



Senate Education Committee

Senator Lloyd Smucker
Chairman

Kelly Phenicie
Executive Director/Counsel
kphenicie@pasen.gov

Tabitha Hummer
Deputy Executive Director
thummer@pasen.gov

Diane M. McNaughton
Communications Specialist
dmmcnaughton@pasen.gov

Room 351, Main Capitol Building • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3013 • 717-787-6535

SENATE BILL 850-SENATOR BROWNE

SYNOPSIS:

Creates a drug and alcohol recovery high school pilot program.

SUMMARY:

Amends the Public School Code to add a new article providing for a drug and alcohol recovery high school program beginning in the 2016-2017 school year.

Requires the Secretary of Education to designate a school that is licensed as a private academic school, is located in a school district of the first class, has experience providing drug and alcohol recovery services and has adopted and follows accreditation standards of the Association of Recovery Schools.

The pilot establishes a program of instruction meeting state academic standards for students in grade 9 through 12 who are in recovery from drug or alcohol abuse or addiction.

Outlines criteria for the students' eligibility to participate in the program. Requires the program to open with no more than 20 students residing in a school district of the first class. If fewer than 20 students residing in a school district of the first class enroll in the program the remaining slots may be filled by students who reside in other school districts.

Establishes the initial tuition rate at \$20,000 per student. For each successive fiscal year the tuition rate will increase by the rate of inflation and will be rounded to the nearest hundred. If the rate of inflation is zero or negative, the tuition rate will remain the same as the previous year and not decrease. Caps the inflationary increase at 3%. Requires the state to pay 60% of the tuition of each student and the school district of residence to pay 40%.

Unless the program is permanently established by the General Assembly, the recovery high school may not enroll new students under the program after the 2019-2020 school year.

Requires the recovery high school to prepare an annual report and audit for the Secretary of Education and the General Assembly. Additionally requires PDE and the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to jointly prepare a report, due December 31, 2019, assessing the program's success and making recommendations for possible program extension and expansion.

Effective Date: Immediately.

Prepared by: Phenicie 6/2/2016