millage rate.



Senate Bill 598

Sponsor: Dinniman
 Subject: Provides for school district liability for tuition for inmates who are residents of the district and enforcement of payment obligation.

Senate Bill 624

Sponsor: Gordner
 Subject: Allows private school, charter school, and homeschooled students to participate in extracurricular activities in public schools.

Senate Bill 674

Sponsor: Waugh
 Subject: Permits the awarding of a high school diploma to veterans of the Vietnam War who did not graduate due to entry into the military.

Senate Bill 732

Sponsor: Dinniman
 Subject: Provides for the Governor's Schools of Excellence for programs offered in 2009.

Senate Bill 766

Sponsor: Robbins
 Subject: Establishes the Science Technology Partnership Program.

Senate Bill 890

Sponsor: M.J. White
 Subject: Requires reporting by school entities of athletic opportunities for secondary students.

Senate Bill 899

Sponsor: Piccola
 Subject: Increases the income eligibility limits for students to participate in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program.

Senate Bill 968

Sponsor: Dinniman
 Subject: Requires the State Board of Education to adopt regulations pertaining to the confinement of students alone in a room.

Senate Bill 971

Sponsor: McIlhinney
 Subject: Establishes requirements for school districts that employ personnel to perform functions of an elected tax collector.

Senate Bill 1007

Sponsor: Dinniman
 Subject: Prohibits a lame-duck school board with three or more defeated members from taking action on a superintendent's contract.

Senate Bill 1073

Sponsor: Piccola
 Subject: Makes changes to the Pre-K Counts Program.

Senate Bill 1086

Sponsor: Dinniman
 Subject: Eliminates the primary election for a school director beginning in 2011 and requires nomination papers to be filed without regard to political party memberships.

Senate Bill 1134

Sponsor: O'Pake
 Subject: Permits a driver's license suspended due to truancy to be restored prior to the expiration of suspension when the driver provides proof of high school completion, reached the age of 21, or obtained a GED.

Senate Bill 1135

Sponsor: Orie
 Subject: Allows the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association to adopt a records-access policy consistent with the Right-to-Know Law.



Senate Bill 1202

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Requires school districts to give notice when the district does not accept goods and services offered by an intermediate unit.

Senate Bill 1248

Sponsor: Farnese

Subject: Requires PDE to develop and disseminate financial education materials to schools.

Senate Bill 1297

Sponsor: Dinniman

Subject: Requires public schools to provide a minimum of 180 days of instruction even when days are cancelled due to weather conditions.

Senate Bill 1331

Sponsor: McIlhinney

Subject: Requires a majority vote of the board of school directors to initiate an appeal to increase or decrease the assessed value of real property and require a separate vote for each identified property.

Senate Bill 1414

Sponsor: Fontana

Subject: Establishes a homeless student task force within PDE, provides for its powers and duties, and provides for administrative support.

Higher Education**Senate Bill 820**

Sponsor: Dinniman

Subject: Provides for additional articulation agreements by public institutions of higher education.

Senate Bill 881

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Enacts the Tuition Control Study Commission to determine means of authorizing tuition controls relating to college education.

Senate Bill 929

Sponsor: Dinniman

Subject: Provides for the sale of certain course materials at institutions of higher education, for responsibilities of faculty and institutions of higher education and for college textbook rental pilot programs; and establishes the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee.

Senate Bill 1307

Sponsor: Logan

Subject: Provides for changes to the composition of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

Libraries**Senate Bill 893**

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Provides state aid for fiscal year 2009-2010 for libraries.

Charter & Cyber Charter Schools**Senate Bill 1314**

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Establishes the Office of Charter and Cyber Charter Schools within PDE and provides additional accountability measures.

Teaching & Instruction**Senate Bill 441**

Sponsor: Vance

Subject: Allows a medical exam related to teacher employment or certification to be performed by a certified registered nurse practitioner or physician's assistant.



Senate Bill 629

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Provides for certification for school social workers.

Senate Bill 954

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Allows approved private schools for the deaf and blind to apply for emergency permits for teachers to fill vacancies.

Senate Bill 993

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Provides for confidentiality of home addresses of school employees.

Senate Bill 1011

Sponsor: Dinniman

Subject: Permits the issuance of residency certificates for service in a specific shortage area of instruction under certain conditions.

Senate Bill 1252

Sponsor: Dinniman

Subject: Establishes a program to defray costs of a teacher becoming certified by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards.

Senate Bill 1385

Sponsor: Kitchen

Subject: Provides for certificates to qualifying persons to teach military science.

Senate Bill 1404

Sponsor: Brubaker

Subject: Provides for the definition of “vocational agricultural education.”

Senate Bill 1441

Sponsor: Rafferty

Subject: Permits a person who is qualified to teach under the Private Driver Education or Training School Act to teach theoretical driver education in the classroom.

Empowerment**Senate Bill 250**

Sponsor: Corman

Subject: Permits PDE to grant a waiver of certain construction mandates when a school district agrees to solicit bids as both multiple and single prime construction bids.

Senate Bill 1192

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Extends and strengthens the empowerment law for underperforming schools.

Health & Wellness**Senate Bill 736**

Sponsor: Ori

Subject: Requires school entities to approve policies that allow for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors by students in school settings.

Senate Bill 1009

Sponsor: Kasunic

Subject: Requires at least one school staff member certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation to be present at all times during the school day.

Senate Bill 1241

Sponsor: Browne

Subject: Provides for management of concussions and head injuries.

Other**Senate Bill 1318**

Sponsor: Mensch

Subject: Creates the State Military College Legislative Appointment Initiative Program.

Senate Resolutions

Senate Resolution 156

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Encourages the State Board of Education to adopt the final-form regulation, Reg. No. 006-312, establishing new high school graduation requirements, and development of voluntary Keystone Exams for use by school districts in this Commonwealth to ensure our high school graduates are ready to compete in the 21st century in the global economy and succeed in the arena of higher education.

Senate Resolution 243

Sponsor: Piccola

Subject: Directs the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a study of efficiency in public school funding and directs the State Board of Education to provide documents and assistance to the Joint State Government Commission in its conduct of this study.

Senate Resolution 343

Sponsor: Pileggi

Subject: Directs the Joint State Government Commission to study the Library Code for modernization.

House Bills

House Bill 101

Sponsor: Longietti

Subject: Provides for the development of economic education and personal financial literacy programs; and establishes the Economic Education and Personal Financial Literacy Fund (final omnibus school code legislation).



Key Legislative Priorities for the Future:

- School choice options in the form of opportunity scholarships;
- Reform and strengthening Pennsylvania's charter and cyber charter school laws;
- Parent petitions and empowering parents of 51 percent of students in failing schools to force closure or restructuring or to convert to a charter school;
- Mandate relief to assist districts with local costs;
- School safety particularly as it relates to background checks; and
- Teacher and principal evaluations and effectiveness.

Senate Education Committee Staff:

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