



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

January 2022

CCSBLC Meeting Agenda

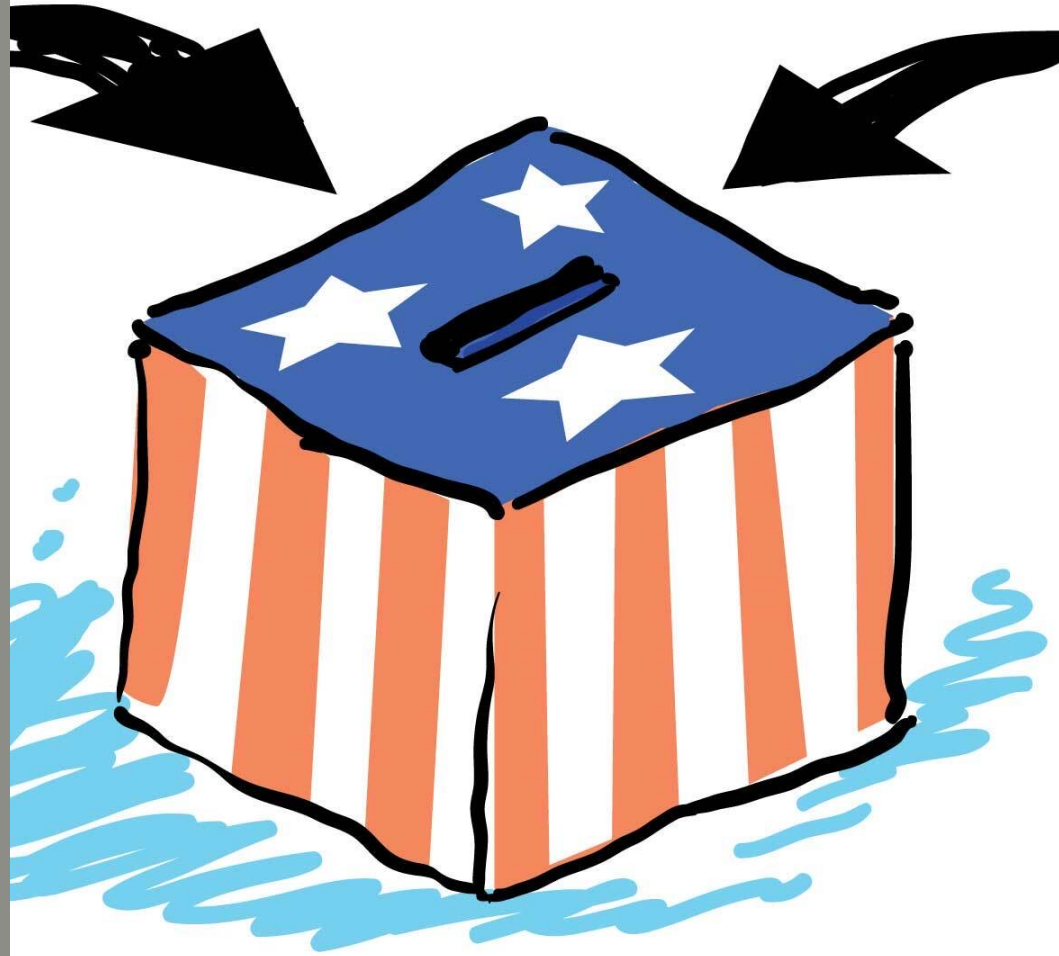
1. Selection of the CCSBLC Chair
2. Review of the PA legislative Process
3. Legislative Update
 1. Governor's Budget Address
 2. Legislation
 3. Redistricting
4. School Board Legislative Priority Survey
5. CCSBLC Calendar
 1. Legislative Committee Meeting Dates – In-Person or Virtual
 2. Legislative Breakfast, April 22
6. Legislative Member Discussion Topics



CCSBLC Election

Nominees for
Council Chair:

William Wood
Avon Grove



Closing out 2021

■ HB1332: Empowering Parents with Curriculum Transparency

- Governor VETO 12/22/21

■ HB412: Substitute Teacher Shortage

- Signed by Governor 12/17/21; now Act 91 of 2021
- For school years 2021-22 and 2022-23:
 - Retired teachers are now eligible to fill teacher vacancies on an emergency or short-term basis.
 - Schools can use eligible college students and recent graduates of education programs to serve as substitute teachers.
 - Educators with active Pennsylvania certificates and those with comparable out-of-state certificates can serve as day-to-day substitutes for 20 days, or longer under certain circumstances.
 - Teachers with inactive certificates may substitute for 180 days instead of 90 days per school year.
 - Individuals who are 25 or older, have at least 60 college credits or 3 years of experience as a paraprofessional, and complete training on classroom management, may serve as “classroom monitors” by delivering preplanned assignments for a teacher.

In motion in 2022

- **SB324: Foster Children & Graduation:** The bill aims to keep students on track to graduate high school who are either experiencing homelessness or are in foster care by requiring a receiving school entity to designate a point person for the student. Passed the House and Senate; in the hands of the Governor until January 28.
- **HB2045: Early Literacy Program:** The bill develops a statewide early literacy program focused on the “Science of Reading,” an evidence-based reading instructional practice that integrates listening, speaking, reading, spelling and writing.
- **HB232: Changing a District Name:** Requires a 2/3 vote of the School Board and approval of PDE
- **HB 2148: Public Notice Requirements:** The bill allows a political subdivision that pays to advertise a public notice in a newspaper to also advertise that notice on the Internet and, in the event that the newspaper fails to publish the advertisement in a timely manner, provides that the Internet advertisement (a “redundant” advertisement) is considered timely published provided the political subdivision can show proof that it purchased the newspaper advertisement in a timely manner. An amendment filed to the bill would allow local governments, including school districts, to publish their meeting notifications online and remove the print requirement. The PA News Media Association opposes the amendment, so we don’t know if there would be a consensus on it.
- **SB 745: Right-to-Know Exemptions:** The bill exempts public employee birthdates from access by a requester under Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know Law.

In motion in 2022

- **HB 1330: Supplemental Online Course Initiative.** The bill establishes a two-phase implementation schedule for an online course clearinghouse, which would first offer free courses related to content tested by the Keystone Exams. In the second phase, the clearinghouse would also offer other approved online courses aligned with PA education standards from providers, subject to purchase through contract. HB 1330 also requires the PDE to construct the clearinghouse, provide information to users about each course, and offer the opportunity for school entities to provide feedback and a rating for such courses. In addition, the bill would provide public schools with the flexibility to utilize courses made available through a school entity, the clearinghouse, or any other source. When a school entity decides to offer students the opportunity to participate in online courses, the bill would require the school entity to establish its own policies and procedures governing eligibility and participation and make parents and students aware of the opportunity. Finally, the bill provides for an application development and approval process, parameters for purchasing courses, penalties, and the issuance of a report regarding the program.
- **HR 163: Training Mandates.** The resolution directs the Joint State Government Commission to establish an advisory committee to study all of the training mandates for public school educators in federal and state law or regulations; prepare an assessment of all training mandates in state law or regulations and identify any duplicate federal and state training mandates; evaluate any potential negative impacts of eliminating certain training mandates in state law or regulations; and include any recommendations relating to eliminating any training mandates in state law or regulations. The Commission would be required to issue a report of the advisory committee's findings and recommendations to the House of Representatives no later than 18 months from the adoption of the resolution.

In motion – Voucher Bills

- **HB 1254: Vouchers; on second consideration in the House.** The bill would amend the School Code to include a new Section 1507, to be entitled “In-Person Instruction or Tuition Grant Program Required.” Under proposed Section 1507, within 30 days of the bill’s effective date, a school district that does not provide full-time, in-person instruction, or that denies a student residing in the school district full-time, in-person instruction in the school district, must establish a tuition grant program (vouchers) under existing Section 2012-B of the School Code.
- **SB 527: Automatic EITC Increases; *amended and approved by the Senate Education Committee, with all Democrats voting in opposition.*** The bill amends the School Code to automatically increase the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) caps by 25% each fiscal year when at least 90% of the respective available tax credits are claimed in the previous Fiscal Year. The amendment makes the bill effective in the 2022-23 school year.
- **SB 1: Excellence in Education Act.** This is a voucher/school choice bill. Key components of the legislation would include Education Opportunity Accounts for PA’s students, expansion of the existing EITC/OSTC tax credit scholarship programs, favorable changes for the charter school industry, and protections for coronavirus learning pods.
- **SB 733 Education Opportunity for All.** Provides vouchers to just about all special education students currently enrolled in a public school, and then in subsequent years to all special education students currently enrolled in a public school, and any students who have already received a voucher. It provides no funding mechanism other than the money will be deducted from the district's state money. Eligible students include students with IEPs, GIEPs, 504 plans, students in foster care, students who parents are active in the armed forces, students who have been adopted in the past year, and students with other eligible medical conditions.

In motion:

House Labor & Transportation

- **HB 844: Public Employee Privacy.** The bill would amend Section 705 of the Public Employee Relations Act (Act 195 of 1970), to prohibit social security numbers and home addresses of public sector employees from being proper subjects of collective bargaining.
- **HB 845: Collective Bargaining Transparency.** The bill would require any proposed public employee collective bargaining agreement to be made available on the public employers' publicly accessible Internet website within 48 hours. The proposed agreement must be posted online two weeks prior and thirty days following the signing of the collective bargaining agreement. The posting must include a statement of the terms of the proposed collective bargaining agreement and an estimate of the costs to the public employer associated with the agreement. In addition, the bill would establish that proposed collective bargaining agreements and any documents presented by the public employer or received from the employee organization in the course of collective bargaining are to be public records subject to the Right-to-Know Law.
- **HB 2042: Employee Rights Notification.** The bill would require notification of employee rights as follows: 1) Public employees who are not union members would be notified annually that they are not required to pay any money to the union unless they agree to do so, and 2) New employees for public jobs would be notified of their right to choose whether or not to join the union – and of their 1st Amendment right to not pay any funds to an organization they did not consent to support. In addition, the bill would repeal two state laws that require public employees to pay fair share fees if they do not join the union.
- **HB 2048: Political Contributions.** The bill would prohibit payroll deductions from public sector employees for political action committee (PAC) contributions.

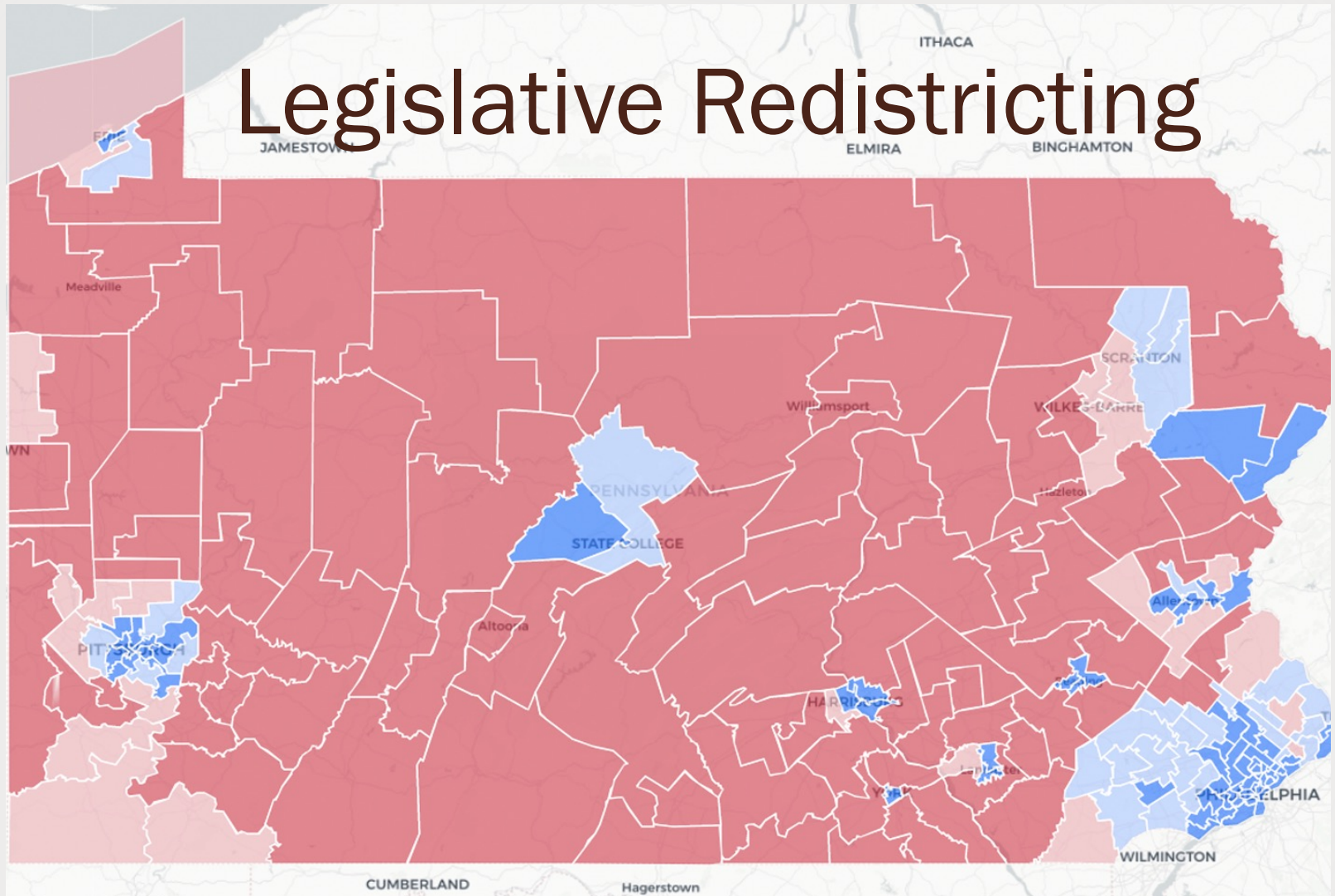
Constitutional Amendments

- **HB 2069:** Approval of Regulations: Approved by the House State Government Committee, with all Democrats voting in opposition. The bill is a joint resolution proposing an amendment to section 9, Article III of the Constitution of Pennsylvania exempting the disapproval of a regulation by the General Assembly from the presentment requirement for the Governor's approval or disapproval. The bill prohibits the Independent Regulatory Review Commission from approving a proposed regulation if the General Assembly opposes it. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.
- **HB 2070:** Executive Orders: Approved by the House State Government Committee, with all Democrats voting in opposition. The bill is a joint resolution that would amend the PA Constitution by adding a new section stating that any executive order or proclamation issued by the Governor, which purports to have the force of law, may not be in effect for more than 21 days, unless extended by concurrent resolution of the General Assembly. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.
- **HB 2013:** Refusal of Medical Procedures: Approved by the House Health Committee, with all Democrats voting in opposition. The bill is a joint resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that adds the following “Right to medical freedom. The right of an individual to refuse any medical procedure, treatment, injection, vaccine or prophylactic shall not be questioned or interfered with in any manner. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged to any person in this Commonwealth because of the exercise of the right under this section.” Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum. put into operation temporary emergency provisions for 60 days when an emergency results in five consecutive days of being unable to provide in-person instruction. If an extension is necessary, after 60 days, the bill would require another two-thirds vote by the school board directors and a public hearing.
- **HB 2207 - (PLS Summary)** Reapportionment Amendments: A Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania removing provisions related to Legislative Reapportionment Commission. Establishes the Citizens' Legislative Reapportionment Commission to be used each year following the federal decennial census. Provides for the commission to be comprised of 11 members from various state organizations. Provides for legislative, county, and judicial appointees and establishes requirements for membership; the chairperson shall be selected by members of the commission; provides any commission vacancy to be filled within 15 days; details the reapportionment plan process for the commission; requires the Senate and House to review the reapportionment plan; allows aggrieved persons to file an appeal to the Supreme Court; requires the Supreme Court to decide an appeal; provides appropriations shall be decided by the General Assembly, that if the reapportionment plan is not adopted then the current apportionment plan shall be in effect until the adoption of a reapportionment plan, and that the public shall be notified by the elections officer in a news publication. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

2022-23 budget

- Governor Wolf to give his budget address on February 8
 - No formal announcements but plenty of speculation
 - Basic Education Fund (BEF)
 - Special Education Fund (SEF)
- 2021-22 refresher:
 - \$300 million total BEF increase (4.8% increase over 2019-20; 2.4% increase per year over previous two years as 2020-21 was level-funded)
 - \$200 million increase for all
 - \$100 million designated to 100 most underfunded school districts per “Level Up Program”
 - \$50 million special education increase (4.2% increase over 2019-20; 2.1% increase per year over previous two years as 2020-21 was level-funded)

Legislative Redistricting



- The new maps are public
- New maps favor Republicans with a 99 (D) – 104 (R) split
- 70 Strong Democratic Districts/82 Strong Republican District;
29 districts lean Democratic/22 districts lean Republican

CCSBLC Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Avon Grove School District	16.00%	4
Coatesville Area School District	4.00%	1
Downingtown Area School District	8.00%	2
Great Valley School District	0.00%	0
Kennett Consolidated School District	8.00%	2
Octorara Area School District	4.00%	1
Owen J. Roberts School District	0.00%	0
Oxford Area School District	0.00%	0
Phoenixville Area School District	20.00%	5
Tredyffrin-Easttown School District	0.00%	0
Unionville Chadds Ford School District	28.00%	7
West Chester Area School District	12.00%	3
TOTAL		25

CCSBLC Meeting Schedule

1. Wednesday, February 16* Date Change
2. Wednesday, March 23
3. Friday, April 22 (Legislative Breakfast)
4. Wednesday, May 25
5. Wednesday, June 22
6. July - No meeting - Legislature Not in Session
7. August - No meeting - Legislature Not in Session



CCSBLC Discussion

- CCSBLC Advocacy Efforts
- School Board Public Comment
- Impact of HB 412 now Act 91 of 2021
- Redistricting impact on school districts