



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

April 22, 2016

The General Assembly was not in session this week. The House will reconvene on Monday, May 2, and the Senate will return on Monday, May 9.

Governor's Desk **PSBA urges Gov. Wolf to sign Fiscal Code bill**
As this report is published, Gov. Tom Wolf has not yet taken action on [House Bill 1589](#) (Rep. Causer, R-McKean), the Fiscal Code bill that would implement the Basic Education Funding Commission's recommended funding formula for 2015-16 and provide reimbursement to districts for school construction projects under the PlanCon process. **The governor has until Sunday, April 24 to sign, veto or let the bill become law without his signature.**

PSBA strongly supports the passage of House Bill 1589, and applauds the General Assembly for taking action. Click here to see [the letter PSBA sent to Gov. Wolf](#) this week, urging him to enact the legislation.

These budget issues were part of another Fiscal Code bill that the governor vetoed in March. House Bill 1589 was passed by the General Assembly with enough votes in the Senate and House of Representatives to override a veto should that happen (The bill passed the Senate with a [vote of 37-11](#), and in the House with a [vote of 149-45](#). To override a veto, a total of 34 votes are needed in the Senate, and 136 votes in the House.)

Regarding PlanCon funding, the bill authorizes a \$2.5 billion bond to provide for approved reimbursements to districts for school construction costs. The enactment of the PlanCon provisions is estimated to result in finance costs of approximately \$1.5 billion over 20 years for the bonds authorized assuming an interest rate of 5% on the bonds. The Commonwealth General Fund budget included a \$306 million appropriation for state reimbursements to school districts for approved construction costs in 2014-15. House Bill 1589 also establishes a Public School Building Construction and Reconstruction Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations related to the PlanCon program.

[Click here for details](#) under House Bill 1589; see page 5 for education provisions.

PSBA will be providing an update and additional information on the status of House Bill 1589 and what school districts can expect.

Regulatory News

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Regulatory News

Proposed school immunization changes now open for public comment

Changes to the state regulations regarding student immunization and school attendance that are being jointly proposed by the Department of Health (Title 28, Chapter 23, School Health) and the State Board of Education (Title 22, Chapter 11, Student Attendance) have been published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin and are open for public comment until May 9, 2016. Following the public comment period, the proposed regulations will be considered by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC).

The most substantive changes will be to the Chapter 23 regulations; the language under Chapter 11 simply states that children may not attend school unless the requirements under Chapter 23 have been met. Revisions to both sets of regulations will move on parallel tracks so that they can be implemented as a package within the same timeframe.

One of the most substantive changes would replace the current provisional waiver of eight months for school children to be fully immunized. The proposal would allow a child who needs the next or final dose of a multiple dose vaccine five school days to obtain the next or final dose before being excluded from school, or attend school provisionally upon the submission of a medical certificate from the child's health care provider outlining the dates for additional vaccination. The proposal changes the time for the school administrator or designee to review the medical certificate and the child's compliance from every 60 days to every 30 days. The proposal also extends the deadline for schools to report immunization data to the Department of Health from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

Children who are homeless as defined under the McKinney Vento Act are excluded from these rules. Also, children transferring from outside the commonwealth will have 30 days to provide immunization records or get come into compliance with the rules. No change is proposed to the current medical, religious or philosophical exemptions to immunization.

PSBA is reviewing the proposals and will be providing comment to the Department

of Health and the State Board of Education.

[Click here to see Frequently Asked Questions about the proposed revisions.](#)

Click here to see IRRC's pages for [Chapter 23](#) and [Chapter 11](#) proposals.

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PSBA News

PSBA now accepting proposals for the 2017 Legislative Platform

PSBA is now inviting your school board to submit proposals to be considered for the association's 2017 Legislative Platform. The platform is PSBA's official record of positions on legislative issues and is the guide for the association's advocacy efforts. It is reviewed and adopted annually by school directors.

The deadline for school boards to submit items for consideration is Thursday, June 30. It is not too early to bring this issue up for discussion at your next board meeting so that your items can be drafted, approved and submitted to PSBA by the deadline. School boards should focus on the section of the PSBA Platform containing the Core Legislative Principles and Supporting Concepts. **In addition, this year school directors will be invited to participate in a separate process to select PSBA's Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 2017-18 session of the General Assembly.** More information on that process, which occurs every two years to coincide with the legislative session, will be available soon.

[Click here for details and submission forms.](#)

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PSBA seeking parents for advocacy network

This week PSBA sent an email to school superintendents asking their assistance over the next two weeks in compiling an updated contact list of the officers of their district's Parent Teacher Association and/or Parent Teacher Organization. The association will invite parents to participate in the PSBA Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) and provide them with information on relevant education issues.

[Click here for details](#) on PSBA's PAN and how parents can get involved in making an impact on public education.

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