

AN ACT

Providing for state infrastructure and incentives for the development of Community Schools.

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

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Short title.

This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Act”

Section 102. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this act shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Community School.” A public and private partnership to coordinate educational, developmental, family, health and after-school care programs for students, families and local communities, at a public school, with the objectives of improving academic achievement, reducing absenteeism, building stronger relationships between students, parents, and communities, and improving skills, capacity, and well-being of the surrounding community residents.

“Eligible Consortium.” Partnership established for the purposes of establishing, operating and sustaining a community school as set forth in Chapter 3.

“Community Partner.” A provider of one or more eligible services.

“Eligible services.” Services that include but are not limited to:

- (1) Primary medical and dental care that will be available to students and community residents.

- (2) Academic enrichment activities designed to promote students' cognitive development and provide opportunities to practice and apply academic skills.
- (3) Programs designed to increase attendance, including reducing early chronic absenteeism rates.
- (4) Youth development programs designed to promote other aspects of young people's social, emotional, physical, and moral development, including arts, sports physical fitness, youth leadership, community service and service learning opportunities.
- (5) Early childhood education, including head start and early head start programs.
- (6) Programs designed to facilitate parental involvement in, and engagement with, their children's education, including parental activities that involve supporting, monitoring and advocating for their children's education, promote parent leadership in the life of the school, and build parenting skills.
- (7) School-age child care services including but not limited to before-and after-school services and full day programming that operates during school holidays, summers, vacations and weekends.
- (8) Programs that provide assistance to students who have been truant, suspended, or expelled and that offer multiple pathways to high school graduation or GED completion.
 - (i) Youth and adult job training and career counseling services.
 - (ii) Nutrition education services

(iii) Adult education, including instruction in English as a second language, adult literacy, computer literacy, financial literacy, and hard-skills training.

(iv) Programs that provide remedial education and enrichment activities.

“Co-located Services.” Eligible Services available to students, families and community members through a community partner and located within school grounds

“Linked Services.” Eligible Services available to students, families and community members through a community partner located outside of school grounds.

Section 103. Legislative purpose.

The General Assembly finds as follows:

- (1) All children are capable of success.
- (2) Children do not learn in a vacuum. A child’s success in school is a complex confluence of the child himself, his/her family system, the educational system, and the community, coming together to yield (or impede) learning and educational success. Therefore, children succeed when adults work together to foster positive educational outcomes.
- (3) Schools today are limited in their ability to dedicate time and resources to provide a wide range of educational opportunities and services to students.
- (4) Research shows that community schools have a powerful positive impact on students, as demonstrated by increased academic success, a positive change in attitudes towards school and learning, and decreased behavioral problems.
- (5) Community schools are cost-effective because they leverage existing resources provided by local, State, federal, and private sources and bring programs to the schools, where the students are already congregated.

CHAPTER 2
GRANT PROGRAM

Section 201. Administration.

This act shall be administered by the Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Initiative

Section 202. Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Initiative

- (1) The Pennsylvania Community School Incentive Initiative shall be established and managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education who shall promote and encourage the use of public school facilities by community and neighborhood groups.
- (2) The Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Initiative shall award multi-year grants to incentivize the establishment of no less than 10 community schools within two year of the effective date of the act.
- (3) The Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Initiative shall work closely with grantees in the final stages of the grant cycle to identify and access long term funding sources sufficient to allow for the sustainability of the community school program.
- (4) The Pennsylvania Community School Incentive Initiative shall within 60 days of the effective date of the act convene a Pennsylvania Community Schools Advisory Committee that shall consist of:
 - (i) The Pennsylvania Secretary of Education or their designee;
 - (ii) The President of the State Board of Education or their designee;
 - (iii) The Secretary of Community and Economic Development or their designee;
 - (iv) The Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs or their designee;
 - (v) The Secretary of Health or their designee;
 - (vi) The Secretary of Labor and Industry or their designee;

- (vii) The Secretary of Public Welfare or their designee;
 - (viii) The Chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education or their designee;
 - (ix) Representative from PAIU.
- (5) The Pennsylvania Community School Advisory Committee shall execute the following tasks:
- (i) Advise on the development of the Pennsylvania Community Schools Incentive Initiative including the development of a results-based framework and accompanying performance indicators with which to measure the success of the program.
 - (ii) Participate in the selection process for community school incentive grantees.
 - (iii) Develop recommendations on how all public schools in Pennsylvania can become centers of their communities by opening school facilities for non-profit and community use.
 - (iv) Identify potential funding sources for the provision of eligible services within new community schools initiatives.
 - (v) Explore long-term funding sources to support the sustainability of the community school grantee programs. Long term funding sources may include but are not limited to:
 - (a) Title 1 funding may be used to update and enhance academic programming including tutoring and academic enrichment. Title I funding may also be used to support the hiring of a full time community school director.
 - (b) School Improvement Grant may be used for the enhancement and inclusion of co-located non-academic support services such as health care, dental care and social services.

(c) 21st Century Community Learning Center Funding may be used for out-of-school time and youth development programming.

(d) Race To The Top grant funding may be used for teacher and staff professional development.

(vi) Develop yearly measurable performance goals to assess:

(a) How to increase the percentage of families and students receiving services for each year of the program;

(b) The outcomes for students and families.

(c) The number of public schools that have established formal relationships with community and neighborhood groups for use of school facilities.

(2) Within 180 days of the effective date of the act, PDE shall establish a process for awarding planning grants of no more than \$50,000 and implementation grants of no more than \$500,000 a year to successful eligible consortiums as set forth in chapter 3.

Section 202. Requirements.

(a) Applicant Requirements – Applicants for community school incentive implementation grants shall include:

(1) An assessment of the local school community and the neighborhood's needs and assets.

(2) A description of the proposed eligible consortium compliant with criteria stipulated in Chapter 3 of this act, including the type and number of community partners as established by Section 102, and how this consortium addresses the needs and builds upon the assets of the community that the consortium will serve.

(3) A proposed budget and narrative description of the proposed use of grant funds. The budget shall reflect a core concept of service coordination and integration and how the

consortium shall provide at least four additional eligible services that did not exist prior to the consortium. At least 75% of the eligible services provide must be co-located services, no more than 25% of services may be linked.

- (4) Identification of operational funding for eligible services and community partners.
- (5) A plan for the development of a community advisory board to include members of the school leadership, school faculty, parents of school students, community leaders, community-based organizations and other community members.

(b) Recipient Requirements - PDE shall require each recipient of the grant under this section to:

- (1) Conduct periodic evaluations of the progress achieved with funds allocated under the grant, consistent with the purposes of this section.
- (2) Use such evaluations to refine and improve activities conducted with the grant and the performance measures for such activities.
- (3) Make the results of such evaluations publicly available, including providing public notice of such availability.
- (4) Work with PDE to identify best practices and lessons learned for the purpose of informing the state-wide community school policy.

CHAPTER 3

ELIGIBILITY

Section 301. Eligibility.

A consortium shall be eligible for consideration for a Community Schools Incentive Initiative Implementation grant if the consortium meets the following criteria:

- (1) A partnership between a local education agency, and at least one community partner for the purposes of establishing, operating and sustaining a community school.
- (2) A multi-level collaborative leadership structure with clearly established roles and responsibilities, as well as clear lines of communication and aligned goals. The leadership team must include at least 2 representatives from each of the following sectors.
 - a. Community Leadership, responsible for oversight, as well as resource and policy development. Community leadership team members may include but not are limited to representatives from public agencies and local government, higher education, school districts, philanthropies and business, nonprofit organizations, community and faith based agencies, students, families and residents.
 - b. Intermediary organizations responsible for management, strategic planning and communication. Intermediary organization team members may include but are not limited to school districts, nonprofit organizations, local government, United Way, higher education, local education funds.
 - c. School Site leadership, responsible for implementation, practice knowledge and policy feedback. School Site leadership team members may include but are not limited to students, families and residents, teachers and school staff, principals, site coordinator's, lead agencies, and community partners.
- (3) Only Title 1 schools shall be transformed into community schools with extra consideration given to those Title 1 schools designated as either "Priority" or "Focus".

CHAPTER 4

FUNDS

Section 401. Establishment of community school funds.

- (1) There shall be established a non-lapsing Community Schools Fund. The community schools fund shall appear as a separate program line within the PDE budget. All funds deposited into the Community Schools Fund shall not revert back to the unrestricted fund balance of the General Fund of the State of Pennsylvania at the end of the fiscal year, or at any other time, but shall continually be available for the uses and purposes of incentivizing the development of community schools as set forth in this act, subject to authorization by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.
- (2) The Community Schools Fund shall be funded through Federal funds, grants, state funds, gifts, and subsidies from public or private sources.
- (3) No more than 10% of the Community Schools Fund shall be used to fund administrative costs associated with the operations of the PDE and Community Schools Incentive Initiative.

CHAPTER 5

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 5101. Effective date.

This act shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Pennsylvania General Assembly.