

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 246 Session of 2025

INTRODUCED BY COLEMAN, TARTAGLIONE, FONTANA, COSTA, STEFANO, DUSH, ARGALL AND MASTRIANO, FEBRUARY 13, 2025

SENATOR CULVER, EDUCATION, AS AMENDED, MAY 6, 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 incidents.

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

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

12 Section 1303.2-A. Parental and Employee Notification of
13 Weapon Incidents.--(a) A school entity, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR <--
14 PRIVATE SCHOOL shall notify parents and guardians and school
15 employes of an incident involving the possession of a weapon on
16 any school property that constitutes a violation of one of the
17 following:

- 18 (1) Section 1317.2.
19 (2) 18 Pa.C.S. § 912 (relating to possession of weapon on
20 school property).

1 (3) Locally established policies of a THE school entity's, <--  
2 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S OR PRIVATE SCHOOL'S governing body relating  
3 to weapons.

4 (b) The following shall apply:

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

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

10 (ii) The notification shall be made using a method of  
11 communication likely to reach parents and guardians and school  
12 employees.

13 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), if an incident  
14 involving the possession of a weapon occurs at a school  
15 building, the school entity, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL <--  
16 may limit notification to parents and guardians of students  
17 enrolled in or attending, or school employees assigned to, the  
18 school building where the incident occurred.

19 (3) If the school building at which the incident occurs  
20 shares a campus with other school buildings, the school entity, <--  
21 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL shall make notification to  
22 parents and guardians of students enrolled in or attending, or  
23 school employees assigned to, any building situated on the shared  
24 campus.

25 (4) If an incident involving the possession of a weapon  
26 occurs at a school-sponsored activity or on a public conveyance  
27 providing transportation to or from a school or school-sponsored  
28 activity, the following shall apply:

29 (i) The school entity, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL <--  
30 shall ensure that the notification required under this section

1 reaches the appropriate population of parents and guardians and  
2 school employes.

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

6 (5) Subject to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family  
7 educational and privacy rights), a school employe to whom a  
8 student in possession of a weapon under subsection (a) is  
9 assigned shall be deemed to be a school official with legitimate  
10 educational interest in the student, and the school entity, <--  
11 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL OR PRIVATE SCHOOL shall notify the school  
12 employe of the student's identity and portion of the student's  
13 records relating to the incident.

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

15 (1) Limit a school entity's, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S OR PRIVATE <--  
16 SCHOOL'S responsibility to report incidents to local law  
17 enforcement prior to providing parents and guardians and school  
18 employes with the notification required under subsection (a).

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

24 (3) Supersede or preempt any provision of a collective  
25 bargaining agreement between a school entity, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL <--  
26 OR PRIVATE SCHOOL and an employe organization.

27 (d) Except as required to notify the parent or guardian of a  
28 student found in possession of a weapon, to provide notice to  
29 school employes under subsection (b)(5) or as otherwise  
30 permitted, the school entity's, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL'S OR PRIVATE <--

1 SCHOOL'S notification to parents or guardians or school employes  
2 under this section shall not contain personally identifiable  
3 information about a student in compliance with 20 U.S.C. §  
4 1232g.

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

8 "NONPUBLIC SCHOOL." A NONPROFIT SCHOOL, OTHER THAN A PUBLIC <--  
9 SCHOOL WITHIN THIS COMMONWEALTH, IN WHICH A RESIDENT OF THIS  
10 COMMONWEALTH MAY LEGALLY FULFILL THE COMPULSORY SCHOOL  
11 ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS ACT AND THAT MEETS THE  
12 APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF  
13 1964 (PUBLIC LAW 88-352, 42 U.S.C. § 2000 ET SEQ.).

14 "PRIVATE SCHOOL." A PRIVATE ACADEMIC SCHOOL AS DEFINED IN  
15 SECTION 2 OF THE ACT OF JANUARY 28, 1988 (P.L.24, NO.11), KNOWN  
16 AS THE PRIVATE ACADEMIC SCHOOLS ACT.

17 "School entity." An area career and technical school,  
18 charter school, cyber charter school, ~~nonpublic school, private~~ <--  
19 ~~school,~~ regional charter school or school district OR <--  
20 INTERMEDIATE UNIT.

21 "School property." Any of the following:

22 (1) Public school grounds.

23 (2) A location where a school-sponsored activity is  
24 conducted.

25 (3) A conveyance providing transportation to a school  
26 entity, NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, PRIVATE SCHOOL or school-sponsored <--  
27 activity.

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