



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

June 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Legislative Update – Melissa Smith, CCIU
 - Budget status
 - Legislation to keep an eye on
 - New Secretary of Education
 - Remaining session days
- Roundtable Discussion – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
 - School Code loophole
- Next Meeting – September 2023
 - Legislature not in session July and August

2023-24 Budget

- **Governor's Proposed Budget** - *Presented March 7, 2023*
 - Basic Education Funding (BEF) - \$567M increase (7.8%)
 - Special Education Funding (SEF) - \$104M increase (7.8%)
 - No "Level Up" Funding
 - \$100M state appropriation for school environmental repairs and improvements
- **HB611** – *Filed May 2; Passed House June 5 (102-101); Amended by Senate Appropriations Committee June 22; First Consideration in the Senate June 22; Second Consideration June 27; Re-committed to Appropriations*
 - Bill from the House - almost \$1.4 billion above Governor Shapiro's proposal
 - An additional \$100 million in basic education funding
 - Adding a \$225 million Level Up supplement to the 108 most underfunded school districts in the state
 - An additional \$50 million for Special Education
 - An additional \$250 million for school facilities maintenance and improvements
 - Senate Appropriations stripped the House budget bill and inserted the 2022-23 budget figures as placeholders

Education
Bills
This Session

53 Bills + 4 House Bills
Currently Sit with
Senate Education
Committee

20 Bills Voted Out

145 Bills + 3 Senate
Bills Currently Sit with
House Education
Committee

22 Bills Voted Out

Cyber Charter Reform

- HB 1422 – Modernizing our cyber charter school law to protect kids and taxpayers (*Committed by House Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27; Sitting with House Rules Committee*):
 - Single statewide tuition rate (\$8,000) for non-special education students at cyber schools
 - Applies existing three-tier special education funding formula currently used for school districts to cyber charter schools
 - Establishes further parameters in the areas of fund balance, advertising and sponsorships, enrollment, wellness checks, programs and services, access to school facilities for testing, transportation, governance, amendments, and management companies and foundations.
- Two alternate bills, HB 1494 and HB 1495, have also been introduced by Rep. Friel.

Lifeline Scholarship Program

- SB 795 – Lifeline Scholarship Program (*Referred to Senate Education Committee, June 15*):
 - Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, the Lifeline Scholarship Program would be established as a program in the State Treasury to provide scholarships to help eligible students pay tuition, school-related fees and special education services fees for attendance at a participating nonpublic school.

- Mirrored in HB 1432 (*Referred to House Education Committee, June 20*)

Helping Teacher Shortage

- **HB 141** – Grow Your Own Educators Grant Program (*Passed the House 120-81, May 1; Sitting in Senate Education*)
 - Grants to build or expand pathways to education, including high school student-to-aspiring educator, aspiring-to-enacting educator, education support professional-to-educator, community member-to-education support professional

- **HB 688** – PA Teacher Pipeline Scholarship Program (*Passed the House 119-81, May 2; Sitting in Senate Education*)
 - Scholarship grant up to \$8,000 per academic year
 - Requires employment as a teacher in a public school entity (CTE included) for one year for each academic year scholarship grant was received.

Helping Teacher Shortage

- **HB 1331** – Student Teacher Stipend Program (*Passed the House 141-62, June 22*):
 - \$10,000 for students enrolled in an initial teacher certification program.
 - Additional \$5,000 for student teachers who complete their work in a school entity that attracts few student teachers or has a high rate of open teaching positions.
 - \$1,000 stipend would be available for Cooperating Teachers.

- **HB 1249** – Pennsylvania Individual Recruitment and Retention Tax Credit (*Passed the House 137-66 , June 20*):
 - Refundable tax credit of up to \$2,500 against their personal income tax liability beginning in tax year 2023.
 - Individuals would be able to claim the credit in the first year in which they qualify for the credit and the next two succeeding tax years so long as they remain employed in the field in which they are certified.

Helping Teacher Shortage

- **HB 1067** – **Educator Certification and Employment for Immigrants** (*Passed the House 110-93, June 26*): The bill allows for a waiver of the US citizenship requirement for certification and employment of immigrants in PA if:
 - Exchange teachers not permanently employed, and teachers employed for the purpose of teaching foreign languages, including employed for the purpose of easing transition period of immigrants in the district
 - Individual holds immigrant visa, work visa or valid employment authorization document
- **HB 27** – **Act 91 Extensions** (*Recommitted to the House Rules Committee, June 21*): This bill would extend special provisions for applicable limited school years and time for substitute teachers.
 - Hiring of annuitants, regardless of attempts to secure nonretired
 - No limitation on days/hours for substitute teacher
 - Extension for temporary certification for substitute teachers
 - Classroom monitor permits
- **SB 843** – **Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact** (*Committed by Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27*): Supporting military spouse reemployment in licensed professions.

Bills that have passed the Senate

- **SB 84** – Protecting the First Amendment Right to Freedom of Religious Expression (*Passed Senate 49-0; Committed by House Education and First Consideration, June 13*)
- **SB 114** – Firefighter Training Pilot Program for High School Students (*Passed Senate 49-0, Jan 18; Sitting in House Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness*)
- **SB 209** – Providing Children of National Guard/Reserve Members the Same Benefits Under the Military Interstate Children's Compact (*Passed Senate 49-0, June 27*)
- **SB 232** – Tick Removal in School (*Passed Senate 49-1, April 26; Sitting in House Education*)
- **SB 290** – September 11 Moment of Silence and Courses of Study (*Passed Senate 49-1, June 19; Sitting in House Education*)
- **SB 460** – Child Reunification Act (*Passed Senate 34-15, June 27*)
- **SB 647** – Personal Financial Literacy Course (*Passed Senate 44-5, May 9; Sitting in House Education*)

Bills that have passed the House

- **HB 100** – Tutoring Program (*Passed the House 141-60; Committed by Senate Education, June 6; Sitting in Senate Rules and Executive Nominations*)
- **HB 301** – Removing Derogatory Terms from the School Code (*Passed the House 201-0; Second consideration, June 7; Sitting in Appropriations*)
- **HB 668** – Tuition Waivers for Kinship Care Families (*Passed the House 203-0, June 27*)
- **HB 1094** – Military Family Residency/Advance Enrollment (*Passed the House 201-0; Committed by Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 27*)
- **HB 1097** – September 11 Moment of Silence and Courses of Study (*Passed the House 203-0, June 5; Sitting in Senate Education*)
- **HB 1408** – Adequate and Safe School Facilities Program (*Passed the House 142-61, June 26*)

Senate Bills of Interest

- **SB 375** – AEDs at Athletic Events (*Reported as Amended from Senate Education Committee and First Consideration, June 19*):
 - This bill would require a school entity or nonpublic school, to have an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) present at all interscholastic athletic events, including practices.

- **SB 750** – Universal FAFSA Completion (*Passed out of Senate Education Committee; Second Consideration with Amendments, June 26*):
 - Require high school seniors to complete the FAFSA or opt out on a form provided to parents or guardians.

House Bills of Interest

- **HB 662** – **School Counseling Services Act** (*Referred to House Education Committee, March 21*)
 - Requires schools develop a comprehensive school counseling plan. The plan would ensure that academic, career planning, and social and emotional learning concerns are addressed, would include a multilevel school data review to determine student needs, and would align with guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
- **HB 1434** – **Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grants** (*Committed by House Education Committee and First Consideration, 6/27; Sitting with House Rules Committee*): Higher Ed offering dual credit enrollment shall be eligible to apply for a grant. May be awarded for the following:
 - To Operate Dual credit courses free to students
 - To support building a dual credit program
 - To increase use of low-cost, no-cost textbooks and resources
 - For professional development activities for high school teachers to enable them to teach dual credit courses
- **HB 1448** – **Conflict Resolution in Schools** (*Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, June 20*):
 - Requires public schools to provide instruction on conflict resolution to all students.

House Bills of Interest

- **HB 1478** – **Dental Screenings by Dental Hygienists** (*Introduced and referred to the House Education Committee, June 21*):
 - Allows school districts to utilize a Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner (PHDHP) to fulfill the requirements of Section 1403 of the Public School Code relating to dental screenings and dental hygiene.

- **HB 1507** – **Providing Our Students Flexible Instructional Time in School** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 26*)
 - Change instructional time requirement from 180 days **AND** 900/990 hours of instruction per year to 180 days **OR** 900/990 hours of instruction per year

- **HB 1526** – **Allowing IUs to Own Facilities for Instructional Use** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 27*)

- **HB 1530** – **Increasing access to school counselors, psychologists, social workers and nurses** (*Introduced and reported to House Education Committee, June 27*):
 - Designates case loads as follows for each school:
 - School Counselor not to exceed 250
 - School Psychologist not to exceed 500
 - School Social Worker not to exceed 250
 - School Nurse not to exceed 750 reg. ed., 225 mixed reg & spec. ed. or 125 severe or profound disabilities



New Secretary of Education

- Confirmed by Senate on Monday, June 26 (46-3 vote)
- Dr. Khalid Mumin
 - *Most recently: Superintendent of Lower Merion School District*
 - *Previously: Superintendent of Reading School District*
 - *2021 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year (finalist for National Superintendent of the Year)*
 - *Began in 1997 as a Secondary English teacher*



2023 Session Days: PA House and Senate

June 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 – Both Chambers

Next CCSBLC Meeting – September 2023