

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

NO. 5
Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY _____ April 4, 2024

REFERRED TO SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

PASS Scholarship Program

This legislation would Establish the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Scholarship Program.

Section 1. Definitions

The following word when used in this act shall have the meanings given to it in this section:

“Eligible Student.” A school-age child in grades K-12 who:

- A. Resides within the Commonwealth.
- B. Resides within the attendance boundary of a low-achieving school.
- C. Lives in a household with a household income lower than 250% of the federal property guidelines.
- D. Satisfies one of the following:
 - a. Attended a public school in this Commonwealth in the preceding school year.
 - b. Received a PASS scholarship in the preceding school year.
 - c. Will attend kindergarten for the first time in the next school year.

“Low-achieving school.” A school district that ranked in the lowest 15% of the school’s designation based on combined reading and math scores from the annual assessment as posted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

“Participating nonpublic school.” A nonpublic school offering a program of instruction for kindergarten through twelfth grade that provides certification to the State Treasury that the nonpublic school meets applicable criteria.

Section 2. PASS Program

The following amounts shall be provided to an eligible student from the State Treasury to be utilized at a participating nonpublic school for the 2024-2025 school year as reimbursement for the education of the following types of eligible students:

- A. \$2,500 for an eligible student participating in half-day kindergarten.
- B. \$5,000 for an eligible student participating in full-day kindergarten through grade eight.
- C. \$10,000 for an eligible student participating grade nine through grade twelve.
- D. \$15,000 for an eligible student participating with special needs education regardless of grade level.

Section 3. Application

The Pennsylvania State Treasury shall develop and manage an online application process for participating nonpublic schools to be made available by July 15, 2024.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.