

MEMO



908 North 2nd Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
P-717-236-2050 F-717-236-2046
www.wannerassoc.com

To: CASD
From: Alex Rahn, Wanner Associates
Date: February 27, 2019
Subject: February 2019 Legislative Report

Table of Contents

- ["Blue Wave" Hits PA Mostly in the Southeast; Wolf and Casey Re-elected Easily](#)
- [Legislative Leaders & Chairs for Next Session](#)
- [Governor Wolf's Budget 2019 Proposal](#)
 - [2019/20 Proposed Basic Education Funding \(BEF\):](#)
 - [2019/20 Proposed Special Education Funding \(SEF\):](#)
- [Funding Infrastructure Improvements, Including PlanCon - Maybe](#)
- [PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS WORK AND ADVOCATES URGE GOVERNOR TOM WOLF TO INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING](#)
- [GROUPS RELEASE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET REPORT](#)
- [As lawmakers probe Wolf's teacher pay raise, long term effects worry school districts](#)
- [Dates of Interest](#)
 - [SESSION SCHEDULE](#)
 - [BUDGET HEARINGS](#)
- [Agency Notices](#)
 - [DOE: PROPOSED GRANT PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES](#)
- [Tracked Legislation](#)

"Blue Wave" Hits PA Mostly in the Southeast; Wolf and Casey Re-elected Easily

Although many political pundits predicted a Trump-inspired "blue wave" of Democrats overwhelming Congress and state legislators across the country, the actual results nationwide were not as dramatic as expected on November 6. The Democrats did indeed regain control of the US House of Representatives, but not by the margins that have been customarily seen in "mid-term" elections after a new president is elected. The parties of Clinton, Bush and Obama all lost more seats than the Republicans did this year, and they actually ADDED to their majority in the US Senate, giving President Trump even more of an advantage should another Supreme Court seat come open.

Statewide, the races for Governor and US Senate came in pretty much as expected. Governor Tom Wolf easily won a second term, defeating Republican Scott Wagner by a 58%-41% margin after a blistering campaign, mostly on the part of the challenger. Wolf will be joined by a new Lieutenant Governor as he enters his new term, as the aforementioned John Fetterman takes over for current Lt. Governor Mike Stack, whom Fetterman defeated in the May primary.

PA's Senior Senator, Bob Casey, Jr. also easily defeated his opponent for U.S. Senate, Congressman Lou Barletta, by a roughly 55%-42% margin, to earn a third term.

In Congress, Republicans went in with a 13-5 advantage in the PA delegation, but a combination of newly drawn Congressional maps and backlash against the President resulted in the Democrats winning the new 4th,

5th, 6th, 7th and 17th Congressional Districts, while the GOP won the new 14th. The PA Congressional delegation will now be split 9-9, including a historic four women.

Democrats did make inroads in reducing their deficits in both the state House and Senate, with nearly all of those seat switches coming in the “collar counties” surrounding Philadelphia. Hardest hit were the Chester and Delaware County Republican delegations, where Republican Reps. Becky Corbin (155th - Chester); Warren Kampf (157th – Chester), Eric Roe (158th- Chester) Duane Milne (167th -Chester), and Jamie Santora – 163rd (Delaware); Alex Charlton – 165th (Delaware) and Sen. Tom McGarrigle (26th -Delaware) all were defeated. Over in Montgomery, Reps. Kate Harper (61st) and Tom Quigley (146th) also lost their seats, and Democrats flipped long-held Republican Senate seats in Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

The GOP entered election night with a commanding 121-79 majority in the House, with three vacancies in Democratic seats, while Senate Republicans looked to defend their 34-16 cushion. While a couple of House election results are still being determined, it appears the ratio will be 110-92, plus the seat currently by Democrat State Rep. Vanessa Lowery-Brown who won re-election, but will be sentenced November 28 for her bribery conviction. The GOP was successful in knocking off just two Democratic incumbents, Bryan Barbin (71st-Cambria) and Helen Tai (178th –Bucks). A third seat, the 49th (Fayette/Washington), currently held by GOP State Rep. Bud Cook, is also the subject of ballot challenges.

The Senate will swear in 28 Republicans and 21 Democrats, and newly elected Lt. Gov. John Fetterman will call a Special Election to fill a vacancy created in the 37th district by the resignation of Republican Sen. Guy Reschenthaler, who was elected to Congress on election night. Davis, who also easily won re-election to her own House seat, was calling for a recount at this writing. In the 10th Senate district, Democrat Steve Santarsiero beat State Rep. Marguerite Quinn, flipping the Bucks County seat, and Democrat Maria Collett won a victory over Stewart Greenleaf Jr. to capture the 12th district Montgomery/Bucks seat held since 1977 by Greenleaf's father. The most unexpected upset occurred in the 44th (Montgomery/Chester), where first-time candidate Katie Muth unseated Republican Sen. John Rafferty, who had served the district since 2003. Over in the Pittsburgh suburbs, Democrat Lindsey Williams beat Republican Jeremy Shaeffer, who had upset incumbent Sen. Randy Vulakovich in the 38th to pick up another seat for the Dems.

Legislative Leaders & Chairs for Next Session

The election for the general public led to leadership elections amongst the four legislative Caucuses which were held on Tuesday, November 13th.

- House Republicans -
 - Speaker-Nominee: Mike Turzai (R-Allegheny)
 - Rep. Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster), new House Majority Leader
 - House Appropriations Chairman: Stan Saylor (R-York)
 - Whip: Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre)
 - Caucus Chair: Marcy Toepel (R-Montgomery)
 - Caucus Secretary: Mike Reese (R-Westmoreland)
 - Caucus Administrator: Kurt Masser (R-Northumberland)
 - Policy Chair: Donna Oberlander (R-Clarion)
 - Education: Rep. Curt Sonney (R-Erie)
- House Democrats –
 - Leader: Frank Dermody (D-Allegheny)
 - Appropriations Chairman: Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery)
 - Whip: Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia)
 - Caucus Chair: Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia)
 - Caucus Secretary: Rosita Youngblood (D-Philadelphia)
 - Caucus Administrator: Neal Goodman (D-Schuylkill)
 - Policy Chair: Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster)
 - Education: Rep. James Roebuck, (D-Philadelphia)

- Senate Republicans -
 - Interim President Pro Tempore: Joe Scarnati (R-Jefferson)
 - Leader: Jake Corman (R-Centre)
 - Appropriations Chairman: Patrick Browne (R-Lehigh)
 - Whip: John Gordner (R-Columbia)
 - Caucus Chair: Bob Mensch (R-Montgomery)
 - Caucus Secretary: Richard Alloway (R-Franklin)
 - Caucus Administrator: To be appointed by the President Pro Tempore
 - Policy Chair: David Argall (R-Schuylkill)
 - Education - Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster)

- Senate Democrats -
 - Leader: Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)
 - Whip Anthony Williams (D-Phila)
 - Appropriations Chairman Vince Hughes (D-Phila)
 - Caucus Chair: Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny)
 - Caucus Secretary Lawrence Farnese (D-Phila)
 - Policy Chair Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton)
 - Caucus Administrator: John Blake (D-Lackawanna)
 - Education - Senator Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester County)

Governor Wolf's Budget 2019 Proposal

Governor Tom Wolf presented his proposed budget for FY19/20 on February 5th. The proposal is set at \$34.1 billion in spending, which is an increase of \$927.36 million, or 2.79 percent over last year. The Governor's proposal also does not call for an across the board tax increase as in some of his previous proposals. However, it does include a severance tax on natural gas, but with funds dedicated solely to infrastructure which is modified from the Governor's previous budget plans.

The Governor is also calling for an increase to the minimum wage from \$7.25 per hour to \$12 per hour starting in July — with additional increases coming each year until 2025, when it would reach \$15 an hour.

The Governor's budget was met with optimistic tones from the Republican controlled Legislature, but the overall spend number along with the minimum wage and severance tax will likely be central to negotiations leading up to the June 30th deadline. These details and other items will be negotiated during the process, but it remains to be seen how the smaller Republican majorities listed below, and a Democrat Governor entering his second and final term, will affect the flow of the budget and nature of legislation in the new session. Also, the Governor and Legislature often negotiate on other priorities both related and unrelated during the budget negotiations and we could likely see calls for further pension reform, reduction/elimination of property taxes, and the extension of the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse to name a few.

2019/20 Proposed Basic Education Funding (BEF):

- The 2019/20 budget proposal includes a net \$182 million increase in basic education funding.
- Under current law, school districts receive a base amount equal to their 2014/15 allocation with adjustments. The 2019/20 budget proposal includes a few recommended base adjustments:
 - The 2018/19 Ready to Learn Block Grant amount for school districts (\$260 million) is rolled into the BEF base.
 - Therefore, while the BEF increase looks like \$442 million, the net increase is \$182 million.
 - An additional \$14 million is added to the base for the minimum teacher salary increase.
 - Two distressed school districts receive \$1 million each.
- The remaining balance between the appropriated amount and the base allocation is distributed using the fair funding formula.

- In 2019/20, 10.8 percent of the BEF funds will be distributed using the fair funding formula. This number is up from 8.8 percent in 2018/19.

2019/20 Proposed Special Education Funding (SEF):

- The 2019/20 budget proposal includes a \$50 million increase in special education funding.
- School districts receive an amount equal to their 2013/14 distribution, and new money is allocated through the Special Education
- Funding Commission’s recommended formula. In 2019/20, \$149 million, or 13.6%, of the total will be distributed using the formula.
- The school district printout year-over-year difference does not add up to \$50 million because there are amounts taken off the top for
- intermediate units, wards of the state, a contingency fund, and a new telepresence education grant initiative.

In addition to above Basic and Special education funding, the budget process could also see negotiation on:

- School-Funding Formula which even with the increases Governor Wolf is proposing is of small impact unless more money is distributed through the new formula,
- The cap of Charter School Reimbursement rates ([Chart](#) below)
- Funding PlanCon (detailed [below](#))

School District	County	Basic Education Funding (BEF)				Special Education Funding (SEF)				
		2018/19 BEF & RTL ¹	SD's Base Adjustment Amount Under Minimum Salary Increase	2019/20 Proposed BEF ²	BEF Difference	2018-19 Estimated SEF Feb2019	2019-20 Proposed SEF Feb2019	SEF Difference		
Avon Grove SD	Chester	\$15,995,021	\$0	\$16,228,619	\$233,598	1.5%	\$2,604,474	\$2,740,244	\$135,770	5.2%
Coatesville Area SD	Chester	\$26,605,441	\$616	\$26,968,106	\$462,665	1.7%	\$5,155,808	\$5,492,820	\$337,012	6.5%
Downingtown Area SD	Chester	\$15,661,054	\$0	\$16,061,083	\$400,029	2.6%	\$5,520,430	\$5,744,837	\$224,407	4.1%
Great Valley SD	Chester	\$2,774,237	\$0	\$2,854,018	\$79,781	2.9%	\$1,497,850	\$1,517,764	\$19,914	1.3%
Kennett Consolidated SD	Chester	\$6,198,794	\$0	\$6,352,025	\$153,231	2.5%	\$1,723,282	\$1,806,234	\$82,952	4.8%
Octorara Area SD	Chester	\$6,685,421	\$0	\$6,862,510	\$177,089	2.6%	\$1,396,565	\$1,478,713	\$82,144	5.9%
Owen J Roberts SD	Chester	\$6,322,383	\$0	\$6,527,285	\$204,902	3.2%	\$1,976,686	\$2,098,279	\$121,593	6.2%
Oxford Area SD	Chester	\$13,304,341	\$0	\$13,706,484	\$402,143	3.0%	\$1,919,768	\$2,089,799	\$170,031	8.9%
Phoenixville Area SD	Chester	\$5,007,649	\$0	\$5,213,312	\$205,663	4.1%	\$1,582,614	\$1,626,873	\$44,259	2.8%
Tredyffrin-Eagleville SD	Chester	\$3,827,607	\$0	\$3,938,865	\$111,258	2.9%	\$2,280,805	\$2,317,365	\$36,560	1.6%
Unionville-Chadds Ford SD	Chester	\$3,420,795	\$0	\$3,511,340	\$90,545	2.6%	\$1,662,780	\$1,691,649	\$28,869	1.7%
West Chester Area SD	Chester	\$8,620,966	\$0	\$9,124,772	\$503,806	5.8%	\$5,180,008	\$5,246,117	\$66,029	1.3%

Cyber Reform Chart

County	School District	Cyber \$ 16-17	Estimated with Cap
Chester	Avon Grove	\$748,192	\$414,672
Chester	Coatesville Area	\$3,371,083	\$2,048,265
Chester	Downingtown Area	\$1,563,317	\$889,552
Chester	Great Valley	\$983,409	\$685,529
Chester	Kennett Consolidated	\$815,622	\$502,386
Chester	Octorara Area	\$1,027,185	\$658,869
Chester	Owen J Roberts	\$976,495	\$592,356
Chester	Oxford Area	\$1,020,040	\$545,601
Chester	Phoenixville Area	\$688,522	\$432,307

Chester	Tredyffrin-Easttown	\$369,137	\$232,678
Chester	Unionville-Chadds Ford	\$457,713	\$289,238
Chester	West Chester Area	\$1,891,093	\$1,161,044
Philadelphia	Philadelphia City	\$67,993,446	\$31,924,064

Funding Infrastructure Improvements, Including PlanCon - Maybe

It's the start of the new legislative session and optimism is high for getting things done. But the general assembly's track record suggests that bold plans rarely reach fruition when navigating Pennsylvania's legislative process. But despite the daunting task ahead, newly reelected [Governor Tom Wolf and DEP announced plans](#) for a sweeping infrastructure investment program that tackles a slew of areas that are genuinely deserving of additional funds. His plan includes funding for:

- Expansion of high speed internet access
- Storm water management improvements
- Energy efficiency and delivery initiatives
- Brownfield remediation projects
- Additional road and public transportation support

Few would argue that these areas don't deserve more attention. The catch? The funding mechanism for all this is dependent on enactment of a severance tax. Passage of such a tax has been Governor Wolf's search for the Holy Grail. Even with Democratic gains in both chambers, it feels like a long shot given how many times this effort has fallen short.

One area of need not included in Wolf's pitch for additional funds is school construction. How to pay for fixing or rebuilding schools across the state is a topic that has been gaining attention ever since the Commonwealth budget placed a moratorium on new applications for reimbursement through the PlanCon process a few years ago. The PlanCon administrative process is used by a school district or area vocational-technical school (AVTS) career and technology center to qualify for reimbursement for school construction projects:

- The PLANCon Advisory Committee was statutorily created to examine and make recommendations to improve the process.
- Presently, the PlanCon program is largely defunct as the legislature has not authorized funding for it during the last several budgets and a moratorium was placed on new applications. Bond funding (up to \$2.5 billion), however, was authorized at the same time the Advisory Committee was created but only to pay off reimbursements for projects that were already in process.
- The final report recommends a number of changes to streamline the application process which is lengthy and overly complicated.
- The report also recommends specific financial incentives for districts that build in accordance with green building and energy efficiency standards.
- Another important recommendation for districts with older schools is a recommended 20% dedication of funds for maintenance.
- Senate Bill 700 was introduced last year to implement the Committee's recommendations. It is expected to be reintroduced shortly. Here is a link to that bill:
<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&sessYr=2017&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0700&pn=1924>
- The last year that PlanCon was actually funded, it was a line item in the Department of Education's budget for roughly \$300 million. School construction creates thousands of jobs each year. With the addition of maintenance funds, some of it will go to custodial work as well.
- The Committee's work is complete. The next step is to pass the legislation making the recommended changes.

- The final, and most important, step is to have funding included in this year's Commonwealth budget and removal of the moratorium on new projects.

While that issue isn't tied to the Governor's severance tax proposal, it has risen to the top of the agenda for both the appropriations leaders in the Senate. That higher level bipartisan support gives it better odds of passage. Of course, the question still comes back to how much money and where will it come from. Stay tuned for that answer....

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS WORK AND ADVOCATES URGE GOVERNOR TOM WOLF TO INCREASE EDUCATION FUNDING

By Emily Mistishen, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | January 30, 2019

Members of Pennsylvania Schools Work, legislators and advocates gathered in the Capitol Main Rotunda to discuss the importance of education and to request Governor Tom Wolf to increase funding.

Paul Healey, executive director of the Pennsylvania Principals Association, opened by explaining Pennsylvania Schools Work's mission of representing educators, communities, and parents advocating for public schools and students. "Our mission is to ensure that every child, regardless of where they live, or their background, is attending a public school that has the funds necessary for them to succeed," he said. He stated that some of the major reasons for the coalition's existence included the fact a person's "zip code largely determines the opportunities afforded to you as a student," Pennsylvania's place as 46th in the nation for contributing state funds to education, and 1.4 million students not receiving adequate funding. He also added the loss of programs and teachers as additional reasons, and affirmed that "yes, significantly increasing funding is a necessary and critical solution." He warned that despite considerable cuts in schools across the state, many will find themselves in critical financial situations, and he provided examples, including the William Penn and the Carlisle school districts. Healey cited a 2019 Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) [annual budget report](#) that found that schools had to make up a \$2 billion difference in funding through cuts and increased property taxes. "The voters in November affirmed that investing in education should be a top priority in Pennsylvania by their overwhelming support of Governor Wolf's agenda as he begins his new term leading Pennsylvania," he asserted, praising Gov. Wolf's previous efforts before urging him and the General Assembly to continue to make investments in Pennsylvania public schools. "We specifically call on them in the upcoming year to allocate increases of \$400 million for basic education funding, \$100 million for special education, and \$10 million for career and technical education." He opined that Pennsylvania students "deserve more than being 46th in the nation on the state funding they receive."

Samantha Martin, a high school junior from the Carlisle Area School District, discussed the experiences she and her fellow students had with programs at their school and the role the programs played in supporting students in learning important skills for future careers. "Without proper funding for public schools, and without dedicated teachers and administrators, neither I nor any of my friends would be able to find or develop these passions," Martin explained. She echoed Healey by urging Gov. Wolf and the legislature to increase funding for education. "Instead of lagging in the past, I want you to focus on the future," she stated.

School Board Director of the Phoenixville Area School District Blake Emmanuel explained she is a special education advocate and a mother of two children, including one with multiple disabilities. "The supports and services that our students receive during their time in special education is often what makes or breaks their future successes," she asserted. Emmanuel explained that federal underfunding for special education has forced states and local taxpayers to make up for it, resulting in cuts in essential programs. She highlighted examples of underfunding for special education, expressing that "we need change, and we need it now."

President and CEO of Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children Kari King stated that career and technical education (CTE) is an important part of students' education and she highlighted Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children's report regarding increased funding for CTE in the 2019-20 budget. She recognized the organization's partnership with the Pennsylvania Association for Career and Technical Administrators and CTE centers across the state. She noted that CTE has received bipartisan support from legislators across the aisle and that current CTE centers reflect the passion and appreciation of teachers and students. However, King explained that CTE is not available to everyone, as CTE centers can only take on a limited number of students. She added

that districts currently carry the burden of 90 percent of funding for CTE. She encouraged legislators to include an additional \$10 million in the upcoming budget to support CTE and alleviate financial pressures for schools, claiming that it can help ensure “no student lacks access to these programs.”

Rich Askey, president of the Pennsylvania State Education Association, thanked those present and affirmed, “I’m here today to give a voice to these dedicated educators, and support professionals, and to the students they care so much about.” Askey voiced his support for previous work done with Gov. Wolf and lawmakers from both parties to address funding cuts, CTE, and school safety. He added that he looks forward to future progress for the next four years, and said they are here to “[call] on our elected leaders to do the right thing and continue investing in our public schools.” He asserted, “A strong economy must be built on a strong foundation, and our public education system is that foundation.” He continued by saying that investing in public education provides more opportunities and fosters a strong economy, leading to a successful future.

Rep. Joseph Ciresi (D-Montgomery) stepped forward to recognize the members behind him and the work they do. He expressed his support for addressing education funding, noting that education is one of the most common causes used in election campaigns. He encouraged fair funding for schools, adding that his school district is the fifth most underfunded district in the state. Rep. Ciresi concluded by saying, “It’s time as a legislator that we fight to fund education the right way.”

GROUPS RELEASE ANNUAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET REPORT

By Jeff Cox, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | January 25, 2019

Today representatives from the Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) held a Capitol Hill news conference to release their annual [*PASBO/PASA School District Budget Report*](#). The budget report is based on survey responses from 279 of Pennsylvania’s school districts and publicly available data pulled from the Annual Financial Reports and General Fund Budgets submitted by all 500 districts. Data from the survey indicates school districts are facing continually rising mandated costs, particularly, in the areas of special education, charter school tuition and pension costs.

PASA Executive Director Mark DiRocco stated, “The report indicates that school district finances continue to be of serious concern across the commonwealth.” He explained, “Only 16 percent of districts participating in the study indicated that their district financial condition had improved over this past year; 50 percent of the districts indicated their finances remained about the same compared to the previous year; and 34 percent reported that their financial situation is worse than the year before.” DiRocco noted that an “astounding 84 percent of school districts across the state are not moving forward towards fiscal stability.”

DiRocco said, “This past June, the legislature appropriated an additional \$100 million in basic subsidy, which was greatly appreciated by school officials, and this left a general impression among the public that school districts were receiving additional money to assist teachers and students in the classroom.” He reported, “Sadly, these new dollars were diverted to mandated costs such as increased retirement contributions.” According to DiRocco, “In fact, school districts paid out more than \$100 million in additional retirement increases, effectively mitigating the subsidies increase for the current year.” He added, “Those new dollars never made it to the classroom.”

In addition to the mandated cost increases, DiRocco discussed the school districts’ efforts to find resources to make improvements in school safety and security. He said that “the passage of [Act 44](#) has focused districts across the commonwealth on improving safety and security.” DiRocco observed, “The prioritization of school safety and security is evident by the overwhelming interest in the school safety and security grant program implemented under Act 44.” He explained, “This grant program provided \$52.5 million in funds to be distributed yet school entities identified over \$330 million in school safety and security needs during the application process.” Noting grant funding was only appropriated for the current 2018-19 budget, DiRocco argued, “These funds need to be sustained and increased in order to help districts ensure the safety of their children.” He concluded, “We can and must do better in this on behalf of our children.”

PASBO President Robert Saul spoke about the fastest growing mandated costs from pension, special education and charter school tuition costs. He noted, “These are all costs that school districts must cover, regardless of how sharply they increase from year to year.” According to Saul, “From 2010-11 to 2016-17, school district pension costs, special education costs and charter school tuition costs alone increased by \$3.97 billion.” He reported, “While state support for education increased by \$1.91 billion during this time, school districts were left to fill a \$2 billion deficit — a deficit that was inevitably filled through cuts and property tax increases.”

Saul also reported that each year about 20 percent of school districts experience a decline in their assessed value which is the value upon which property taxes are based. He explained, “As a result, these school districts have to raise property taxes each year just to recover the same amount of revenue as the previous year.” Saul pointed out, “Even school districts with steady or growing assessed value face difficulty in generating the revenue necessary to cover mandated expenditure increases and to take a step forward.” Concluding his remarks, Saul said that “without additional state funds to mitigate these deficits, school business officials and superintendents will continue with the frustration of being forced to stand still each and every year.”

Dr. Richard Fry, PASA president and superintendent of the Big Spring School District in Cumberland County, discussed the extent to which special education costs are driving school district budgets. He explained how increasing special education costs are driving the budget process in his school district. Dr. Fry reported, “Special education costs have increased by more than \$2 million in the Big Spring School District over the past eight years, yet state funding for special education has only increased by \$104,000, causing the local taxpayers to pick up the remaining tab.”

PASBO Executive Director Jay Himes commented, “The education deficit has built over time and created long-term financial instability in many school districts.” He asserted, “The education deficit means districts live budget to budget, making little new investment directly for students.” Himes observed, “While these mandated costs and their continued increase and strain on school district budgets are not new, the demands placed on school district budgets due to priorities such as school safety represent new cost concerns. He cautioned, “Unless there is a permanent funding source, school districts will need to absorb additional costs and the result is higher property taxes for residents and reduced educational opportunities to students.” Himes argued, “We need to do better. We must erase the education deficit and put school back on a sound fiscal and educational path into the future.” He also asserted, “We can erase the education deficit with an additional commitment from the state as a partner in providing additional resources to help all school districts.”



PASBO.PASA
Budget Survey 1.25.

As lawmakers probe Wolf's teacher pay raise, long term effects worry school districts

Author: Andrew Bahl/Wednesday, February 13, 2019/Categories: News and Views

For Louis Lepley, superintendent of the North Star School District, attracting and retaining teachers in his rural Somerset County district can be a tall task.

“You can't blame them, we're not one of the higher paying districts in the state, and when [teachers] get that experience then we see a lot of them leave,” Lepley said. “And hats off to them—unless they have local ties, there's a good chance they're leaving.”

The average pay for a teacher in the NSSD is roughly \$44,000 a year, making them one of many districts throughout the state that would be affected by Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed plan to raise the minimum teacher salary to \$45,000.

Pennsylvania is not the only state considering such a change. Lawmakers in Arkansas approved a \$4,000 pay raise for teachers in their last budget. And a push in Indiana to set a minimum salary of \$40,000 failed last month, with opponents arguing most districts in the state would already be in line with that bar.

None of those proposals would be as drastic as Wolf's, however. Five districts in the state are in the same boat as North Star, with average pay falling below the proposed \$45,000 threshold. Dozens of other districts have an average pay over that amount but would require state support to boost the salaries of its lowest paid teachers.

Sen. Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster), chair of the Senate Education Committee, said he has been told over 5,000 educators would be affected by the raise across 288 districts.

Many older, better paid teachers in rural districts like North Star have retired in recent years, meaning the school district now employs more young teachers who would be in line for a raise. This is in addition to broader struggles confronting rural educators and administrators, including declining enrollment and proposed consolidation of schools and even school districts.

Administrators from multiple school districts said they were caught off guard by the announcement and are still processing what it could mean for their staff. Lepley said he had little indication that the provision would be on the table prior to the governor's budget address.

Although Lepley said he supported the idea of giving his teachers a pay raise, he also underscored that the ramifications of such a change could extend far beyond the 2019-20 budget.

Even though Wolf's assurances that the provision would be a funded mandate, lawmakers say they will give the proposal a thorough review of the plan and its impact, both on the bottom line this year and in budgets to come.

"We aren't saying we're opposing it, we're investigating it and we'll do the best that we can do," House Appropriations Chairman Stan Saylor told the PLS Reporter after the first round of budget hearings Monday.

The potential fallout could affect all teachers, regardless of whether they make more than \$45,000 or not. In North Star, half of the district's 114 teachers would be in line for a pay raise under Wolf's proposal, with a new teacher earning a \$12,000 bump, according to data provided by the district.

North Star would receive over \$500,000 in state support, according to the governor's plan. The school district says it would need several years of funding at that level before it could raise funds through other means, including increasing local taxes, to pay for the change.

But Aument noted that altering base pay could prompt raises for more senior teachers, an effect which would not necessarily be covered under the \$13 million in additional funding doled out to districts statewide.

Teachers in North Star could work in the district for upwards of nine or ten years before they earn \$45,000, Lepley said, meaning many older teachers could be in line for a pay hike as well.

"If we're raising the floor, it's reasonable to expect that those teachers that are in the mid-range or the higher range of that step salary structure, they're likely to expect and are likely to negotiate raises for themselves," Aument told the PLS Reporter. "That's not going to be paid for, that cost is going to be borne by the districts."

The effects could extend well beyond the next several years. A teacher's pension is keyed into their salary and while the initial increase in how much districts like North Star will contribute to the Public School Employee Retirement System would be covered by the state, subsequent shifts in contributions would not be.

While the top of the salary scale is what is factored into a teacher's pension when they retire, the domino effect of raising salaries could touch this eventually as well. And Saylor said other benefits, including Social Security, could become also become costlier.

“It has an impact on your pension costs for the school district but it also has an impact on the Social Security as well because, remember, the employer pays 50 percent,” he said. “So all of those things will be impacted in millions of dollars in additional costs to the pension fund, as well as to Social Security.”

Saylor said he was especially concerned about potential tax increases on those who live in areas most affected by the raise.

“We’re going to force that school district to raise taxes to give all those teachers raises,” Saylor said. “What you have to look at are the consequences to the local taxpayers, it will probably increase property taxes in those areas. What does it do to teacher contracts out there? ... It creates multiple problems in doing that.”

While lawmakers begin to have their say on the budget, Lepley said he and his staff are firmly focused on figuring out what effect a pay raise would have on North Star going forward.

“For us, at this point, it will be how will we get through the next three to five years. I’m in favor of it, if we can get the right funding from the state to at least help us through the first initial years and to have a plan moving forward, it would be fantastic,” he said. “But if it’s just ‘hey we’re going to give you this one and done,’ I wouldn’t support that. It would be devastating to the district.”

Aument said that while he appreciated Wolf’s efforts to bring compensation to the forefront, he would rather use other policy means of giving educators a pay raise, including bonuses for top performing teachers and grants for parts of the state with teacher shortages.

“The proposal, as it was highlighted during the budget address and in the budget documents, it’s hard to see a path forward,” he said.

Dates of Interest

2019 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

January — 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February — 4, 5, 6
March — 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April — 8, 9, 10, 29, 30
May — 1, 6, 7, 8
June — 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

2019 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

January — 1, 15, 16, 28, 29, 30
February — 4, 5, 6, 19, 20, 21
March — 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 25, 26, 27
April — 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30
May — 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23 (Cancelled)
June — 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

House Appropriations * BUDGET HEARING * MONDAY - 3/4/19
10:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol
Budget Hearing - Department of Education

Senate Appropriations * BUDGET HEARING * TUESDAY - 3/5/19
10:00 a.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget Hearing - Dept. of Education

Senate Appropriations * BUDGET HEARING * TUESDAY - 3/5/19
1:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget Hearing - Dept. of Education continued

Agency Notices

DOE: PROPOSED GRANT PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT 2019 The Department of Education encouraged public comment on the proposed grant application under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA-B). More information on the act and the annual grant application process is available on the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Public comments will be accepted from February 18, 2019, through April 18, 2019. Comments should be directed to John Gombocz, special education adviser, Bureau of Special Education, Department of Education, 333 Market Street, 7th floor, Harrisburg, PA 17126. The department indicated that oral testimony could be presented by contacting Amanda Strawser at (717) 214-0656 no later than March 1, 2019. The dates, location and times for providing oral testimony are available on the Pennsylvania Bulletin. <https://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol49/49-7/213.html>

Tracked Legislation

HB 42 Snyder, Pam Amends Tax Reform Code re tax credit

Amends the Tax Reform Code providing for a depressed area tax credit. *provide businesses with a tax credit for contributing to educational programs occurring outside the school setting in areas certified as economically disadvantaged.* Blend between the Educational Improvement Tax and the Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credit

Bill History: 01-09-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

HB 48 Diamond, Russ Amends Public School Code re vaccinations

Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for immunization required and penalty. The bill requires a public school entity, nonpublic school, political subdivision or the Commonwealth to include with any provision of information containing information relating to immunization requirements issued by the Commonwealth the following information in the same size and font as the publication, posting or provision: (1) The exemptions from immunization requirements; (2) That the public school entity, nonpublic school, political subdivision or the Commonwealth accepts the exemptions from immunization requirements; and (3) The process by which a child may obtain an exemption from immunization requirements. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-10-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 49 Brown, Rosemary Amends Public School Code re financial courses

(PN 61) Amends the Public School Code, providing that beginning with students graduating from a public high school at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and continuing in each school year thereafter, a student who successfully completes a course in personal financial literacy during grades nine through twelve shall be permitted to apply up to one credit earned for successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science, mathematics or business education credit requirement for graduation, provided that the governing body of the student's public high school shall have discretion to determine the graduation credit requirement to which the credit earned by the student shall be applied. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-10-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 94 Brown, Rosemary Act re tick bites in school

(PN 96) The Lyme Disease Prevention in Schools Act provides for school entity procedures for tick removal, for notification and for duties of the Department of Health and the Department of Education. In the event a school nurse or school physician discovers a tick on a student during the school day, the school nurse or school physician shall: (1) remove the tick from the student; (2) store the tick appropriately for a period of seven days; (3) label the tick with the date of removal and the name of the student; and (4) notify the parent or guardian of the student on the same day the tick is discovered. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-18-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 102 Maloney, David Amends Title 34 re hunter education courses

(PN 101) Amends Title 34 (Game), in hunting and furtaking licenses, further providing for eligibility for license by adding that upon request of the commission, all public school districts shall make a school facility under their control available for the purpose of conducting a hunter education course. Classes may occur as an after-school or weekend function or any other day when school is not in session. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-18-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Game and Fisheries

HB 108 Quinn, Chris Amends Public School Code re school safety

(PN 107) Amends the Public School Code establishing the Digital Protection School Safety Account; and providing for duties of school entities and the department. *10% sales tax on video games that contains violent material to be used by school entities to implement school safety and violence prevention measures through the use of security-related equipment and training.* Effective immediately.

Bill History: 01-23-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 109 Quinn, Chris Amends Tax Reform Code re school safety

(PN 108) Amends the Tax Reform Code implementing a ten percent tax on video games that have a rating of adults-only or mature, establishing the Digital Protection for School Safety Account and imposing penalties. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-23-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

HB 112 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re attendance

(PN 110) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, redefining "compulsory school age" as the period of a child's life from the time the child's parents elect to have the child enter school and which shall be no later than six (changed from eight) years of age until the child reaches 18 (changed from 17) years of age or, if the child's parent or guardian consents, until the child reaches seventeen years of age. The term does not include a child who holds a certificate of graduation from a regularly accredited, licensed, registered or approved high school. Effective in 90 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 119 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re suicide incidents

(PN 114) Amends the Public School Code, in safe schools, further providing for reporting by adding that in addition to any other required report, no later than 72 hours from an incident of attempted suicide or committed suicide on school property, a chief school administrator shall report the incident to the office. The report shall not reveal any identifying information of a student and shall meet the requirements under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 120 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re employee transfer

(PN 115) Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, further providing for transferred programs and classes. The bill outlines provisions that apply to professional and temporary professional employees of any school district in which the students assigned to a building or buildings have been reassigned to another school district due to the closing of a building or buildings. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 121 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re officer training

(PN 116) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for school police officers, school resource officers and school security guards. The bill requires each school police officer, school resource officer, or school security guard to *successfully complete training designed to facilitate working with children and adolescents, including those with mental health and behavioral health needs due to a disability*. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 124 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re safety audits

(PN 118) Amends the Public School Code, in safe schools, providing for school safety requirements; and, in terms and courses of study, further providing for fire and emergency evacuation drills. Each school entity shall be subject to an annual safety assessment audit that reviews the school entity's school safety plan to determine compliance with the requirements of this section. The safety assessment audit shall be conducted by police officers with a certification in physical security training from the Department of Homeland Security. Each school entity shall have a school safety plan that may be districtwide or school-specific. Each school entity shall establish and develop policies for a threat assessment team that may service one or more schools as determined by the school entity. The chief school administrator shall notify the parents or guardians of the student when the threat assessment team has determined that the student may pose a threat to the safety of the student, other students, faculty or staff and may refer the matter to law enforcement. A student who may pose a threat to the safety of the student, other students, faculty or staff who has a current individualized education program or qualified 504 plan shall be scheduled for an individualized education program or 504 meeting to consider additional support services. Furthermore, each school entity shall conduct two school security drills each year. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 168 Donatucci, Mari Amends Public School Code re bldg. closure

(PN 142) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, outlining school building closure requirements. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 181 Cruz, Angel Amends Public School Code re school year

(PN 153) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for dates and times of school terms and sessions and commencement. The bill establishes that the board of school directors of each school district shall fix the date of the beginning of the school term, except that, in a school district that is not on a year-round education calendar, the beginning of a school term for students shall not commence any earlier than the day after Labor Day. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 185 Quinn, Chris Amends Public School Code re opioid education

(PN 157) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, requiring students to receive mandatory instruction in opioid abuse in every school year in every grade from grade six through grade twelve. Makes appropriations to school districts, based on their class. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-24-19 H Filed

01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 227 Gabler, Matt Amends PA Election Code re school directors

(PN 197) Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code, in nomination of candidates, providing that ten signers are required for nomination petitions of candidates for school director at primaries. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-05-19 Third consideration 1:43pm

02-05-19 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:193/N: 0)

02-08-19 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate State Government

HB 239 Readshaw, Harry Amends Act 10 of 1991 re military recruiters

(PN 209) Amends the act "requiring the superintendent of every public school district to make available, upon request, lists of graduating seniors to armed forces recruiters; and providing a penalty for the misuse of any such lists" further providing for title and for legislative intent; providing for short title and for definitions; and further providing for list of seniors to be compiled, for optional compliance by nonpublic schools and for reimbursement of costs. The bill establishes that the Military Access to Student Recruiting Information Act that states a school entity, except as otherwise provided, shall, upon request, make available to all armed forces recruiters for the active component, reserve component and National Guard component of the armed forces the same access to secondary school students as is available to institutions of higher education, trade schools and prospective employers. Access shall include, but not be limited to, a list of secondary school students by name, home address and telephone number. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-25-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 243 Miller, Daniel Amends Title 23 re updating parentage laws

(PN 213) Amends Title 23 (Domestic Relations) adding provisions relating to establishment of parent-child relationship for certain individuals; providing for voluntary acknowledgment of parentage, for registry of paternity, for genetic testing, for proceeding to adjudicate parentage, for assisted reproduction, for surrogacy agreements and for information about donors. The bill establishes that an individual is presumed to be a parent of a child if: the individual and the woman who gave birth to the child are married to each other and the child is born during the marriage, whether the marriage is or could be declared invalid; the individual and the woman who gave birth to the child were married to each other and the child is born not later than 300 days after the marriage is terminated by death, divorce, dissolution or annulment, whether the marriage is or could be declared invalid; or the individual and the woman who gave birth to the child married each other after the birth of the child, whether the marriage is or could be declared invalid, and the individual at any time asserted parentage of the child. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-25-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

HB 267 Driscoll, Micha Amends Public School Code re financial edu.

(PN 238) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code and for economic education and personal financial literacy programs, providing for personal finance instruction and for capstone course in personal finance as graduation requirement and establishing the Personal Finance Education Fund; and making an appropriation. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-29-19 H Filed
01-29-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 278 James, Lee Amends Public School Code re CPR instruction

(PN 252) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, requiring hands-only CPR instruction. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-29-19 H Filed
01-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 298 Solomon, Jared Act re older adult mentor volunteer program

(PN 271) The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program Act establishes the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program and provides for duties of the Department of Education, the State Board of Education, intermediate units and public school entities. The specified goals of the program are to enable older adults to impart the wisdom that they have accrued to the next generation and to share their unique professions, skills and experiences with students, and to provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest and develop skills, knowledge and experience in a variety of subjects, trades and hobbies. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-30-19 H Filed
01-30-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 322 Ryan, Frank Act re Property Tax Pension Disclosure Act

(PN 300) The Property Tax Pension Obligation Disclosure Act requires school districts to provide annual notice relating to certain pension and other postemployment benefit obligations; and provides for property disclosure statement and for duty of State Real Estate Commission. Portions are effective in 60 days and portions are effective six months after publication.

Bill History: 01-31-19 H Filed
02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

HB 323 Ryan, Frank Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re subdivision

(PN 301) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act excluding political subdivisions from the act and authorizing a political subdivision or an authority, agency or instrumentality of a political subdivision to elect, by ordinance or resolution, to place itself within the jurisdiction of the act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-31-19 H Filed
02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 104 Ryan, Frank Amends Prevailing Wage Act re payment

(PN 103) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act redefining "public work" as construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration and/or repair work other than maintenance work, done under contract and paid for by at least 51 percent out of the funds of a public body where the estimated cost of the total project is in excess of \$25,000, but shall not include work performed under a rehabilitation or manpower training program. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-22-19 H Filed
01-28-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 319 Ryan, Frank Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re referendum

(PN 298) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act further providing for definitions; providing for referendum for prevailing wage rates, for subsequent public referenda and for election interference prohibited; and repealing related provisions of the Public School Code of 1949. Certain school entities are excluded from the act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-31-19 H Filed
02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 367 Rothman, Greg Amends Public School Code re prevailing wage

(PN 461) Amends the Public School Code adding a section exempting school districts from the requirements of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act when a school district commits to use any savings for the payment of the district's employer contribution towards retirement for school employees. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-04-19 H Filed
02-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 334 Grove, Seth Amends Public School Code re CIPs

(PN 311) Amends the Public School Code codifying pilot program relating to classification of instructional programs. Effective in 60 days. Pilot program to expedite the classification of instructional programs (CIPs). -

Bill History: 02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
02-19-19 H Press conference held
03-11-19 H Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 205, Ryan Office Building, House Education -- House Education

HB 340 Cruz, Angel Amends Public School Code re assessments

(PN 317) Amends the Public School Code requiring the State Board of Education, in consultation with every board of school directors located in each county, to develop assessments to be administered in lieu of the statewide standardized tests. Provides for the elimination of the required passage of assessments as a requirement for graduation. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-31-19 H Filed

02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 341 Cruz, Angel Amends Public School Code re diabetes testing

(PN 318) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, requiring a student be tested for diabetes prior to their admittance to school. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-31-19 H Filed

02-01-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Health

HB 383 Diamond, Russ Amends Public School Code re sexual misconduct

(PN 353) Amends the Public School Code, in collective bargaining, further providing for matters of inherent managerial policy by adding that the matters shall include the employer's policies with respect to termination or suspension of an employe for engaging in sexual misconduct. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-04-19 H Filed

02-05-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 390 Miller, Daniel Amends Public School Code re social workers

(PN 374) Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, further providing for definitions and providing for school social workers. The bill establishes that a school entity that employs a school social worker must employ an individual who holds an educational specialist certificate for school social worker issued by the Department of Education. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-05-19 H Filed

02-06-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 415 Oberlander, Don Amends Public School Code re threat assessment

(PN 388) Amends the Public School Code, in safe schools, providing for threat assessment teams. The bill establishes that within 180 days of the effective date and every three years thereafter, the school entity, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, shall develop and issue guidelines for a threat assessment team that includes: the membership of each threat assessment team; responsibilities of each threat assessment team in identifying threats to the property of a school entity, students and school employees, including physical vulnerabilities in the school building, policies and procedures and personnel responsibilities; potential solutions to resolving any threats identified; the frequency with which each threat assessment team meets; the frequency with which each threat assessment team meets the responsibilities; and the frequency with which each threat assessment team must report any threats to the office. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-05-19 H Filed

02-06-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 425 Mackenzie, Ryan Act re CareerBound Workforce Dev. Program

(PN 548) The CareerBound Act provides for school-to-work programs; establishing the CareerBound program; and imposing powers and duties on the Department of Labor and Industry. Funding and notice effective immediately, remainder of the act effective upon publication in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

Bill History: 02-19-19 H Filed

02-20-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

HB 434 Solomon, Jared Amends Public School Code re professional dev.

(PN 421) Amends the Public School Code adding a new section requiring the Department of Education to develop and implement a continuing professional education course on cultural awareness that may be used by professional educators to satisfy the continuing education requirement. Provides the department shall develop the course in a manner which provides professional educators with information and strategies which can be incorporated into instruction and general instructions with students in order to encourage students to become more culturally aware. Further provides for the contents of the course. Also provides for an annual report by the department to the chairmen and minority chairmen of the House and Senate Education Committees. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-06-19 H Filed

02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 449 Cruz, Angel Amends Public School Code re physical ed.

(PN 434) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for physical education by adding that students in grades K-5 must participate in 150 minutes of physical education during each school week and students in grades 6-8 must participate in 225 minutes of physical education each school week. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-07-19 H Filed

02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 450 Cruz, Angel Amends Public School Code re cell phone ban

(PN 435) Amends the Public School code providing a ban against cellular phones, beepers, and portable electronic devices that record or play audio or video material on school grounds, at school sponsored activities, and on buses or other vehicles provided by the school district. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-07-19 H Filed

02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 458 Cruz, Angel Amends Title 75 re school bus video monitoring

(PN 443) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) adding language requiring every school bus to have a video monitoring system by July 1, 2021. The system shall include an internal camera positioned so that every seat is within the camera's field of vision and either an internal camera positioned outward so the road ahead is within the camera's field of vision or an external camera. Also requires the Department of Transportation to adopt regulations implementing this requirement. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 02-07-19 H Filed

02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 463 Cruz, Angel Amends Title 75 re speed humps in school zones

(PN 448) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in powers of department and local authorities, authorizing the department to establish and administer a pilot program to place speed humps, speed tables, speed cushions or speed pillows within a school zone. A minimum of one school zone within a school district located in each class of county shall be selected. The department shall submit a report to the legislature by December 31, 2020, regarding the program. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-07-19 H Filed
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Transportation

HB 472 Everett, Garth Amends Public School Code re building projects

(PN 457) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, requiring approval by public referendum prior to the board of school directors of any school district of the second, third or fourth classes constructing, entering into a contract to construct or entering into a contract to lease a new school building or prior to the substantial addition to or renovation of an existing school building that would result in the school district borrowing more than the equivalent of 50 percent of the school district's annual revenue of the prior school year. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-08-19 H Filed
02-11-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Government

HB 495 Davis, Tina Amends Public School Code re dating violence

(PN 483) Amends the Public School Code further providing for dating violence education. Adds language requiring each school district to establish a specific policy to address incidents of dating violence and sexual harassment involving students within one year of the effective date of the legislation. Mandates dating violence and sexual harassment education and peer support training in middle and high schools. Also requires school districts to provide training for faculty and administrators on the subject of dating violence and sexual harassment. Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History: 02-08-19 H Filed
02-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 500 Kortz, Bill Amends Public School Code re loans

(PN 488) Amends the Public School Code adding language prohibiting a school district from distributing a personal loan to any person on or after the effective date of this act. Provides that no later than 10 days from the discovery that a personal loan has been distributed in violation of the prohibition, in addition to the total loan balance, the recipient of the loan shall pay a fee equal to 20 percent of the total loan balance, including the interest accrued, to the school district. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-08-19 H Filed
02-12-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 526 Somney, Curt Amends Public School Code re cyber education

(PN 520) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, providing for full-time cyber education program offered by school district stipulating that the following shall apply to a student who resides in a school district that offers a full-time cyber education program: (1) If the student enrolls in the full-time cyber education program offered by the school district of residence, the student's enrollment in the cyber education program shall be subject to no tuition or fees other than fees that the school district imposes on its students generally; and (2) If the student chooses to enroll in a cyber charter school, the student or the student's parent or guardian shall be responsible to pay the cyber charter school a per-student amount calculated in the manner set forth. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-13-19 H Filed
02-19-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

HB 555 Kauffman, Rob Act re Student Religious Liberties Act

(PN 554) An Act providing for voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints in public schools; requiring public school districts to allow religious expression in class assignments, to provide students with the freedom to organize religious groups and activities and to provide a limited public forum for student speakers at nongraduation and graduation events; and providing for a model policy for voluntary religious expression in public schools. Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History: 02-19-19 H Filed
02-20-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

HB 560 Gleim, Barbara Amends PA Prevailing Wage Act re definitions

(PN 559) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, further providing for definitions. The bill defines public work as construction, reconstruction, demolition, alteration and/or repair work other than maintenance work, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body where the estimated cost of the total project is in excess of \$150,000. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-19-19 H Filed
02-20-19 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

SB 34 Schwank, Judy Amends Public School Code re cyber charters

Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools. The bill establishes that funding for a charter school shall be provided except in the following: if a public school district offers a cyber-based program equal in scope and content to an existing publicly-chartered cyber charter school, and a student in that district attends a cyber charter school instead of the district's cyber-based program, the school district shall not be required to provide funding to pay for the student's attendance at a cyber charter school. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-11-19 S Filed
01-11-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 59 Williams, Antho Amends Public School Code re financial edu.

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code and for economic education and personal financial literacy programs; providing for personal finance instruction and for capstone course in personal finance as graduation requirement; establishing the Office of Personal Finance Education to oversee personal finance education programs; establishing the Personal Finance Education Fund; and appropriating \$3 million to the Department of Education. The bill requires the development and implementation of a personal finance instruction for grades K-12. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-11-19 S Filed
01-11-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 76 Argall, David Property Tax Independence Act

The Property Tax Independence Act provides for tax levies and information related to taxes; authorizes the imposition of a personal income tax or an earned income tax by a school district subject to voter approval; provides for imposition of and exclusions from a sales and use tax for the stabilization of education funding; for increase to the personal income tax, for certain licenses, for hotel occupancy tax, for procedure and administration of the tax, for

expiration of authority to issue certain debt and for reporting by local government units of debt outstanding; establishes the Education Stabilization Fund and the Education Cost Commission; provides for disbursements from the Education Stabilization Fund and for senior citizen property tax rent rebate assistance; and makes repeals. The bill provides for the elimination of school property taxes and authorizes school districts to levy, assess and collect a tax on personal income or a tax on earned income and net profits. The sales and use tax is replaced by the Sales and Use Tax for the Stabilization of Education Funding, which shall be seven percent. Portions are effective June 30, 2020; portions are effective January 1, 2020; and the remainder is effective immediately.

Bill History: 02-22-19 S Filed
02-22-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 84 Phillips-Hill, Amends Title 24 re pensions for PSBA employees

Amends Title 24 (Education) clarifying the term "governmental entity" does not include an association authorized to receive membership dues from a public school entity. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 01-24-19 S Filed
01-24-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

SB 89 Hughes, Vincent Amends Public School Code re career schools

Amends the Public School Code replacing references to "vocational-technical" with "career and technical," replacing references to "vocational" with "career and technical" and replacing references to "vocation" with "career and technical"; deleting references to vocational school districts; renaming the State Board for Vocational Education as the State Board of Career and Technical Education; and making editorial changes. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-29-19 S Filed
01-29-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 115 Killion, Thomas Amends Public School Code re CPR instruction

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation education for public school students in grades nine through 12. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-29-19 S Filed
01-29-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 124 DiSanto, John Amends Public School Code re prevailing wage

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for prohibition of the use of the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act by adding that no contract entered into by a school district, charter school, cyber charter school or institution of higher education under this act for a public work, as defined in the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act, shall be subject to the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 01-28-19 S Filed
01-28-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry

SB 182 Brooks, Michele Amends Public School Code re tick bites

(PN 138) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing for the removal of a tick from a student. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-01-19 S Filed
02-01-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 199 Regan, Mike Amends Public School Code re depression checks

(PN 156) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, requiring early intervention depression screening beginning in sixth grade. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 02-04-19 S Filed
02-04-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 219 Hughes, Vincent Amends Public School Code re health industries

(PN 185) Amends the Public School Code adding an article establishing the Health-Related Industries Educational Scholarship Program and the Health-Related Industries Educational Scholarship Program Fund in the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency. The program and fund shall be used to provide grants for defraying the necessary expense of residents of the commonwealth who are eligible students pursuing an eligible course of study pertaining to health-related industries. Contributions to the fund would be tax deductible. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-05-19 S Filed
02-05-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 230 Killion, Thomas Amends Public School Code re tax credits

(PN 214) Amends the Public School Code, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions. The bill adds that a pass-through entity includes a qualified Subchapter S trust as defined in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Effective immediately.

Bill History: 02-07-19 S Filed
02-07-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 234 Browne, Patrick Act re budget bill

(PN 198) The General Appropriation Act of 2019 provides appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the executive and judicial departments, the state government support agencies and the General Assembly of the commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, for certain institutions and organizations and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018; to provide for the appropriation of federal funds to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; and to provide for the additional appropriation of federal and state funds to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2018, to June 30, 2019, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018. Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History: 02-07-19 S Filed
02-07-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

SB 239 Browne, Patrick Act re PSERS appropriation

(PN 203) Act appropriating \$51,637,000 from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund to provide for expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Effective July 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History: 02-07-19 S Filed
02-07-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Appropriations

SB 260 Dinniman, Andre Amends Title 66 re pipelines near schools

(PN 231) Amends Title 66 (Public Utilities), in service and facilities, adding a chapter providing for information regarding transmission of hazardous liquids near school buildings. Within six months of the completion of construction of facilities and no later than January 15 of every odd-numbered year thereafter, an operator shall file with the commission the following information: (1) the name of each school located within 1,000 feet of the facilities; (2) the street address of each school building located within 1,000 feet of the facilities; and (3) the identification (system name) of the facilities. The bill also provides for provision of an emergency response plan by an operator and for recordkeeping. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-07-19 S Filed
02-07-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

SB 278 Dinniman, Andre Amends Public School Code re enrollment age

(PN 237) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for age limits and temporary residence and for the definition of "compulsory school age." Beginning at age five (changed from six), children are allowed to attend public school and the compulsory school age is lowered from eight to five. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-08-19 S Filed
02-08-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 279 Dinniman, Andre Amends Public School Code re child protection

(PN 238) Amends the Public School Code, in school districts, creating a duty to notify the county regarding truancy if: (1) A child or another child in the child's household has been the subject of a founded or indicated report or received general protective services within the last 18 months; (2) The parent or other person the child resides with has been the subject of a report within the last 18 months. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-08-19 S Filed
02-08-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 299 Regan, Mike Amends Public School Code re EITC & OSTC

(PN 261) Amends the Public School Code, in educational tax credits, further providing for limitations. The bill establishes for the fiscal year 2018-2019 that the total aggregate amount of all tax credits approved for contributions from business firms to scholarship organizations, educational improvement organizations and prekindergarten scholarship organizations shall not exceed \$135,000,000. It also states no less than \$85,000,000 or 63 percent of the total aggregate amount shall be used to provide tax credits for contributions from business firms to scholarship organizations; no less than \$37,500,000 or 27.5 percent of the total aggregate amount shall be used to provide tax credits for contributions from business firms to educational improvement organizations; and the total aggregate amount of all tax credits approved for contributions from business firms to prekindergarten scholarship organizations shall not exceed \$12,500,000 or 9.5 percent of the total aggregate amount in a fiscal year. Beginning in fiscal year 2019-2020, if any fiscal year in which the total aggregate amount of tax credits approved for the prior fiscal year is equal to or greater than 90 percent of the total aggregate amount of all tax credits available for the prior fiscal year, the total aggregate amount of all tax credits available shall increase by 25 percent. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History: 02-14-19 S Filed
02-14-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

SB 331 Brooks, Michele Amends Public School Code re fire training

(PN 313) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Fire Training Fund. The Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program is established to provide high school students with instruction through a partnership between institutions of higher education and school districts or area vocational-technical schools, or both, to increase the number of individuals capable of becoming volunteer firefighters. Effective January 1, 2019, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History: 02-26-19 S Filed
02-26-19 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education