

Appendix A: Article XX-C of the Public School Code of 1949

HOUSE BILL 185 P.N. 4517 PRIOR PRINTER'S NOS. 189, 1643, 2277,
PRINTER'S NO. 4517, 3723, 4464, 3723, 4510

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL
No. 185 Session of 2005

ARTICLE XX-C TRANSFERS OF CREDITS BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Section 2001-C. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this article shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Career, technical or applied courses." Courses usually offered as part of an associate degree curriculum designed to prepare students for entry level professions not for transfer to baccalaureate programs for advanced studies.

"Community college." An institution created pursuant to Article XIX-A or the act of August 24, 1963 (P.L.1132, No.484), known as the Community College Act of 1963.

"Degree objective courses." Courses required for completion of a major in a subject area.

"Department." The Department of Education of the Commonwealth.

"Developmental or remedial courses." Courses typically consisting of reading, writing and math designed to prepare students for college-level courses and that are not transferable.

"Equivalent courses." Courses determined to have generally equivalent content and level as determined by the faculty of an institution of higher education consistent with the policy at each institution.

"Foundation courses." Courses required to be completed by students that provide an academic foundation for the degree, general education or advanced study in a major.

"Independent institution of higher education." An institution of higher education which is operated not for profit, located in and incorporated or chartered by the Commonwealth and entitled to confer degrees as set forth in 24 Pa.C.S. § 6505 (relating to power to confer degrees) and to apply to itself the designation "college" or "university" as provided for by the standards and qualifications prescribed by the State Board of Education pursuant to 24 Pa.C.S. Ch. 65 (relating to private colleges, universities and seminaries).

"Public institution of higher education." A community college or an institution which is part of the State System of Higher Education pursuant to Article XX-A.

"State-related institution." The Pennsylvania State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University, Lincoln University and their branch campuses.

"Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee." The committee established under section 2004-C.

Section 2002-C. Duties of public institutions of higher education.

- (a) Completion.--Each public institution of higher education shall complete all of the following by June 30, 2008:
 - (1) Participate in the development and implementation of equivalency standards pursuant to section 2004-C(c)(1).
 - (2) Establish and maintain records and data detailing the credits transferred to and received from other public institutions of higher education as the department may prescribe.
 - (3) Make any reasonable changes and modifications to its foundation courses, including the strengthening of the courses, to ensure equivalency of those credits among the public institutions of higher education, as recommended by the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.
 - (4) Agree to accept for transfer foundation courses determined to meet equivalency standards under section 2004-C(c)(2).
- (b) Reporting requirements.--A public institution of higher education shall submit to the department a series of interim reports outlining the actions that the public institution of higher education has undertaken or intends to undertake to comply with subsection (a), which shall be filed December 31, 2006, June 30, 2007, and December 31, 2007.

Section 2003-C. Duties of public institutions of higher education and State-related institutions.

- (a) Agreements.--Each public institution of higher education and State-related institution shall provide the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee with copies of all articulation agreements for inclusion in the electronic database or software program and portal provided for under section 2005-C(4), within 180 days of the effective date of this section.
- (b) Reporting requirements.--The following shall apply to reporting requirements:
 - (1) Each public institution of higher education and State-related institution shall submit to the department a series of interim reports that describe the status of the institution's articulation agreements, which shall include all of the following:
 - (i) The number of students who have transferred to the public institution of higher education or State-related institution by institution of origin within the last academic year or since submittal of the institution's last interim report required under this section.

- (ii) The total number of credits completed by transfer students at the institution of origin.
 - (iii) The total number of credits from each institution of origin that transferred to the public institution of higher education or State-related institution for each academic year.
 - (iv) An explanation of the credit transfer process at the institution.
 - (v) Any other information related to the credit transfer process as requested by the department including the usability of transfer credits.
- (2) Each public institution of higher education and State-related institution shall submit its first interim report required under this section 180 days after the effective date of this section.
 - (3) Each public institution of higher education and State-related institution shall submit a subsequent report every two years from the date of the first interim report. This paragraph shall expire on July 1, 2012.

Section 2004-C. Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.

(a) Establishment and membership.--

- (1) In order to develop and implement equivalency standards as provided for in subsection (c)(1), there is hereby established within the department, the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee. The committee shall be comprised of the following members:
 - (i) The Secretary of Education or his designee, who shall serve as chair of the committee.
 - (ii) Members appointed by the secretary as follows:
 - (A) one member representing each of the community colleges and one member representing the Commission for Community Colleges;
 - (B) one member representing each institution of the State System of Higher Education and one member representing the Office of the Chancellor;
 - (C) one member representing each of the State- related institutions, who shall serve as a nonvoting member but shall retain all other duties associated with membership on the committee. If the State-related institution elects to participate under section 2006-C, the member representing the State-related institution shall be entitled to vote; and
 - (D) one member representing each independent institution of higher education that elects to participate under section 2006-C.
- (2) Members shall be appointed to four-year terms. Terms of committee members shall be staggered.

(b) Dispute resolution subcommittee.--

- (1) The chair of the committee shall appoint a dispute resolution subcommittee comprised of:
 - (i) three members appointed under subsection (a)(1)(ii)(A);

- (ii) three members appointed under subsection (a)(1)(ii)(B); and
 - (iii) one member appointed under subsection (a)(1)(ii)(D).
 - (2) The chair of the committee may add members to the dispute resolution subcommittee.
 - (3) The dispute resolution subcommittee shall develop dispute resolution policies and procedures to be utilized when disputes arise relating to the transfer and application of credits under this article.
- (c) Duties of Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.--The committee shall:
- (1) Within 180 days of the effective date of this section, develop, in consultation with faculty and personnel, equivalency standards for foundation courses and provide these standards to the department, the Education Committee of the Senate, the Education Committee of the House of Representatives, the Appropriations Committee of the Senate and the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.
 - (2) Within one year of the effective date of this section, determine equivalent courses for at least 30 hours of foundation courses, not including developmental or remedial courses or career, technical or applied courses, in consultation with faculty and personnel.
 - (3) Develop an assessment/evaluation plan and identify appropriate information and collect appropriate data to ensure the effectiveness of section 2002-C and make necessary revisions thereto over time.
 - (4) Review interim reports submitted to the department and, within 90 days of receipt of each report, recommend to the department action to be taken by the committee to enable the transfer of credits among public institutions of higher education and institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C.
 - (5) Submit an annual report to the General Assembly that details the progress made by the public institutions of higher education and institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C in furtherance of enabling the transfer of credits between such institutions and which recommends further action to be taken.

Section 2005-C. Duties of department.

The department shall:

- (1) Convene a meeting, within 60 days of the effective date of this section, of the Transfer and Articulation Oversight Committee.
- (2) Request information and data from the public institutions of higher education and institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C, so as to identify foundation courses offered at the institutions and any articulation agreements currently established between the institutions that include foundation courses.
- (3) Provide technical assistance to the public institutions of higher education and the institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C.
- (4) Provide for an electronic database or software program and portal for the purpose of providing access to all of the following information on an Internet website:

- (i) Articulation agreements entered into by public institutions of higher education and institutions that elect to participate under section 2006-C.
- (ii) The annual report to the General Assembly as required by section 2004-C(c)(5).
- (iii) At the request of a public institution of higher education or an institution that elects to participate under section 2006-C, any articulation agreements.

Section 2006-C. Participation by independent institutions of higher education or State-related institution.

An independent institution of higher education or a State-related institution may elect to participate through the adoption of equivalency standards as provided for in subsection 2004-C(c)(1) by its governing body.

Section 2007-C. Applicability.

Nothing in this article shall do any of the following:

- (1) Preclude any institution of higher education from establishing institution-to-institution articulation agreements.
- (2) Void articulation agreements that have been established prior to the effective date of this section.