



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

legislative report

January 20, 2017

General Assembly returns on Jan. 23; governor's budget will be presented Feb. 7



Next week the General Assembly returns to Harrisburg to begin the business of the 2017-18 legislative session. The Senate and House of Representatives are finalizing the rosters for the standing committees in their chambers, and meetings are being scheduled. Senate Republicans will be naming one additional member to each of their committees. Also this week, Pennsylvania's three row officers Auditor General Eugene DePasquale, Attorney General Josh Shapiro and Treasurer Joseph Torsella were sworn-in and officially began their terms of service.

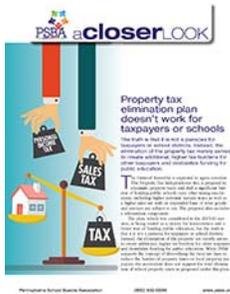
The General Assembly will be in session for the next few weeks leading up to the presentation of Gov. Tom Wolf's 2017-18 state budget proposal on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

The House and Senate will then recess until mid-March while Appropriations

Committees of each chamber conduct hearings on specific components of the proposal. Senate budget hearings will be held: February 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and March 1, 2, 6, 7 (Education), 8 and 9. The House budget hearings will be held: February 21, 22 (PSERS), 23, 27, 28 and March 1, 2, 6 (Education), 7, 8 and 9.

PSBA will be providing coverage of the governor's budget and its impact on public schools. Check with PSBA on Feb. 7 for live Facebook interviews with key legislators, as well as a special edition of the Legislative Report that will contain complete budget information. PSBA will also be hosting a budget webinar - stay tuned for details.

Also plan to attend one of PSBA's Winter Town Hall Series meetings being held in February and March at a location near you to learn more about the budget and have time to network with other school directors. This is a complimentary PSBA event. [Click here for dates, locations and registration information.](#)



PSBA provides Closer Look on property tax shift plan

This week PSBA continued its efforts to provide information to members regarding efforts in the Senate to consider The Property Tax Independence Act, a proposal to eliminate property taxes and shift a significant burden of funding public schools onto other taxing mechanisms, including higher personal income taxes as well as a higher sales tax with an expanded base of what goods and services are subject to tax. The proposal also includes a referendum component.

The association presented a webinar with the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO) featuring an in-depth discussion of the tax elimination/shift proposal. Featured speakers were IFO Director Matthew Knittel and Deputy Director Mark Ryan, who provided an overview of data and forecasts relating to school district property tax elimination proposals. [Click here for a copy of the IFO presentation.](#)

In addition, PSBA has prepared an in-depth analysis of the tax shift plan in its new *Closer Look* report. The report examines why tax burdens are shifted disproportionately, and the impact of the proposal on taxpayers, schools, and communities.

[Click here to read PSBA's *Closer Look* report: Property tax elimination plan doesn't work for taxpayers or schools](#)

PSBA will continue to provide updates and information on this issue as it may be considered in the General Assembly. School officials are encouraged to contact their senators to voice their concerns with the proposal. Thank you to those who have already sent letters. For those who have not yet taken action: [Click here to send a letter to your senator.](#)

Latest News

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ESSA Update

- [USDE withdraws "supplement not supplant" proposal for use of Title I funds](#)

PDE News

PDE announces proposed indicators for Future Ready PA Index

This week the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) provided information outlining its proposed indicators for the new Future Ready PA Index that will replace the current School Performance Profile (SPP). The new system is expected to be implemented in the fall of 2018.

The new tool is intended to establish a more holistic measure of school success, an improvement from the SPP that provides a performance score for each school

building using a 100-point scale and are heavily reliant on point-in-time standardized test scores. The department intends to shift from using a score for each school, and may instead develop dashboards that shows growth measures in the indicators rather than pure achievement scores.

The new system will still look at state assessment measures, but will include a heavier weighting for other measures of proficiency and growth to determine if students are "on track" to success. There will also be an increased focus on college and career measures. The department has not yet finished its work, and must finalize the indicators, decide on methodology, and ensure that the system aligns with federal requirements under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

[Click here to see PDE's Future Ready PA Index proposed indicators](#)

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ESSA Update

USDE withdraws "supplement not supplant" proposal for use of Title I funds

This week the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has withdrawn its proposed regulation regarding the requirement under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that federal funds be used to supplement, not supplant, state and local funds for the education of students in Title I schools. Concerns over the controversial proposal had been raised by various members of Congress as well as numerous organizations, including the National School Boards Association, who felt that the regulation was too limiting in setting a standard by which states and school districts can demonstrate compliance with the law and that it constituted the type of federal overreach that ESSA specifically prohibits.

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