



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

# legislative report

November 15, 2018

## **State Board of Education begins work to revise teacher certification rules, adopts master plan for basic education**



This week the State Board of Education reviewed initial proposed revisions from the PA Department of Education (PDE) for changes to the regulations for certification of professional personnel under Title 22, Chapter 49. The recommendations are based on feedback from public stakeholder sessions held in August. The department is recommending numerous changes intended to address these key issues that

were identified in the stakeholder meetings:

- Update and align the language in Chapter 49 with changes made in statute since the last revision and to match current practices;
- Improve and extend the length of the clinical training experience;
- Refine preparation program standards;
- Address teacher shortages in specific content areas;
- Revise assessment requirements for licensure;
- Use data to guide improvement; and
- Support beginning teacher induction

The proposed revisions do not address current language in the regulations regarding the age/grade spans for certificates because the department intends to work with the General Assembly on this issue separately before proposed language is added to the Chapter 49 draft. The exception is the addition of language that aligns with the changes recently made under Act 82 of 2018 relating to special education certificates.

The board will be conducting a series of public hearings to gather input on the draft; those dates have not yet been announced. PSBA is reviewing the language

and will be providing a detailed report on the proposed changes in an upcoming report.

In other work, the State Board adopted a new master plan for basic education. The plan, which must be updated on a ten-year cycle, is to consider and make recommendations to the governor and General Assembly in the following areas:

- School program approval, evaluation and requirements
- School personnel training and assessment
- Student testing and assessment
- School governance and assessment
- Curriculum materials development
- School finance
- School buildings and facilities
- Transportation
- Technical services and support services to local education agencies
- Projected long-range needs of the public school system

[Click here to read the new master plan for basic education.](#)

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### **Future Ready PA Index is launched**



This week the PA Department of Education (PDE) launched the Future Ready PA Index, the new online measurement tool that replaces the School Performance Profile (SPP) and is intended to establish a more holistic measure of school success.

The index measures schools in three main categories: the academic performance of students; if student progress is on track; and whether students graduate ready for college or to start a career and succeed. It uses a dashboard approach to present school-level data. Users can search by district, school name, career and technical center and location. They can look at data for one school at a time or use the comparison feature, which allows them to view data side by side for up to eight schools.

The dashboard also illustrates progress in the three main categories by student group - including economically disadvantaged students, English Learners, students receiving special education services, and racial and ethnic groups. A color-coded system illustrates student and school progress in the three main measurement categories.

State assessment measurements demonstrate student performance on the PSSA and Keystone Exam standardized tests. This also includes data from

the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS), which represents the academic growth of students.

On-track measurements show regular attendance and indicate progress in reading and math and in English Language proficiency. College and career-ready measurements illustrate how well students are being prepared for post-secondary success by showing access to rigorous courses, such as advanced placement, and by identifying industry-based credentials earned by students. It also includes, for the first time, data on college enrollment, military enlistment and workforce participation.

[Visit the Future Ready PA Index](#) and [Review more detailed information](#) about the index.

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## Latest News

### News from the General Assembly

- [House and Senate choose leaders for 2019-20](#)

### News from the General Assembly

#### **House and Senate choose leaders for 2019-20**

This week both parties in the Senate and House of Representatives elected their leadership for the upcoming 2019-20 legislative session. PSBA offers its congratulations to these legislators and looks forward to working with the newly elected members who will be sworn into office on Jan. 1, 2019. New terms for Gov. Tom Wolf and Lieutenant Gov. John Fetterman will begin on Jan. 15, 2019.

**Senate Republican Leadership:** Republicans currently hold a 29-21 seat majority with one vacancy.

- **President Pro Tempore:** Joe Scarnati (R- Jefferson) The full Senate will vote on his nomination when it reconvenes in January.
- **Majority Leader:** Jake Corman (R-Centre)
- **Appropriations Committee Chair:** Pat Browne (R- Lehigh)
- **Majority Whip:** John Gordner (R-Columbia)

- **Majority Caucus Chair:** Bob Mensch (R-Montgomery)
- **Majority Caucus Secretary:** Richard Alloway (R-Franklin)
- **Majority Caucus Administrator:** will be appointed at a later date
- **Majority Policy Committee Chair:** David Argall (R-Schuylkill)

### Senate Democratic Leadership

- **Democratic Floor Leader:** Jay Costa (D-Allegheny)
- **Democratic Appropriations Committee Chair:** Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia)
- **Democratic Whip:** Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia)
- **Democratic Caucus Chair:** Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny)
- **Democratic Caucus Secretary:** Larry Farnese (D-Philadelphia)
- **Democratic Caucus Administrator:** John Blake (D-Lackawanna)
- **Democratic Policy Committee Chair:** Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton)

Seven newly elected members will be joining the Senate in January; four members are Democrats and two are Republican. A special election will be scheduled to fill the vacancy in the 37<sup>th</sup> district, due to the election of Sen. Guy Reschenthaler to the U.S. House of Representatives. Ballots are still being counted in the race in the 6<sup>th</sup> district between challenger Rep. Tina Davis, a Democrat, and incumbent state Sen. Robert (Tommy) Tomlinson, who won with unofficial results subject to the recount. Davis also ran for another House term and won.

**House Republican Leadership:** Republicans currently hold a 109-92 seat majority with two vacancies.

- **Speaker of the House:** Mike Turzai (R- Allegheny) The full House will vote on the nomination when it reconvenes in January.
- **Floor Leader:** Bryan Cutler (R-Lancaster)
- **Appropriations Committee Chair:** 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 Committee Chair:** Donna Oberlander (R-Armstrong)

### House Democratic Leadership

- **Floor Leader:** Frank Dermody (D- Allegheny)
- **Appropriations Committee Chair:** 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 Committee Chair:** Mike Sturla (D-Lancaster)

Joining the House will be 43 new members, which includes 24 Democrats and 19 Republicans. Still unofficial are the results of the election in the 49<sup>th</sup> district, where Republican incumbent Bud Cook narrowly beat Democrat Steve Toprani. Two special elections will need to be held to fill the vacancies created by the death of Sid Kavulich (D-114) and the upcoming resignation of Vanessa Brown (D-190). The dates for the special elections will be set in January.

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