

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 246 Session of
2025INTRODUCED BY COLEMAN, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, COSTA, STEFANO,
DUSH, ARGALL AND MASTRIANO, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

AS AMENDED ON THIRD CONSIDERATION, MAY 12, 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 student supports, providing for
6 parental and employee notification of ~~weapon~~ CERTAIN <--
7 incidents.

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

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

13 ~~Section 1303.2 A. Parental and Employee Notification of~~ <--
14 ~~Weapon Incidents. (a) A school entity, nonpublic school or~~
15 ~~private school shall notify parents and guardians and school~~
16 ~~employees of an incident involving the possession of a weapon on~~
17 ~~any school property that constitutes a violation of one of the~~
18 ~~following:~~

19 ~~(1) Section 1317.2.~~

20 ~~(2) 18 Pa.C.S. § 912 (relating to possession of weapon on~~

school property).

(3) Locally established policies of the school entity's,
nonpublic school's or private school's governing body relating
to weapons.

SECTION 1303.2-A. PARENTAL AND EMPLOYE NOTIFICATION OF
CERTAIN INCIDENTS.--(A) A SCHOOL ENTITY, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR
PRIVATE SCHOOL SHALL NOTIFY PARENTS AND GUARDIANS AND SCHOOL
EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN INCIDENTS INVOLVING:

(1) THE POSSESSION OF A WEAPON ON ANY SCHOOL PROPERTY THAT
CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) SECTION 1317.2.

(II) 18 PA.C.S. § 912 (RELATING TO POSSESSION OF WEAPON ON
SCHOOL PROPERTY).

(III) LOCALLY ESTABLISHED POLICIES OF THE SCHOOL ENTITY'S,
NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S OR PRIVATE SCHOOL'S GOVERNING BODY RELATING
TO WEAPONS.

(2) A VIOLATION OF A SCHOOL ENTITY'S, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S OR
PRIVATE SCHOOL'S BULLYING POLICY. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS
PARAGRAPH, THE TERM "BULLYING" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS IN
SECTION 1303.1-A(E).

(3) AN INCIDENT THAT CONSTITUTES HARASSMENT UNDER 18 PA.C.S.
§ 2709 (RELATING TO HARASSMENT).

(4) AN INCIDENT THAT INVOLVES SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.

(5) AN INCIDENT THAT INVOLVES DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY.

(b) The following shall apply:

(1) Unless the circumstances of the incident necessitate
otherwise, the notification shall be made in accordance with the
following:

(i) The notification required under subsection (a) shall be
made within twenty-four (24) hours of the incident.

<--

1 (ii) The notification shall be made using a method of
2 communication likely to reach parents and guardians and school
3 employees.

4 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), if an incident
5 ~~involving~~ INVOLVES the possession of a weapon OR DAMAGE TO <--
6 SCHOOL PROPERTY AND occurs at a school building, the school
7 entity, nonpublic school or private school may limit
8 notification to parents and guardians of students enrolled in or
9 attending, or school employees assigned to, the school building
10 where the incident occurred.

11 (3) If the school building at which the incident occurs
12 shares a campus with other school buildings, the school entity,
13 nonpublic school or private school shall make notification to
14 parents and guardians of students enrolled in or attending, or
15 school employees assigned to, any building situated on the shared
16 campus.

17 (4) If an incident ~~involving~~ INVOLVES the possession of a <--
18 weapon OR DAMAGE TO SCHOOL PROPERTY AND occurs at a school- <--
19 sponsored activity or on a public conveyance providing
20 transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored activity,
21 the following shall apply:

22 (i) The school entity, nonpublic school or private school
23 shall ensure that the notification required under this section
24 reaches the appropriate population of parents and guardians and
25 school employees.

26 (ii) A notification is not required if the incident is not
27 directly related to the school-sponsored activity or the
28 students or staff involved in the activity.

29 (5) Subject to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family
30 educational and privacy rights), a school employee to whom a

1 student in possession of a weapon under subsection (a) is
2 assigned shall be deemed to be a school official with legitimate
3 educational interest in the student, and the school entity,
4 nonpublic school or private school shall notify the school
5 employe of the student's identity and portion of the student's
6 records relating to the incident.

7 (6) NOTWITHSTANDING THE REQUIREMENTS IN PARAGRAPH (1), FOR <--
8 INCIDENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) (2) AND (3), A SCHOOL ENTITY,
9 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL SHALL NOTIFY THE FOLLOWING:

10 (I) SCHOOL EMPLOYES.

11 (II) THE PARENTS AND GUARDIANS OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN
12 THE INCIDENT.

13 (c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to:

14 (1) Limit a school entity's, nonpublic school's or private
15 school's responsibility to report incidents to local law
16 enforcement prior to providing parents and guardians and school
17 employes with the notification required under subsection (a).

18 (2) In an emergency, supersede or limit a school entity's,
19 nonpublic school's or private school's responsibility to follow
20 the procedure in its disaster response and emergency
21 preparedness plan developed under 35 Pa.C.S. § 7701(g) (relating
22 to duties concerning disaster prevention).

23 (3) Supersede or preempt any provision of a collective
24 bargaining agreement between a school entity, nonpublic school
25 or private school and an employe organization.

26 (d) Except as required to notify the parent or guardian of a
27 student found in possession of a weapon, to provide notice to
28 school employes under subsection (b) (5) or as otherwise
29 permitted, the school entity's, nonpublic school's or private
30 school's notification to parents or guardians or school employes

1 under this section shall not contain personally identifiable
2 information about a student in compliance with 20 U.S.C. §
3 1232g.

4 (e) For the purposes of this section, the following words
5 and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
6 subsection:

7 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a public
8 school, within this Commonwealth,7 in which a resident of this <--
9 Commonwealth may legally fulfill the compulsory school
10 attendance requirements of this act and that meets the
11 applicable requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of
12 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 42 U.S.C. § 2000 et seq.).

13 ~~"Private school." A private academic school as defined in~~ <--
14 ~~section 2 of the act of January 28, 1988 (P.L.24, No.11), known~~
15 ~~as the Private Academic Schools Act.~~

16 "School entity." An area career and technical school,
17 charter school, cyber charter school, regional charter school or
18 school district or intermediate unit.

19 "School property." Any of the following:

20 (1) Public school grounds.

21 (2) A location where a school-sponsored activity is
22 conducted.

23 (3) A conveyance providing transportation to a school
24 entity, nonpublic school, private school or school-sponsored
25 activity.

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