

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 6, 2023
Immediately Following Education Committee Meeting
Administration Office
Board Room

Committee Members			Remaining Meeting Dates
Gale Husack - Chairperson		Eric Hill	Monday, April 3, 2023
Chad Christman		Gene Marks	Monday, May 1, 2023
Matthew Link		Scott Pyne	Monday, June 5, 2023
Tania Stoker		James Schnyderite	Monday, August 7, 2023
Todd Breiner		Michael Strohl	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Michele Dotta		John Rushefski	Monday, October 2, 2023
David Hauser		Jennifer Butz	Monday, November 6, 2023
Nichole Fink		Tim Weaber	

Also in attendance:

AGENDA

- Policy 137 - [Home Education Program](#)
 - This policy was revised to reflect the need for additional recordkeeping based on the new participation provisions for home education students.
 - References to the new policies were added.
 - Additional policy language was added to clarify existing School Code requirements for certifications submitted with the notarized affidavit, portfolio and written evaluation provisions, programs determined to be out of compliance and transfer letters.
 - This policy is recommended for legal liability reasons
- Policy 137.1 - [Extracurricular Participation by Home Education Students](#)
 - The policy was updated for consistency with the new policy guides addressing participation in cocurricular activities/academic courses and career and technical education programs.
 - Policy language on posting of information regarding extracurricular activities, eligibility criteria and dates and times of physical examinations or medical tests was updated for clarity, in accordance with School Code provisions.
 - This policy is recommended for legal liability purposes

- Policy 137.2 - [Participation in Cocurricular Activities and Academic Courses by Home Education Students](#) - **NEW**
 - This is a new policy guide addressing the updated requirements of Section 1327.1 pertaining to participation by home education students in district cocurricular activities and academic courses.
 - The policy states that students attending home education programs shall be given an equal opportunity to compete for positions and participate in district cocurricular activities and academic courses in accordance with Board policy on the same basis as other students enrolled full-time in the district.
 - It outlines the conditions for eligibility and participation, addresses transportation, and includes optional language to establish limits on participation in academic courses (up to one-quarter of the academic day for full-time district students) and prioritization for enrollment in designated activities and programs, in accordance with law.
 - This policy is mandated, based on School Code Section 1327.1 requiring districts to develop policies and procedures.
- Policy 137.3 - [Participation in Career and Technical Education Programs by Home Education Students](#) - **NEW**
 - This is a new policy guide addressing the updated requirements of Section 1327.1 pertaining to participation by home education students in career and technical education programs that are either at an area career and technology center in which the district participates, or district-operated career and technical education programs or centers.
 - The policy states that students attending home education programs shall be given an equal opportunity to apply for participation in career and technical education programs in accordance with Board policy on the same basis as other students enrolled full-time in the district.
 - It outlines the conditions for eligibility and participation, addresses transportation, and includes optional language to establish prioritization procedures for enrollment in career and technical education programs with limited seat allocation provisions, in accordance with law.
 - This policy is mandated, based on School Code Section 1327.1 requiring districts to develop policies and procedures.
- Policy 200 - [Enrollment of Students](#)
 - This policy was updated to expand requirements for immediate enrollment to include students experiencing foster care and other forms of educational instability.
 - This is a mandated policy.
- Policy 202 - [Eligibility of Nonresident Students](#)
 - This policy was updated to expand requirements for immediate admittance to include students experiencing foster care and other forms of educational instability.
 - This is a mandated policy.

- Policy 251 - [Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability](#)
 - Earlier this year, Senate Bill 324 was enacted into law as [24 P.S. Sec. 13-1331.1](#), creating a new section in the PA School Code. The title of that section is Assisting Students Experiencing Education Instability.
 - The law requires the school entity to designate a point of contact, who shall be responsible for facilitating the immediate enrollment to school; ensuring access to appropriate courses, programs and services; and developing a graduation plan to support the timely graduation of a student experiencing educational instability.
 - The provisions of this new section of the law are in addition to all current state and federal legal requirements for homeless, foster care and other students.
 - Educational instability is defined as one or more changes in school entity enrollment during a single school year as a result of any of the following:
 1. Homelessness as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (Public Law 100-77, 101 Stat. 482) and as determined by the school entity.
 2. An adjudication:
 - a. of dependency under 23 Pa. C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to child protective services) and 42 Pa. C.S. Ch. 63 (relating to juvenile matters);
 - b. of delinquency under 23 Pa. C.S. Ch. 63 and 42 Pa. C.S. Ch. 63, if the parent or guardian of the student wishes to disclose the adjudication of delinquency;
 - c. or as part of court-ordered services under a voluntary placement or custody agreement.
 - Based on this definition of education instability and the fact that a student experiencing foster care may also qualify as a student experiencing educational instability as defined in the law, if such circumstances apply, policies 251. Homeless Students and 255. Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care have been merged into a single policy 251. Students Experiencing Homelessness, Foster Care and Other Educational Instability.
 - Policy updates specific to 24 P.S. Sec. 1331.1 include:
 1. The requirement for the name and contact information of the designated point of contact to be included in the student's education records and provided to the student's education decision maker.
 2. The requirement for the point of contact to consult with designated individuals to:
 - a. Facilitate the student's expedited consultation with the school counselor or other mental health professionals, as appropriate.
 - b. Facilitate the prompt placement of the student in appropriate courses.
 - c. Connect the student with educational services that meet the student's specific needs.
 - d. Immediately request the prior school entity, county agency

and the student's education decision maker to provide the complete student information and records, including an IEP or Section 504 service agreement, if applicable. Within ten (10) business days, the prior school entity located within Pennsylvania, including schools with residential placements, shall provide the requested information and records to ensure proper transfer of course credits, grades and an IEP or Section 504 service agreement, if applicable.

- e. Develop and execute a graduation plan in collaboration with the student in grades nine (9) through twelve (12). The graduation plan shall be customized to meet the specific needs of the student and shall detail the courses necessary for on-time graduation and transition to postsecondary education or the workforce. The graduation plan shall be included in the student's education records.
- o The policy contains a new section regarding course credit and graduation, which includes strategies to ensure that students experiencing educational instability graduate in a timely manner, including consideration of assigning full or partial credits; waiving specific courses required for graduation under certain circumstances; providing alternative courses of study; and if the student is determined not to be eligible for graduation from the current school entity, requesting a diploma from the prior school entity.
- o In addition to the policy guidelines related to assigning full and partial credits, school entities are required to develop procedures to apply full or partial credit for course work that is satisfactorily completed at, and reflected in the student's records when received from, a prior school entity.
- o For students experiencing educational instability who have exhausted all other options and who are still unable to obtain a diploma from their home school, the point of contact will assist the student in determining their eligibility for a Keystone Diploma from the PA Department of Education.
- o This is a mandated policy

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2023