



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

June 2, 2016

The General Assembly was not in session this week. Both the House and the Senate will reconvene on Monday, June 6.

Funding Reform

PSBA Priority Issue: New school funding formula is signed into law

Gov. Tom Wolf has signed into law [House Bill 1552](#), legislation that would make the bi-partisan Basic Education Funding Commission's subsidy funding formula permanent. The legislation is now **Act 35 of 2016**.

The need for the state to provide adequate, equitable and fair funding is one of PSBA's top legislative priority issues. By implementing the new formula under Act 35, school districts will have a greater degree of certainty on funding, allowing them to plan more accurately for the upcoming school year's budget. The formula directs money to school districts based on objective factors, such as student enrollment, the needs of the student population, and school district wealth and capacity to raise local revenues.

"Of course in order for a formula to work best, the state must continue to value the importance of investing in our schools and children by properly funding public education," PSBA Executive Director Nathan Mains said.

"Enacting a 2016-17 budget by the June 30 deadline is critical, especially after schools suffered through a nine-month budget impasse this year."

"I look forward to continuing to work with leaders in the coming weeks to further address our challenges and reach agreement on a budget that is balanced, fixes the deficit and further invests in education at all levels," the governor said in a prepared statement. "We still have a lot of work to do in order to restore funding, but we are now closer to resolving the inequity in Pennsylvania's school funding distribution."

In addition to enacting a fair funding formula, Act 35 contains emergency funding for two financially distressed school districts. Wilkesburg in Allegheny County will receive \$3 million and Chester Upland in Delaware County will receive \$12 million, with each amount being applied to the districts' base funding moving forward.



Proposed school immunization changes would NOT be effective for 2016-17

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) has announced that its proposed changes to school immunization regulations would not be effective for the 2016-17 school year. Schools should continue to use the current regulations for the coming school year, with more information to be forthcoming once the regulatory process has been finalized sometime in the future.

One of the most substantive changes under the proposal being jointly proposed by the DOH and the State Board of Education would replace the current provisional waiver of eight months for school children to be fully immunized with a provisional period of five school days to obtain the next or final dose before being excluded from school. A student may attend school provisionally beyond the five days 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.

PSBA is generally supportive of the proposal but has raised various logistical concerns if the changes would have become effective for 2016-17 school year.

[Click here to read PSBA's letter regarding the proposed changes to the regulations.](#)

[Click here to see information on the **Chapter 23** and **Chapter 11** proposals.](#)



IRRC receives proposed regulations for financial recovery

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) has received the final-form regulations proposed by the State Board of Education to its [Chapter 18](#) rules regarding financial recovery. IRRC will consider the proposal at its meeting on June 30. The proposal first began moving through the regulatory review process in July, 2014 and has not had any action since that time.

Chapter 18 fulfills the requirement under Act 141 of 2012, which established provisions regarding financially distressed school districts (except the School District of Philadelphia). Act 141 creates triggering events wherein school districts would be declared in financial recovery status, and directs the State Board to promulgate regulations that establish criteria the secretary of education may consider in placing a school district in financial recovery status and determining whether the district is in moderate or severe recovery status. Act 141 allows only nine school districts to be under a declaration of financial recovery status or in receivership at any time, and the Chapter 18 proposal reflects the same language.

PSBA supports the work of the State Board in fulfilling this requirement through the creation of Chapter 18. The proposal appropriately reflects the provisions of Act 141 without establishing extensive, unnecessary or duplicative additional criteria or procedures. Chapter 18 does not reach beyond the law by establishing unreasonable criteria that may be considered in determining whether a school district is in financial recovery status. It carries over the 15 criteria required by Act 141 and adds three additional criteria. It does not include criteria that are based on situations that cannot be controlled by the school district or lead to disputes.

PSBA News

- [PSBA Legislative Platform: June 30 is deadline to submit proposals, priority issue selection to begin June 13](#)
- [School boards asked to appoint Voting Delegates](#)
- [PSBA to participate in national grassroots conference](#)

PSBA News

PSBA Legislative Platform: June 30 is deadline to submit proposals, priority issue selection to begin June 13

School boards have the opportunity to become involved in the development of PSBA's Legislative Platform and selection of top priority issues. The platform is PSBA's official record of positions on legislative issues and is the guide for the association's advocacy efforts.

The deadline for school boards to submit proposals to be considered for the 2017 Legislative Platform is Thursday, June 30. All proposals must be approved by your board before they can be submitted. They will be reviewed by the PSBA Platform Committee on Saturday, July 30 and receive final consideration by the PSBA Delegate Assembly on Saturday, Oct. 15. [Click here for details and submission forms.](#)

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. **On Monday, June 13 all school directors will receive a priority issue survey. The results of the survey will be presented to the Platform Committee and recommendations will be presented to the Delegate Assembly for a final vote.**

[Top](#)

School boards asked to appoint Voting Delegates

This week PSBA sent a memo to member entities regarding the appointment of voting delegates to participate in the Delegate Assembly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 15. The meeting will be held at the conclusion of regularly scheduled events of the PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference. **School entities are asked to provide PSBA with the names of their voting delegates by Aug. 12.**

Among other duties, voting delegates will adopt the Legislative Platform and priority issues, as well as any proposed changes to the PSBA Bylaws. Delegates will also receive reports and the results of the election for association officers and at-large representatives.

Each PSBA-member entity is entitled to have at least one voting delegate at the meeting. Only board members and board secretaries are eligible to serve as delegates; nonmember secretaries, superintendents or other administrators are not eligible. Under the Association's bylaws:

- First class school districts may appoint four delegates.
- Second class districts may appoint three delegates.
- Third class districts may appoint two delegates.
- Fourth class districts, intermediate units, vocational-technical schools and other PSBA member entities may appoint one delegate.
- No representative may be appointed by or represent more than one member entity. For example, a delegate cannot vote on behalf of both the board of a school district and the board of an intermediate unit.

[Top](#)

PSBA to participate in national grassroots conference

PSBA will be joining the lineup of speakers at the Public Affairs Council's National Grassroots Conference to be held June 20-22 in Alexandria, VA. Representing the association will be Ashley White, senior director, government affairs. She will be a co-presenter for a workshop titled "Building a Successful Grassroots Advocacy Program." The workshop will explore strategies and tactics for success.

[Top](#)

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

400 Bent Creek Blvd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

[Sign up for alerts!](#)

Follow Us



You are currently subscribed to a mailing list of Pennsylvania School Boards Association. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

Powered by  votervoice