
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 910 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SMUCKER, DINNIMAN, BROWNE, FOLMER, COSTA, TEPLITZ,
HAYWOOD, TARTAGLIONE, ALLOWAY, FARNESE, FONTANA, VOGEL,
GORDNER, YAW, VULAKOVICH, WOZNIAK, SCHWANK, AUMENT AND
RAFFERTY, JUNE 22, 2015

REFERRED TO EDUCATION, JUNE 22, 2015

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 reimbursements by Commonwealth and
6 between school districts, providing for student-weighted
7 basic education funding.

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 2502.53. Student-Weighted Basic Education Funding.--

14 (a) For each school year, the Commonwealth shall pay to each
15 school district a basic education funding allocation which shall
16 consist of the following:

17 (1) An amount equal to the school district's basic education
18 funding allocation for the base school year.

19 (2) A student-based allocation to be calculated as follows:

1 (i) Multiply the sum of the school district's weighted basic
2 education student head count and the school district's
3 sparsity/size adjustment by the school district's median
4 household income index and local effort capacity index.

5 (ii) Multiply the product in subparagraph (i) by the
6 difference between the amount appropriated for the allocation of
7 basic education funding and the sum of the amounts allocated in
8 paragraph (1) for all school districts.

9 (iii) Divide the product in subparagraph (ii) by the sum of
10 the products in subparagraph (i) for all school districts.

11 (b) For the purposes of this section:

12 (1) The weighted basic education student headcount shall be
13 calculated for each school district as follows:

14 (i) Multiply the school district's average daily membership
15 by one (1).

16 (ii) Multiply the school district's number of students
17 living in acute poverty by six-tenths (0.6).

18 (iii) Multiply the school district's number of students
19 living in poverty by three-tenths (0.3).

20 (iv) Multiply the school district's number of students
21 living in concentrated poverty by three-tenths (0.3).

22 (v) Multiply the school district's number of limited English
23 proficient students by six-tenths (0.6).

24 (vi) Multiply the charter and cyber charter school average
25 daily membership applicable to the school district by two-tenths
26 (0.2).

27 (vii) Add the products in subparagraphs (i), (ii), (iii),
28 (iv), (v) and (vi).

29 (2) The sparsity ratio shall be calculated for each school
30 district as follows:

1 (i) Divide the school district's average daily membership
2 per square mile by the State's average daily membership per
3 square mile.

4 (ii) Multiply the quotient in subparagraph (i) by five-
5 tenths (0.5).

6 (iii) Subtract the product in subparagraph (ii) from one
7 (1).

8 (3) The size ratio for each school district shall be
9 calculated as follows:

10 (i) Divide the school district's average daily membership by
11 the average of the average daily membership of all school
12 districts.

13 (ii) Multiply the quotient in subparagraph (i) by five-
14 tenths (0.5).

15 (iii) Subtract the product in subparagraph (ii) from one
16 (1).

17 (4) The sparsity/size ratio for each school district shall
18 be calculated by adding forty percent (40%) of the school
19 district's sparsity ratio and sixty percent (60%) of the school
20 district's size ratio.

21 (5) The sparsity/size adjustment for each school district
22 shall be calculated as follows:

23 (i) For a school district with a sparsity/size ratio less
24 than or equal to the sparsity/size ratio that represents the
25 seventieth percentile of the sparsity/size ratio for all school
26 districts, the school district's sparsity/size adjustment shall
27 be zero.

28 (ii) For a school district with a sparsity/size ratio
29 greater than the sparsity/size ratio that represents the
30 seventieth percentile of the sparsity/size ratio for all school

1 districts, the school district's sparsity/size adjustment shall
2 be calculated as follows:

3 (A) Divide the school district's sparsity/size ratio by the
4 sparsity/size ratio that represents the seventieth percentile of
5 the sparsity/size ratio for all school districts.

6 (B) Subtract one (1) from the quotient in clause (A).

7 (C) Multiply the remainder in clause (B) by seven-tenths
8 (0.7).

9 (D) Multiply the product in clause (C) by the school
10 district's weighted basic education student headcount.

11 (6) The number of students living in acute poverty for each
12 school district shall be calculated by multiplying the school
13 district's percentage of students who are six (6) to seventeen
14 (17) years of age according to the United States Census Bureau's
15 Ratio of Income to Poverty less than or equal to ninety-nine
16 percent (99%) of the Federal poverty guidelines by the school
17 district's average daily membership.

18 (7) The number of students living in poverty for each school
19 district shall be calculated by multiplying the school
20 district's percentage of students who are six (6) to seventeen
21 (17) years of age according to the United States Census Bureau's
22 Ratio of Income to Poverty greater than ninety-nine percent
23 (99%) and less than one hundred and eighty-five percent (185%)
24 of the Federal poverty guidelines by the school district's
25 average daily membership.

26 (8) The number of students living in concentrated poverty
27 for each school district shall be calculated as follows:

28 (i) For a school district in which the percentage of
29 students living in acute poverty is less than thirty percent
30 (30%), the school district's number of students living in

1 concentrated poverty shall be zero.

2 (ii) For a school district in which the percentage of
3 students living in acute poverty is equal to or greater than
4 thirty percent (30%), multiply the school district's percentage
5 of students living in acute poverty by the school district's
6 average daily membership.

7 (9) The median household income index for each school
8 district shall be calculated as follows:

9 (i) Divide the school district's median household income by
10 the median household income for Pennsylvania as determined by
11 the United States Census Bureau.

12 (ii) Divide one (1) by the quotient in subparagraph (i).

13 (10) The local effort for each school district shall be
14 calculated by adding the school district's State property tax
15 reduction allocation, taxes levied and assessed by the local
16 education agency, delinquencies on taxes levied and assessed by
17 the local education agency, revenue from local government units,
18 and other local revenues not specified elsewhere, as designated
19 in the Department of Education's Manual of Accounting and
20 Financial Reporting for Pennsylvania Public Schools.

21 (11) The local effort per household for each school district
22 shall be calculated as follows:

23 (i) Divide the school district's local effort by the school
24 district's number of households as determined by the United
25 States Census Bureau.

26 (ii) Divide the quotient in subparagraph (i) by the school
27 district's median household income as determined by the United
28 States Census Bureau.

29 (iii) Multiply the quotient in subparagraph (ii) by one-
30 thousand (1,000).

1 (12) The local effort factor for each school district shall
2 be calculated by dividing the school district's local effort per
3 household by the State median local effort per household for all
4 school districts.

5 (13) The current expenditure per weighted student for each
6 school district shall be calculated by dividing the school
7 district's current expenditures by the sum of the school
8 district's average daily membership, sparsity size adjustment
9 and the amounts determined for the school district under
10 subsection (b) (1) (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi).

11 (14) The excess expenditure factor for each school district
12 shall be calculated as follows:

13 (i) Divide the school district's current expenditure per
14 weighted student by the State median current expenditure per
15 weighted student for all school districts.

16 (ii) Divide one (1) by the quotient in subparagraph (i).

17 (15) The local effort index for each school district shall
18 be calculated as follows:

19 (i) For a school district with an excess expenditure factor
20 equal to or greater than one (1), multiply the school district's
21 local effort factor by one (1).

22 (ii) For a school district with an excess expenditure factor
23 less than one (1), multiply the school district's local effort
24 factor by the school district's excess expenditure factor.

25 (16) The local effort rate for each school district shall be
26 calculated by dividing the school district's local effort by the
27 sum of the school district's market value and adjusted personal
28 income.

29 (17) The local capacity per weighted student for each school
30 district shall be calculated as follows:

1 (i) Multiply the sum of the school district's market value
2 and adjusted personal income by the State median local effort
3 rate for all school districts.

4 (ii) Divide the product in subparagraph (i) by the sum of
5 the school district's average daily membership, sparsity size
6 adjustment and the amounts determined for the school district
7 under subsection (b) (1) (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi).

8 (18) The local capacity index for each school district shall
9 be calculated as follows:

10 (i) For a school district with a local capacity per weighted
11 student equal to or greater than the State median local capacity
12 per weighted student, the local capacity index for the school
13 district shall be zero.

14 (ii) For a school district with a local capacity per
15 weighted student less than the State median local capacity per
16 weighted student, the local capacity index shall be calculated
17 as follows:

18 (A) Divide the school district's local capacity per weighted
19 student by the State median local capacity per weighted student
20 for all school districts.

21 (B) Subtract the quotient in clause (A) from one (1).

22 (19) The local effort capacity index for each school
23 district shall be calculated by adding the school district's
24 local effort index to the school district's local capacity
25 index.

26 (c) The data used to calculate the factors in this section
27 shall be based on the most recent year for which data is
28 available as determined by the Department of Education. The
29 average daily membership shall be the average of the three (3)
30 most recent years' average daily membership. The average daily

1 membership used in subsection (b)(6), (7), (8), (13) and (17)
2 shall be based on the most recent year's average daily
3 membership. Information utilized from the United States Census
4 Bureau shall be from the most recent American Community Survey
5 5-Year Estimate of the United States Census Bureau.

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