



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 24, 2021

CCSBLC

Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Resolution Supporting Prioritizing Vaccine for School Personnel
3. Legislative Update
 1. Senate Voucher Bill
 2. COVID Federal Funding dollars
 3. Letter to Superintendents
 4. USDOE Guidelines
 5. House Education Committee
 6. Senate Education Committee
4. Legislative Briefing - Thursday, March 11, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.



Resolution to Prioritize Vaccine



Legislative Update

SCO 670 - Voucher Co-Sponsorship Memo

- The Excellence in Education for All Act Co-Sponsorship memo
 - Sponsored by Senator Scott Martin, Senate ED Chair
 - Education Opportunity Accounts for PA's most vulnerable students
 - Expansion of the existing EITC/OSTC tax credit scholarship programs
 - Charter school reforms and innovations
 - Equal access to the best public education, regardless of ZIP code
 - Protections for coronavirus learning pods
- Bill is not yet introduced and not yet available to be reviewed
- Bill is expected to be introduced by mid-March
- The votes exist to move it out of committee

Legislative Update

USDE Assessment Waiver

- States may request a waiver for Accountability and School Identification requirements.
- Waive the requirement that the Academic Achievement indicator be adjusted to account for a participation rate below 95 percent
- Assessment data not to be used for
 - Comparative or rating purposes
 - For CSI or TSI identification
- Transparency and Reporting
 - Maintain State and Local Report Cards
 - Disaggregated Chronic Absenteeism
 - Student and educator access to technology (as possible).

Legislative Update

USDE Assessment Waiver

- Provide Flexibility in administering assessments, including:
 - Administering a shortened version of its statewide assessments;
 - Offering remote administration, where feasible; and/or
 - Extending the testing window to the greatest extent practicable, such as
 - multiple testing windows and/or extending the testing window into the summer or even the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.
 - States that elect to extend testing windows should also consider how they can make results available to the public in a timely manner after assessments are administered.
- States must provide a public comment period prior to submitting for waiver

Legislative Update

Distributing Federal Funding (COVID 5)

- Act 1 of 2021: COVID Relief Federal Funding
 - Distributes the \$197 Million GEER Funding:
 - \$150 million competitive grant program under the Department of Education to assist non-public schools that have not received government assistance
 - \$20 million for Career and Technical Schools
 - \$14 million for Community Colleges
 - \$8.075 million for Private Residential Rehabilitative Institutions, charter schools for the deaf and blind, and approved private schools
 - \$5 million for the State System of Higher Education
- Transfer \$145 million from the Workers' Compensation Security Fund to the COVID-19 Response Restricted Account to provide county block grants to assist the hospitality industry, including restaurants, bars and hotels.

Governor's Budget

\$1.3 billion proposed
increase to BEF

\$200 million proposed increase
to SEF (\$187 million) through
the formula; \$13 million for the
contingency fund

\$30 million proposed increase
to early childhood

\$11 million proposed increase
for Early Intervention

Charter School Reform Policy

\$99 Million Savings

- Apply Act 16 SE categories to charter school students/tuition
- SEF Commission recommendation

\$130 Million Savings

- \$9,500 statewide cyber charter tuition rate
- Current range is from \$9,170 to \$22,300

Redirection Process

- Clear timelines and processes in redirection process
- Transparency and fairness for SDs and CSs

UPDATES

1. House Appropriations – Department of Education, March 1, 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
2. Legislative Briefing – March 11, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
3. Senate Appropriations – March 18, 10:00 a.m.
4. Next CCSBLC Meeting: March 24, 6:30 – 8 p.m.