



September 3, 2015



Budget talks remain slow; Auditor General wants to know how stalemate is affecting school districts

Another week has gone by with no reportable progress in budget negotiations. Gov. Wolf has been meeting with smaller groups with legislators in hopes of having more productive conversations. The General Assembly remains adjourned, with the Senate now scheduled to return to Harrisburg on Sept. 15 and the House on Sept. 21.

Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said this week that his department will begin collecting information from school districts on any financial fall-out from missed school funding payments because of the state budget impasse. He said that the stalled payments are causing administrative uncertainty in schools throughout the state and that the public has a right to know if the impasse is causing unnecessary expenses for our schools. He added that "every available dollar of school funding should go to classroom education, not interest payments." [Read more...](#)



PSBA says budget impasse puts politics above the needs of students

PSBA's editorial on the state budget impasse has been published in various newspapers across the state. The association notes that, although the budget decision lies with our elected state officials, it is the students who will feel the pinch. Difficult choices may have to be made and programs may have to be cut. Some school districts with increased student numbers may not be able to hire additional personnel or buy supplies. Overloaded teachers mean less personal attention for our students. The lack of a state budget hurts those who are already struggling. [Read more...](#)



Put the budget impasse counter clock on your web page

PSBA is keeping track of the budget impasse with a [count-up clock](#). School districts are invited to link to the clock on their web page as a way to educate their community about how schools are being negatively impacted by no state funding. Click [here](#) to download a graphic to use and link directly to the [count-up clock](#) on PSBA's website.



Your advocacy efforts are needed to help break the impasse

Yesterday, PSBA sent a Legislative Alert urging school officials to contact the governor and General Assembly and tell them we need a state budget NOW. [Here is a link to the prepared message that was included in the alert.](#) If you have not yet sent the message, please do it today!

Additionally, please join PSBA at the Capitol on Sept. 21 for Education Action Day. A news conference will be held from 11 a.m.-noon, and from 1-3 p.m. you may visit with legislators scheduled by PSBA. PSBA will supply chartered buses from various parts of the state. There is no charge for participation, and box lunches will be provided. For planning purposes, members are asked to register. The registration form will ask registrants to select a location for bus transportation or indicate if they do not need transportation. [Click here to register.](#)

Latest News

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More Budget News

IFO report shows growths and decreases in state revenues

This week the state's Independent Fiscal Office released its latest Monthly Trends Report, reporting the Commonwealth collected \$1.87 billion in General Fund revenues for August, an increase of \$76.4 million (4.3%) compared to August 2014. Fiscal year-to-date revenues were \$4.0 billion, a decrease of -\$34.8 million (-0.9%) from the prior year. The report shows state revenues and economic indicators. [Read more...](#)

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PDE News

PDE, PSBA will present webinar on new PSSA cut scores

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, from noon - 1 p.m., PDE will present a free webinar through PSBA titled "Understanding the New PSSA Cut Scores." The webinar will explain how the PSSAs are aligned with the PA Core Standards, how the new cut scores were set, and how the scores should be viewed by schools, students, parents and communities. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

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PDE issues new BEC on special education

The PA Department of Education (PDE) recently replaced its Basic Education Circular (BEC) on Behavior Support Obligations (originally issued Aug. 14, 2000) with a new BEC titled [FAPE and One-to-One Support Obligations for Students with Disabilities.](#)

The revised BEC clarifies that the Local Educational Agency (LEA) is responsible to provide special education and related services for every student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. It describes the responsibilities of the LEA to provide special education and related services including one-to-one support for students with disabilities. When the Individualized Education Program (IEP) team or Section 504/Chapter 15 team determines that a student with a disability requires one-to-one support for all or part of the school day, the LEA retains the obligation to provide services to students with disabilities. The source for providing or paying for the one-to-one support to a student with a disability, including the availability of medical assistance funded resources, cannot delay the receipt of the one-to-one support services. Questions concerning the BEC should be directed to PDE's Patrick Scanlon at 724.465.6535 or by email at pascanlon@pa.gov

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Charter School Reform

PSBA takes a closer look at charter reform bill

The House and Senate have been struggling over much needed charter school reform plans for several sessions. The current bill under consideration is [House Bill 530](#) (Rep. Reese, R-Westmoreland), a proposal that was passed by the House of Representatives in March and amended by the Senate Education Committee in June. The bill is currently awaiting consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee. In its current form it represents a first step toward meaningful reform, and PSBA continues to work with legislators to improve the legislation. Please [click here](#) for the latest provisions in House Bill 530 and to see PSBA's top three priorities that the association believes will improve the legislation.

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