



November 6, 2015

Now, more than ever, we need to speak with a collective voice. Gov. Wolf and members of the General Assembly need to feel the pressure that all school districts are feeling from this budget impasse. We need all of you to join together to demand adequate, fair funding for all public schools NOW.



Join PSBA for budget information and advocacy opportunities

Now more than four months without a state budget, districts continue to feel the impact. While there appears to have been some progress made in the past several days, all indications are that all parties involved in the budget negotiations are still far apart. Meanwhile, the Senate stands in recess until Monday, Nov. 16; the House will return on Monday, Nov. 9.

Over the next two weeks, PSBA is offering several opportunities to keep you informed and advocate for a budget resolution.

On **Monday, Nov. 9**, PSBA is holding a budget update webinar at three separate times to fit into your busy schedule. This free webinar will provide the latest information we're hearing, including a concerning move to eliminate the Act 1 index exceptions that would mean that any and all tax increases would need to go to voter referendum. **Register online for this complimentary webinar, which will be held at [7:30 a.m.](#), [noon](#) and [6 p.m.](#)**

On **Monday, Nov. 16**, school directors and administrators from across the state will be converging on the State Capitol on for Budget Action Day. Join members of PSBA, the PA Association of School Administrators (PASA), the PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) and the PA Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS) for this event. The day begins with a briefing in the Capitol, Room 140, at 9 a.m. to hear from legislators on top issues affecting the budget stalemate. Prior to the day, attendees are asked to contact their legislators to schedule visits and let us know the time and legislator that you plan to meet with. There is no charge for participation, but for planning purposes, members are asked to register their attendance online. **[Click here to register for Budget Action Day.](#)**

On **Tuesday, Nov. 17**, PSBA will conduct a special free webinar at noon with experts who will walk districts through various financial options available in light of the budget impasse. More details to follow soon.

PSBA, education groups use newspaper ad to urge public to contact their legislators



PSBA, in conjunction with PASA, PASBO and the PA Principals Association, has been running an advertisement in several major newspapers across the state. The ad urges readers to demand legislators and Gov. Wolf to take action to resolve the budget stalemate and provide adequate state funding to public schools. [Click here to see the ad.](#)

Visit FundPaEd.org for information about how to contact your legislators and how to receive legislative email alerts.

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PDE News

PDE releases 2015 SPP scores and Keystone Exam results

This week the PA Department of Education (PDE) released the 2015 School Performance Profile scores and Keystone Exam results. Schools with an 11th grade received an SPP score this year, while those schools without an 11th grade and that administered only PSSA tests do not have SPP scores for 2014-15.

In September, the U.S. Department of Education approved PDE's request to allow for a one-year pause in using the 2015 PSSA scores to calculate SPP and teacher effectiveness ratings. The request was made due to sweeping changes to the assessment that took effect in the 2014-15 school year. The one-year pause was aimed at preventing unintended consequences following the introduction of the new tests.

The statewide results from the Keystone Exams show:

Literature -- 73% of students scored Advanced or Proficient; 27% scored Basic or Below Basic

Algebra I - 64% of students scored Advanced or Proficient; 36% scored Basic or Below Basic

Biology - 59% of students scored Advanced or Proficient; 41% scored Basic or Below Basic

The scores released are the best "banked" student score to date. This means that if a student has taken a Keystone Exam prior to 11th grade, the score will show up in their 11th grade year as "banked." A student may have taken a Keystone Exam more than once, however only the highest score is banked for 11th grade.

PDE said that the Keystone Exams fulfill a federal requirement and also provide useful information about the commonwealth's students and schools. Pennsylvania also requires passage of the Keystone Exams as a graduation requirement. The pause in use of the SPP is part of a broader discussion regarding potential revisions to the SPP. The governor has directed PDE to consider how the tool could be adjusted to be a more comprehensive measure of school and student performance beyond single, high-stakes test performance.

[Click here for School Performance Profile information](#)

[Click here for 2015 Keystone Exam State Level Data](#)

[Click here for Keystone Exam School Level Data](#)

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Regulatory News

Departments of Health, Education propose changes to school immunization rules

This week Secretary of Health Dr. Karen Murphy and Secretary of Education Pedro Rivera announced plans by the departments to revise their separate sets of regulations regarding required immunizations for school children.

The proposals announced this week will soon be introduced as amendments to regulations under Title 28, Chapter 23 of the Department of Health and Title 22, Chapter 11 of the State Board of Education. The changes will not become effective until the revisions are approved through the regulatory process, which includes opportunity for public input. The changes would take effect at the beginning of the school year after they are approved.

The current regulations bar children from entering school if they are missing the first dose of a required single or multi-dose vaccine. Under the proposed changes, these students will still be barred from attending school until they have received the first dose. The current rules also allow students who have received the first dose of a multi-dose vaccine to attend school for up to eight months while they complete all of the required immunizations. The proposed changes will now require students to receive their final dose or, if the medical schedule does not allow, a medical certificate that includes a plan for completing the multi-dose immunization within the first five school days.

The proposal also changes some of the state's vaccination requirements, such as requiring a pertussis vaccine and a dose of meningococcal vaccine for students before entering 12th grade.

The departments also are proposing to change the date by which schools are required to submit immunization reports, from Oct. 15 of each school year to Dec. 31, and to require reporting electronically. This change allows for more accurate reports and more time for schools to gather information.

The regulations apply to children in public, private, parochial, and non-public schools (including vocational schools, intermediate units, special education and

home education programs, cyber schools, and charter schools). Children who are homeless as defined under the McKinney Vento Act are excluded from these rules. Also, children transferring from outside the commonwealth will have 30 days to provide immunization records or get come into compliance with the rules. No change is proposed to the current medical, religious or philosophical exemptions to immunization.

[Click here to see the FAQs](#) regarding the proposed changes to the regulations.

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