



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

February 22, 2019

The House of Representatives was in session this week and is now adjourned until Monday, March 11. The Senate remained in recess this week and will return to session on Monday, March 18.

Governor, legislators focus on career education, workforce development issues



Workforce development has emerged as a key interest in the new legislative session. This week, Gov. Tom Wolf signed an executive order to create the Keystone Economic Development and Workforce Command Center. The center will expand the collaboration between government and the private sector to recommend ways to better coordinate workforce and economic development programs across state agencies and identify barriers that may prevent someone from working or prevent businesses from hiring skilled workers. Additionally, it will monitor implementation of the various workforce and education proposals outlined in the governor's [Statewide Workforce, Education, and Accountability Program \(SWEAP\)](#) proposal.

Also this week, House Education Committee Chairman Rep. Curt Sonney (R-Erie) announced a bipartisan package of eight bills addressing career and technical education issues. Sonney said the bills are the result of a report issued by the former Select Subcommittee on Technical Education and Career Readiness.

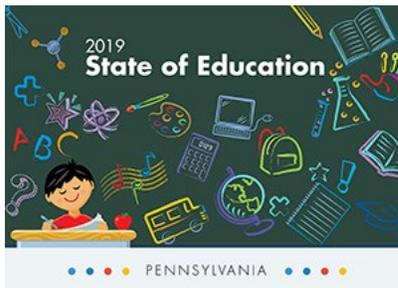
The package will be considered by the committee at its meeting scheduled for March 11:

- [House Bill 265](#) (Rep. Staats, R-Bucks) would expand the online database of articulation agreements.
- [House Bill 297](#) (Rep. Mako, R-Lehigh/Northampton) would deal with career information and recruitment.

- [House Bill 334](#) (Rep.Grove (R-York)) would deal with the Commission for Agriculture Education Excellence, the use of course credits, and the classification of program codes.
- [House Bill 522](#) (Rep.Tobash, R-Schuylkill/Dauphin) would create a CTE investment incentive program, including tax credits for businesses to support CTE programs and enrollment expansion programs.
- House Bill 393 (Rep. Harkins, D-Erie) would create an online career resource center.
- House Bill 394 (Rep. Mullery, D-Luzerne) would require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create an inventory of workforce development programs offered at secondary and post-secondary institutions.
- House Bill 395 (Rep. Roebuck, D-Philadelphia) would require CTE programs to establish occupational advisory committees.
- House Bill 396 (Rep. Roebuck, D-Philadelphia) would add at least one administrator from a career and technical center to each Workforce Development Board.

(House Bills 394 through 396 are not yet filed.)

PSBA 2019 State of Education report now online



PSBA's third annual State of Education report is now available. This comprehensive report contains a vast array of statistics and is a barometer of not only the key indicators of public school performance, but also the challenges schools face and how they are coping with them. Data reported comes from publicly available sources and from a survey to chief school administrators, which had a 66% response rate.

[Click here to read the 2019 State of Education report.](#) Print copies of the report are being mailed to school districts, intermediate units and career and technical education schools. Legislators will also be receiving copies of the report.

PSBA 2017-18 Legislative Victory report highlights advocacy work

PSBA is pleased to present its 2017-18 Legislative Victory report. During the previous session of the General Assembly, the association worked to win support for the issues of greatest importance to local school officials, and to defeat those that were bad public policy. This report highlights the key issues and PSBA's advocacy efforts for our members.

[Click here to read the 2017-18 Legislative Victory report.](#) Print copies appear as an insert to the January/February issue of the



Latest News

Re-referred from the House State Government Committee to the Judiciary Committee

- [Public employee pension forfeiture](#)

News from the U.S. Department of Education

- [U.S. Department of Education releases FAQ on school safety, student privacy issues](#)

Re-referred from the House State Government Committee to the Judiciary Committee

Public employee pension forfeiture

[House Bill 59](#) (Rep. Farry, R-Bucks) and [Senate Bill 113](#) (Sen. DiSanto, R-Dauphin) were reported out of the House State Government Committee with a request to re-refer them to the House Judiciary Committee. The bills amend the Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act for disqualification and forfeiture of pension benefits for public officials or public employees who plead guilty, no contest or are convicted of any job-related felony offense. Under the bills, any offense classified as a felony or punishable by a term of imprisonment exceeding five years will be subject to these provisions. Forfeiture will occur upon the employee's initial entry of the official's or employee's entry of a plea of guilty or no contest, or upon the initial entry of a jury verdict. The Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts must provide the State Employees' Retirement System and the Public School Employees' Retirement System with the information necessary to fulfill the duties under disqualification and forfeiture of benefits.

PSBA supports these bills because they serve to strengthen and close loopholes in current law and establishes clear penalties for felony offenses.

[Top](#)

News from the U.S. Department of Education

U.S. Department of Education releases FAQ on school safety, student privacy issues

The U.S. Department of Education released a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on schools' and districts' responsibilities under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) in the context of school safety.

The Federal Commission on School Safety (FCSS) released a [report](#) last December, which observed that "substantial misunderstanding remains at the local level among officials and educators concerning (FERPA), and in particular its application to school-based threats."

This FAQ document, titled, [School Resource Officers, School Law Enforcement Units and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#), consists of 37 commonly asked questions about schools' and school districts' responsibilities under FERPA relating to disclosures of student information to school resource officers (SROs), law enforcement units and others, and seeks to explain and clarify how FERPA protects student privacy while ensuring the health and safety of students and others in the school community.

[Top](#)

Pennsylvania School Boards Association

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