



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

June 2022

CCSBLC

Meeting Agenda

Welcome

1. Legislative Update
2. Legislative Member Discussion Topics
 1. Mental Health Resolution
 2. Role of the CCSBLC



2022-23 Budget Update

- Governor's Education Budget Ask:
 - \$1.25 Billion – Basic Subsidy
 - \$300 Million – Level Up
 - \$200 Million - Special Education
- The historical trend indicates that the Governor will get about 25% of his request. Rumors of only \$300 - \$500 million for all subsidies is being discussed to settle the budget.
- HOWEVER, state budget revenues are at all-time high:
 - April 2022 revenues \$2 billion higher than expected
 - State revenues are \$5 billion higher than expected for the 21-22 year
 - State still has \$2 billion in American Rescue Funds
 - State deposited \$2.6 billion in the State Rainy Day Fund

House Education Committee

HB 1813 (MacKenzie)- This legislation seeks to waive proof of residency requirements until the student begins school. With the current process in our Commonwealth, students of military families that are transferring on official military permanent change of station orders are not eligible to register in classes, enroll in specialized academic programs, or submit their children's names in lotteries for charter or magnet schools until they are physically located within the district boundaries. When these students move as a result of their parent's service, they are often disadvantaged due to missed deadlines. An estimated 185,000 military students move between schools annually, and if they do miss these deadlines, they may have to shift their planned courses of study, which may force them to take summer classes, or even graduate later than expected. Reported as amended. First Consideration; referred to House Rules.

HB 2619 (Topper) The legislation will award funding to a state related university using performance-based metrics adopted by an Advisory Council established within PHEAA. The performance-based funding metrics will include, at a minimum: The four-year graduation rate for baccalaureate students.

1. The two-year graduation rate for associate in arts students.
2. Student retention rates.
3. Degree production.
4. Postgraduation employment and salaries.
5. Post-secondary program offerings aligned with the state's workforce development priorities and postsecondary credential.
6. Minimizes the need to repeat courses or to incur additional costs.
7. Metrics provided by each state related university.
8. The advisory council will review and revise, if necessary, the performance-based funding metrics at least every five years.

A state related university that fails to meet the advisory council's minimum performance metrics will be ineligible to receive performance-based funding from the Commonwealth and will submit an improvement plan to the advisory council in order to receive funding in the next fiscal year. Reported as amended. First Consideration; referred to House Rules.

Senate Education Committee

1. **H.C.R.R.1** - Disapproval of Charter Schools and Charter Cyber Schools Regulation #6-349 This resolution disapproves the new Charter School Regulations approved by the State Board of Education. ***Approved by the Senate 30-20 on June 15. Vetoed by Governor.***
2. **SB 766 (BARTOLOTTA)** – Adult Education & Workforce Recovery Fund Grant Program
This bill creates grants for educational entities to implement adult education programs. This bill could benefit our CTE's and districts that provide adult education programs. Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.
3. **SB 1243 (GEBHARD)** – Personal Financial Literacy for High School Students
This bill requires districts to implement a financial literacy course as a graduation requirement. Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations. A student who completes the economics and personal finance course under subsection (a) may apply the successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science or mathematics or business education credit requirement for graduation. Effective July 1, 2023
4. **SB 1277 (AUMENT)** – Parental Control of Student Exposure to Sexually Explicit Content in Schools
This bill requires district to identify and inform parent of sexually explicit material with no clear method or criteria of how to do this. Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.
5. **HB 2169 (OWLETT)** – Tuition Voucher Bill
Sen. Brooks is offering multiple amendments, including to change the audit requirements, require payments made directly to programs not parents, and require computers be purchased from the resident school district.

Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.

Senate Education Committee

SB 1278 (MARTIN) – [Empowering Families in Education](#) This bill does the following:

1. Prohibits classroom instruction on gender identity and sexual orientation for pre-kindergarten through fifth grade students, consistent with the timeline for when the existing academic standards on general sex education begins in sixth grade.
2. Requires adherence to existing [state standards](#) of age-appropriate content for any discussions of gender identity and sexual orientation that occur in grades 6-12.
3. Prohibits a school from withholding information from parents in accordance with existing state and federal laws.
4. Increases transparency by requiring public schools to develop a policy for notifying parents when there is a change to a student's services or monitoring.
5. Protects students in the LGBTQ community by providing critical exemptions if it can be reasonably demonstrated that parental notification would result in abuse or abandonment of a minor.

Reported as amended in Senate Education. First and Second Consideration; Referred to Senate Appropriations.

RTK Law Bills

HB 2524 (Schmitt) – Right to Know Law Update

Definition: *A person, who by the person's conduct, demonstrates an attempt to annoy or harass a local agency.*

- The wording of the vexatious requester definition is ambiguous and may be difficult for school districts and public entities to verify the “intent to annoy or harass.” This needs to be clarified with some parameters or criteria.

Definition: *An individual may not be found to be vexatious requester solely due to the number of requests they have filed or the number of records sought.*

- An individual can't be considered a vexatious requester by the number of requests filed. A substantial number of requests should be considered a reason to identify a requester intending to “annoy or harass an entity.” This definition would allow an individual to make several requests each day and not be considered a vexatious requester.
- The Office of Open Records would have the authority to assess attorney fees on a school district without due process in a court of law.
- Does not address emails. An email in itself should not be a public record; a public record can be in an email. Need to define and clarify what a public record is in an email. Not all emails are a public record, especially if they are not part of the public entity's actions or deliberation process. Yet, the Office of Open Records (ORR) has ruled that an individual can request all emails of specific public employees for up to a week at a time.
- Requests can be issued for emails week after week by the same individual causing an incredible amount of work for school staff. Legislation needs to identify which emails should be considered a public record and which should not. Until this matter is resolved, vexatious requests will continue.

SB 552 (Dush). Identifies the criteria that will be evaluated by the Office of Open Records to determine if a requester should be considered vexatious, establishes a process for ORR to review the petition including possible mediation, and identifies an appeal process to Commonwealth Court for either party.



CCSBLC Discussion Topics

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Senate Education Committee

- [SB 1244](#): **Keystone Exams.** Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing in any school year in which a demonstration of proficiency on a Keystone Exam is required for high school graduation, a student shall be deemed proficient if they demonstrate attainment of a satisfactory composite score of at least 2939, using the highest scores attained by the student on two of the three Keystone Exams in algebra I, literature and biology and achieve a minimum score of proficient on at least one of the two Keystone Exams and a minimum score of basic on the other Keystone Exam used to calculate the composite score. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously reported as committed. First and second consideration. Referred to Senate Appropriations.
- [HB 2169](#): ***Voucher Bill.*** The bill, which narrowly passed the House last month with a 104-98 vote, establishes the “Lifeline Scholarship” to give parents of any student in grades 1-12 residing within the attendance areas of the lowest-achieving public schools with vouchers to pay for tuition in an “alternative academic setting.” Removed from agenda.

State Board of Education

Final-Form Regulations: Academic Standards

On May 19, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) unanimously approved final-form regulations that amend Chapter 4 to update existing science standards, clarify expectations for high school graduation, and align the regulation with statutory changes.

Specifically, the rulemaking replaces the Commonwealth's current Academic Standards for Science and Technology (2002) and Academic Standards for Environment and Ecology (2002) with the Pennsylvania Integrated Standards for Science, Environment, Ecology, Technology and Engineering (Grades K— 5), Pennsylvania Integrated Standards/b; Science, Environment and Ecology (Grades 6—12), and Pennsylvania Technology and Engineering Academic Standards (Grades 6-12). The new academic standards will take effect on July 1, 2025.

Calendar Session Days

An aerial photograph of the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C. The image shows the iconic white dome and the surrounding neoclassical architecture. The grounds are green with trees, and there are parking lots and roads visible around the building. The Capitol is the central focus, with its dome rising prominently above the rest of the structure.

Senate:

June 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20,
21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29,
30

House:

June 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20,
21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29 30
September
12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
October 24, 25, 26
November 14, 15, 16