



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

May 2022

CCSBLC

Meeting Agenda

Welcome

1. Legislative Update
2. Legislative Member Discussion Topics
 1. PSBA Letter
 2. Mental Health Resolution
 3. PSBA Platform



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. 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

- **[SB 224](#): Teacher Certification Reciprocity.** The bill would simplify the process for out-of-state teachers to obtain certification in Pennsylvania by allowing an out-of-state candidate who has completed any state-approved educator preparation program (which includes field placement/student teaching) from an accredited institution of higher education to be eligible for a comparable in-state instructional certification. The bill also would require PDE to recognize and accept out-of-state candidates' qualifying scores on equivalent content tests toward PDE's testing and certification requirements.

Further, the legislation would grant Pennsylvania certification to any candidate who holds a valid certificate issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. SB 224 passed the Senate 48-0 in October 2021. First consideration; set on Tabled Calendar for 6/7/22.

- **[SB 932](#): Educational Tax Credits.** The bill would revise the current definition of household income to explicitly state that payments received from any governmental agency as a result of the pandemic cannot be included in calculating one's household income when determining eligibility. In addition, the bill would revise the current definition of "school-related fees" under the context of the EITC and OSTC programs to allow for the use of program dollars for dual enrollment courses. The bill passed the Senate in December 2021 by a vote of 33-16. First consideration; set on Tabled Calendar for 6/7/22.

Senate Education Committee

- **[HB 972](#): Transgender Students and Sports.** The bill, named the “Fairness in Women’s Sports Act,” would prohibit students who are “biologically male” from participating on scholastic or interscholastic athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls, provides for legal recourse for students who has been “deprived of an opportunity” due to a violation of the prohibition, and provides legal protections for school entities complying with the act. The House passed HB 972 in April, 115-84, with most Republicans voting yes and most Democrats opposed. First consideration; set on the Senate Calendar for 6/6/22.
- **[HB 1041](#): Homeschool Students.** The bill requires a school district to develop policies and procedures to permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to participate, on the same basis as other students enrolled in the school district, in any cocurricular activity that merges extra-curricular activities with a required academic class, including, but not limited to, band or orchestra, must permit a child who is enrolled in a home education program to take up to four academic courses at a time, and must allow a home schooled student to participate in a career and technical education program on the same basis as other students enrolled in the school district, provided they meet requirements. HB 1041 passed the House in November, 136-41. First consideration; set on the Senate Calendar for 6/6/22.

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.

Pennsylvania Primary Upsets

Senator Patrick Browne, R-Lehigh, Senate Appropriations Chair, was lagging behind challenger Jarrett Coleman.

Rep. Stan Saylor, R-York, House Appropriations Chair, lost to challenger Wendy Fink by more than 1,000 votes – 5,408 to 4,300.

The primaries also included three races which, thanks to redistricting, pitted incumbents against each other.

In the **86th District** Rep. Perry Stambaugh, R-Perry, defeated Rep. Jonathan Hershey, R-Juniata.

In the **187th District** Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R-Lehigh, defeated Rep. Gary Day, R-Lehigh.

In the **200th District** Rep. Chris Rabb, D-Philadelphia, defeated Rep. Isabella Fitzgerald, D-Philadelphia.



CCSBLC Discussion Topics

1. PSBA Platform
2. Mental Health Resolution
3. CCSBLC Letter to PSBA
4. June Meeting – June 22

Calendar Session Days

An aerial photograph of the United States 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