



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

September 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Legislative Update – Mary Jeanne Curley, CCIU
- Roundtable Discussion – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Next Meeting – October 25, 2023

Budget Update

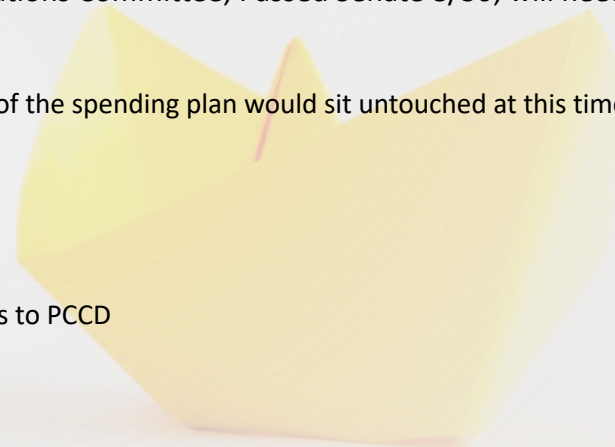
Fiscal Code Bill: Senate's Provisions and Policies

Key Points from [HB 1300](#):

1. Authorized increase for state trooper complement to 4,410.
2. 2% state aid increase for community colleges.
3. \$70 million allocation for libraries.
4. \$295 million for Ready-to-Learn Block Grants.
5. Up to \$7 million to assist financially distressed school districts.
6. Additional funds for career centers, non-public school safety initiatives, and PASSHE debt repayments.
7. Contingency on tuition freeze for PASSHE for two academic years.
8. Funds transfer from Game Fund to Clean Streams Fund with new distribution structure.
9. Increased payment to rural local governments for land usage.
10. Financial support for mental health services, ambulance services, and nursing facilities.
11. Transfer of \$31 million from Medical Marijuana Program Fund to General Fund.
12. Passed House, 6/21; Amended in Senate Appropriations Committee; Passed Senate 8/30; will need to go back to House for concurrence vote.

Without a Fiscal Code, the Governor stated that \$1.1 billion of the spending plan would sit untouched at this time. This includes-

1. \$100 million for school mental health grants
2. \$100 million in Level Up funds
3. \$10 million in teacher stipends
4. \$125 million for school environmental repair grants
5. \$50 million for school safety and security grant transfers to PCCD



Legislative Update

Senate Bill 340- Online Curriculum Availability

Beginning 2024-25 school year and each school year thereafter, a school entity shall post an Internet link or title for every textbook used by the school entity, a course syllabus or a written summary of each instructional course and the State academic standards for each instructional course offered by the school entity on its publicly accessible Internet website. The information shall be updated no later than thirty (30) business days after each time the list of textbooks, syllabi, course descriptions or State academic standards used by the school entity is revised.

SB 757: School voucher program. Passed Senate; will be sent to House.

1. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program ("PASS Scholarship Program") is established as a program in the State Treasury ("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.
2. School districts with at least one school designated as a low-achieving school must notify the parents of all students who are attending or residing within the attendance boundary of the lowachieving school of the school's designation. The notice must include the following information:
3. A description of the PASS Scholarship Program.
4. Instructions for obtaining information about applying for a scholarship.
5. A list of schools in the school district that have been designated as low achieving schools.
6. Notice of the parent's responsibilities regarding application to a participating nonpublic school if the parent seeks to enroll an eligible student.
7. The bill defines a "low-achieving school" as a school that ranked in the lowest 15% of the school's designation as an elementary school or a secondary school based on combined mathematics and reading scores from the annual assessment administered in the previous school year and for which the Department of Education ("Department") has posted results on its publicly accessible internet website.

Legislative Update

HB 27: Substitute Teachers

(PN 2004) Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, to further provide for special provisions applicable to limited school years; in intermediate units, to provide definitions for school safety and security enhancements; and in certification of teachers, further providing for substitute teaching permit for prospective teachers, for locally issued temporary certification for substitute teachers, repeals section 1218 of the Act, expired on June 30, 2023, and amends the act to provide for permit for classroom monitors expiring on June 30, 2026.

House Bill 27, which provides for a three-year extension of the following provisions:

- Section 129. Special Provisions Applicable to Limited School Years.
- Section 1201.1 Substitute Teaching Permit for Prospective Teachers.
- Section 1215. Locally Issued Temporary Certification for Substitute Teachers.
- Section 1218. Permit for Classroom Monitors

Floor Amendment 1:

1. Office of Safe Schools – transfers the functions of the Office of Safe Schools to PCCD for better coordination of school safety priorities.
2. Collection of Data transmitted to SSSC (School Safety and Security Commission) at PCCD on SPOs and SROs.
3. Establishment of an Executive Committee within the SSSC
4. Technical Assistance to School and County Collaboratives – emergency preparedness – safe school collaboratives
5. School & Nonpublic Grant Programs to PCCD – transferred from PDE

Floor Amendment 2:

1. Provides implementation language to release the previously appropriated \$100 million in K-12 mental health funding.
2. From the \$100 million, \$5 million will be sent to PHEAA for the School-based Mental Health Internship Grant Program, \$5 million will be sent to PDE to be used to provide training of school mental health professionals.
3. The remaining money will be sent using the same formula as last year: \$100,000 per school district, \$70,000 per intermediate unit, area career and technical school, charter school, and cyber charter school with the remaining funds distributed based off average daily membership.

Legislative Update

1. Education-Related Bills Recently Introduced

- a. [HB 1616](#) - **Weapons and School Safety Loophole**: Closes transfer in lieu of expulsion hearing loophole for possession of weapons and violent acts while at school, student transfers, and disciplinary actions.
- b. [HB 1628](#) - **Defibrillators in Schools**: Provisions for external defibrillators and training.
- c. [SB 876](#) - **Addiction Continuing Education**: Mandate for alcohol and drug addiction continuing education.
- d. [SB 886](#) - **Definition of Excused Absence**: Inclusion of mental health days for students.
- e. [SB 889](#) - **Sun Protection Measures**: Policy for sunscreen usage in schools and youth camps.
- f. [HB 1653](#) - **Advanced Placement Teacher Training**: Establishment of a program for AP teacher training.
- g. [HB 1654](#) - **Full-Day Kindergarten Initiative**: PDE to develop a state plan for full-day kindergarten by 2024-2025.
- h. [HB 1637](#) - **Substitute Teachers**: Lowering the education requirement to associate's degree for substitute teachers.
- i. [SB 843](#) - **Teacher Reciprocity**: Joining the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact.
 - i. Reported as committed, first consideration, referred to Senate Appropriations.
- j. [HB 1603](#) - **Charter School Enrollment**: Enrollment cap specification for charter schools.
- k. [HB 1604](#) - **School Free-Play Recess and Lunch Periods**: Mandatory 30 minute recess for K-5 students and 30 minutes lunchtime for K-12 students.
- l. [HB 1507](#) - **School Year Days/Hours**: New rules for scheduling instructional time 180 days **OR** 900 elementary/990 secondary hours, currently is 180 days AND 900/990 hours.
 - i. Voted from Committee, first consideration, referred to House Rules.

2. State Primary Date Change

1. [SB 224/HB 1634](#): **Move the 2024 Presidential Primary Date**:
2. Proposed shift from April 23rd to March 19th or April 2nd.
3. Objective: Increase Pennsylvania's influence in presidential nominations and avoid religious holiday conflicts.
4. SB 224 set on Senate Calendar; HB 1634 received in House sent to Committee on House State Government.

3. Restrictions on Sexually-Violent Predators

1. [HB 77](#):
2. Bar sexually-violent predators from living near schools or daycares.
3. Hearing scheduled for September 12th.
4. Introduced and referred to committee on House Judiciary

1. New Contracts for Public Sector Unions

1. **Details:**
 1. Four-year contracts ratified with projected salary and benefits increase by more than 20% by Shapiro administration and the Service Employees International Union Local 668 and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 13.
 2. Pay raises of 20.25% over the contract period.



CCSBLC Meeting Schedule

1. **IN PERSON: Wednesday, September 27 @ 7:00 p.m.**
2. **VIRTUAL: Wednesday, October 25 @ 6:30 p.m.**
IN PERSON: Wednesday, November 22 - Tentative
NO MEETING IN DECEMBER
3. **IN PERSON: Wednesday, January 24 @ 7:00 p.m.**
VIRTUAL: Wednesday, February 28 @ 6:30 p.m.
4. *IN PERSON: Friday, March 1 @ 8:30 a.m. - Legislator Briefing*
5. **VIRTUAL: Wednesday, April 24 @ 6:30 p.m.**
6. **IN PERSON: Wednesday, May 22 @ 7:00 p.m.**
7. **VIRTUAL: Wednesday, June 26 @ 6:30 p.m.**

Education
Bills
This Session

48 Bills + 5 House Bills
Currently Sit with
Senate Education
Committee

10 Bills Voted Out

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

8 Bills Voted Out