



CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nov./Dec. 2023

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Legislative Update – Mary Jeanne Curley, CCIU
 - *Election Update*
 - *Legislative Update*
- Roundtable Discussion – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Meeting Schedule





Election Certification Postponed

Due to a ruling from the U.S. District Court of the Western District of Pennsylvania, which now allows for canvass and tabulation of mail-in ballots with missing or incorrect dates, Chester County will delay the certification of the 2023 General Election.

The canvass and tabulation of up to 266 Chester County mail-in ballots that have missing or incorrectly dated envelopes began at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 27, at the Chester County Voter Services Central Scan Location, 5th Floor, 313 W. Market Street, West Chester, PA.

After all eligible ballots have been counted, the results will be posted for the five-day waiting period, per Pennsylvania Election Code. Chester County will then certify the 2023 General Election at a time and date that will be announced in advance.

School Funding & School Code Update

School Funding and School Code Vehicles

1. HB 301: On November 15, the Senate passed and amended HB 301, authorizing funding for K-12 schools, community colleges, educational support units and public libraries with a 45-5 vote. It also included \$150 million in funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. HB 301 Amendments (bolded items are also in SB 843):
 - a. **Extends Act 91 Provisions**
 - b. **Ends Plancon 1.0**
 - c. **School Safety and Security Enhancements**
 - d. **Substitute Teacher Flexibilities**
 - e. **Classroom Monitors**
 - f. **School Security Changes – (move to PCCD from PDE Safe Schools Office)**
 - g. **School Mental Health Grants**
 - h. **School Security Coordinator Training MOU**
 - i. **Safe Schools Advocate**
 - j. **School Police Officer Reporting**
 - k. **Community College Reimbursement**
 - l. **Funding for Public Libraries**
 - m. **Payments to IUs**
 - n. **Financially Distressed School funding**
 - o. **Ready to Learn Block Grants**
 - p. **Social Security Payments**
 - q. Student Teacher Grant Program - \$10 million allocation, funding includes leftover recovery funds
 - r. School Lunch and Breakfast Reimbursement
 - s. CTC Funding – all \$14 million increase goes directly to CTCs
 - t. School Environmental Repairs
 - u. EITC Funds –
 - v. Changes from 80% to 90% Use of Funds (controls administrative fees to 10%)
 - w. Changes data reporting requirements
 - x. Makes data publicly available
 - y. Increases funds by \$150 million

School Funding & School Code Update

School Funding and School Code Vehicles

1. SB 843: The House, in turn, passed an amended Senate Bill 843 on November 15. House amendments included many of the same provisions as HB 301, however it did not include the EITC tax credit funding. HB 843 Amendments (bolded Items are also in HB 301):
 - a. **Extends Act 91 Provisions**
 - b. **Ends Plancon 1.0**
 - c. **School Safety and Security Enhancements**
 - d. **Substitute Teacher Flexibilities**
 - e. **Classroom Monitors**
 - f. **School Security Changes – (move to PCCD from PDE Safe Schools Office)**
 - g. **School Mental Health Grants**
 - h. **School Security Coordinator Training**
 - i. **MOU**
 - j. **Safe Schools Advocate**
 - k. **School Police Officer Reporting**
 - l. **Community College Reimbursement**
 - m. **Funding for Public Libraries**
 - n. **Payments to IUs**
 - o. **Financially Distressed School funding**
 - p. **Ready to Learn Block Grants**
 - q. **Social Security Payments**
 - r. Extends BEF Commission Report Date to January 11
 - s. Public Job Posting Database
 - t. Instructional Vacancy Data
 - u. Data Transparency -Educator Workforce Data
 - v. Interstate Teacher Mobility
 - w. Student Teacher Grant Program – No money, funds only include appropriations, no recovery funds
 - x. Recovery High School
 - y. Pre-K Counts Reporting
 - z. Attendance in other Districts (specific to Duquesne City tuition fix)
 - aa. CTC funding – Only part of the \$14 million goes directly to CTC's, part goes to PA Smart funds

Legislative Update

Enacted Legislation

1. **Act 24 of 2023 fka HB 1094 (Munroe):** This bill amends the Public School Code to allow children of military families to enroll in the school district where they will be living before establishing residency. **Passed House May, 24, 2023 and Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Passed the House. Signed by the Governor: Act 24 Of 2023. Effective Immediately.**

Newly Introduced

1. **SB 569 – Mandate Relief:** Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for a mandate waiver program. Establishes a mandate waiver program to allow a governing body to adopt a resolution to apply to the department for a waiver of one or more provisions, regulations of the state board, standards of the secretary, policies or guidance of the department or any other provisions of law permitted to be waived to enable the school entity to improve instructional programs or operate in a more effective, efficient or economical manner. Effective in 60 days.

Movement

1. **SB 907 (Senator Reagan) – Armed Security:** SB 907 requires armed school security personnel in all school buildings during the school day starting in the 2024-25 school year. **First Consideration referred to Senate Appropriations, Second Consideration.**
1. **SB 700 (Senator Brooks) – CTE Certification:** SB 700 suggests allows individuals with four years of paid experience in an occupation to obtain a Career and Technical Instructional I Certificate. **Passed Senate, referred to House Education.**

Legislative Update

No Movement

1. **HB 1258 (Rep. Kinsey) – Dual Enrollment:** HB 1258 amends the School Code by adding Section 1525.1 (Calculation of Average Daily Membership for a Dual Credit Course). This section will allow school entities to include students, who are enrolled in a dual credit course, in their ADM until June 30, 2025. **Passed House, October 4, 2023; first and second considerations in Senate, referred to Senate Appropriations.**
2. **HB 1507 (Topper) – School Year:** This bill proposes allowing flexibility in instructional time in schools, allowing schools to choose between 180 days or 900/990 hours of instruction per year. **Passed House; first and second considerations in Senate, referred to Senate Appropriations.**
3. **SB 7 (Aument) – Parental Control of Sexually Explicit Content:** PN 619 Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for parental notification relating to instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content. Provides the governing body of a school entity shall develop and make public policies that provide parental notification of instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content and include information, guidance, procedures and standards relating to: directly identifying specific instructional materials and books within libraries of the schools containing sexually explicit subjects and content that are used by or made available to students at school; ensuring parental notification of specific sexually explicit content prior to student exposure; and permitting the parent or legal guardian to review instructional materials that contain sexually explicit content and require the school entity to provide, as an alternative, nonexplicit instructional materials and related academic activities to the student, if requested by the parent or legal guardian, or review a book from the school library containing sexually explicit content that the student wishes to view and prevent the student from viewing the book if requested by the parent or legal guardian. Effective in 60 days. **Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**

Legislative Update

- 1. SB 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. **Passed the Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**
- 2. SB 353 & SB 456 (Dush) – Posting of Preambles:** These bills propose displaying the Preamble of the Pennsylvania Constitution and the United States Constitution respectively in school buildings, including Intermediate Unit school buildings. **Passed Senate October 24, 2023. Referred to House Education.**
- 3. SB 757:** School voucher program. 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. 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 low-achieving school of the school’s designation. **Passed Senate; Received in House Education on September 25, 2023.**



Remaining 2023 Session Days PA House and Senate

- December 11, 12, 13 (Senate)



CCSBLC Meeting Schedule

1. *NO MEETING IN DECEMBER*
2. **IN PERSON: Wednesday, January 24 @ 7:00 p.m.**
3. **VIRTUAL: Wednesday, February 28 @ 6:30 p.m.**
4. *IN PERSON: Friday, March 1 @ 8:30 a.m., Legislative Breakfast, TCHS Brandywine*
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.**