

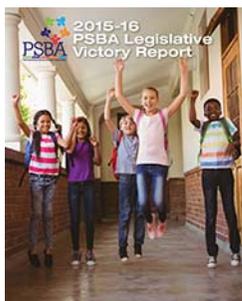


Pennsylvania School Boards Association

# legislative report

December 1, 2016

## **2015-16 PSBA Legislative Victory Report** *Taking Action for Public Schools*



PSBA has issued its 2015-16 Legislative Victory Report that highlights the advocacy efforts and accomplishments of the association and our members during the two-year session of the General Assembly that ended on Nov. 30.

The association worked to win passage of critical proposals, including:

- Providing advocacy and assistance during the 2015-16 budget impasse
- Working for the adoption of a fair funding formula for school districts:

Acts 25 and 35 of 2016

- Pushing to get school districts state funds owed for construction projects: Act 25 of 2016
- Pausing high-stakes graduation requirements and helping to find a better solution: Act 1 of 2016
- Providing significant improvements to Pennsylvania's truancy system: Act 138 of 2016
- Recommending important clarifications to the Child Protective Services Law: Act 15 of 2015, Act 4 of 2016
- Giving school districts emergency day flexibility: Act 4 of 2016
- Protecting students from unsafe hazing rituals: Act 31 of 2016

PSBA continuously weighed the effects of proposed legislation on school districts, and repeatedly pointed out where new mandates or bad public policy would be created. The association aggressively - and successfully -- fought to defeat numerous bills with a negative impact on school districts. Among the most onerous bills PSBA stopped were plans to:

- Remove the Act 1 index and all the allowed exceptions, and mandate referendum for all tax issues in a manner that eliminates school boards' ability to build a budget, pay for mandated costs and make decisions based on local needs
- Eliminate the right of school boards to conduct appeals of under-assessed property, leaving boards with no way to adjust assessments to attempt to fairly balance the property tax system
- Expand earned income tax crediting in a manner that would cause many school districts to lose significant amounts of revenue annually
- Establish a process for a state take-over of academically struggling schools based on standardized test scores and turn them into privately-operated charter schools

- Create an unacceptable proposal for charter school expansion policy that does nothing to create meaningful accountability reforms or relief from increasing charter school costs

During the 2015-16 legislative session, PSBA provided members with regular legislative updates and produced numerous special reports for members, legislators and the public that provided a deeper dive on key issues.

These accomplishments highlight the role of PSBA as the voice of school boards across Pennsylvania. To our members, thank you for your efforts and the impact you made. Looking ahead, the 2017-18 session offers new opportunities for PSBA and school directors to emphasize the value of public education.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

## Latest News

### PDE News

- [Second set of PlanCon payments to be issued Dec. 29](#)

### House Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness

- [Report released on Tech Ed, Career Readiness](#)

### PSBA News

- [PSBA seeking members for charter ad hoc committee - Reply by Dec. 16](#)

### PDE News

#### **Second set of PlanCon payments to be issued Dec. 29**

This week the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) announced that the second set of PlanCon reimbursement payments from the proceeds of the bond authorized by Act 25 of 2016 will be made with the December Unipay on Dec. 29, 2016.

The first set of PlanCon payments from the bond issue were made on Nov. 10. This payment included reimbursements for 2015-16FY obligations and Part H's for which school districts submitted the proper paperwork.

The second payment will include outstanding obligations from 2015-16 and 2016-17 for which school districts have submitted invoices to the Comptroller's Office. In addition, any Part J's and Part K's that have been approved may also be included in this payment if the proper paperwork has been submitted. To receive a

payment in the December Unipay, school districts must submit their invoices to the Comptroller's Office by Dec. 9, 2016. After that date, districts will have to wait for payment in the January 2017 Unipay. PDE reminds districts that the process for filling out the PDE Form 2071(s) has not changed and that the Comptroller's Office can only make payments to a district if the proper documentation is received in a timely manner.

Any questions unrelated to the actual payment amounts should be directed to Jeannine Weiser, PDE, at 717-787-5993.

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## **House Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness**

### **Report released on Tech Ed, Career Readiness**

This week Reps. Seth Grove (R-York) and Pat Harkins (D-Erie) released the final report on career and technical education (CTE) from the House Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness. The report is the culmination of seven hearings the subcommittee, which Grove and Harkins co-chaired, held across Pennsylvania during the 2015-16 legislative session. The bipartisan subcommittee was created by House Resolution 102 of 2015 to study and review the Commonwealth's career and technical education policy. Eight representatives - five Republicans and three Democrats - made up the subcommittee. Reps. Stan Saylor (R-York County) and James Roebuck (D-Philadelphia) co-chaired the House Education Committee and were ex-officio members of the subcommittee.

The subcommittee made more than 40 recommendations contained in five major categories. Those categories are:

- Continue legislative oversight of CTE initiatives.
- Address business and industry demands.
- Strengthen partnerships with business and industry.
- Increase access to Career and Technical Education programs.
- Confront misperceptions regarding Career and Technical Education.

[Click here to read the full report.](#)

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## **PSBA News**

### **PSBA seeking members for charter ad hoc committee - Reply by Dec. 16**

PSBA is inviting members who have experience in authorizing charter schools to participate in an informal ad hoc committee to share ideas and strategies for charter school reform. As a member, you will work with PSBA Government Affairs staff as an important resource in developing positions related to legislation and

public policy issues. The ad hoc committee and PSBA will communicate primarily through email, web conferencing or conference calls on an occasional basis.

Anyone interested in serving on the charter ad hoc committee should contact Jamie Zuvich at [Jamie.zuvich@psba.org](mailto:Jamie.zuvich@psba.org) no later than Friday, Dec. 16.

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### **Pennsylvania School Boards Association**

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