



# CHESTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

October 2023

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Advocacy – Kate Gilmartin, PSBA Regional Liaison
- Legislative Update – Mary Jeanne Curley, CCIU
- Roundtable Discussion – Bill Wood, Avon Grove, Chair
- Meeting Schedule





# 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

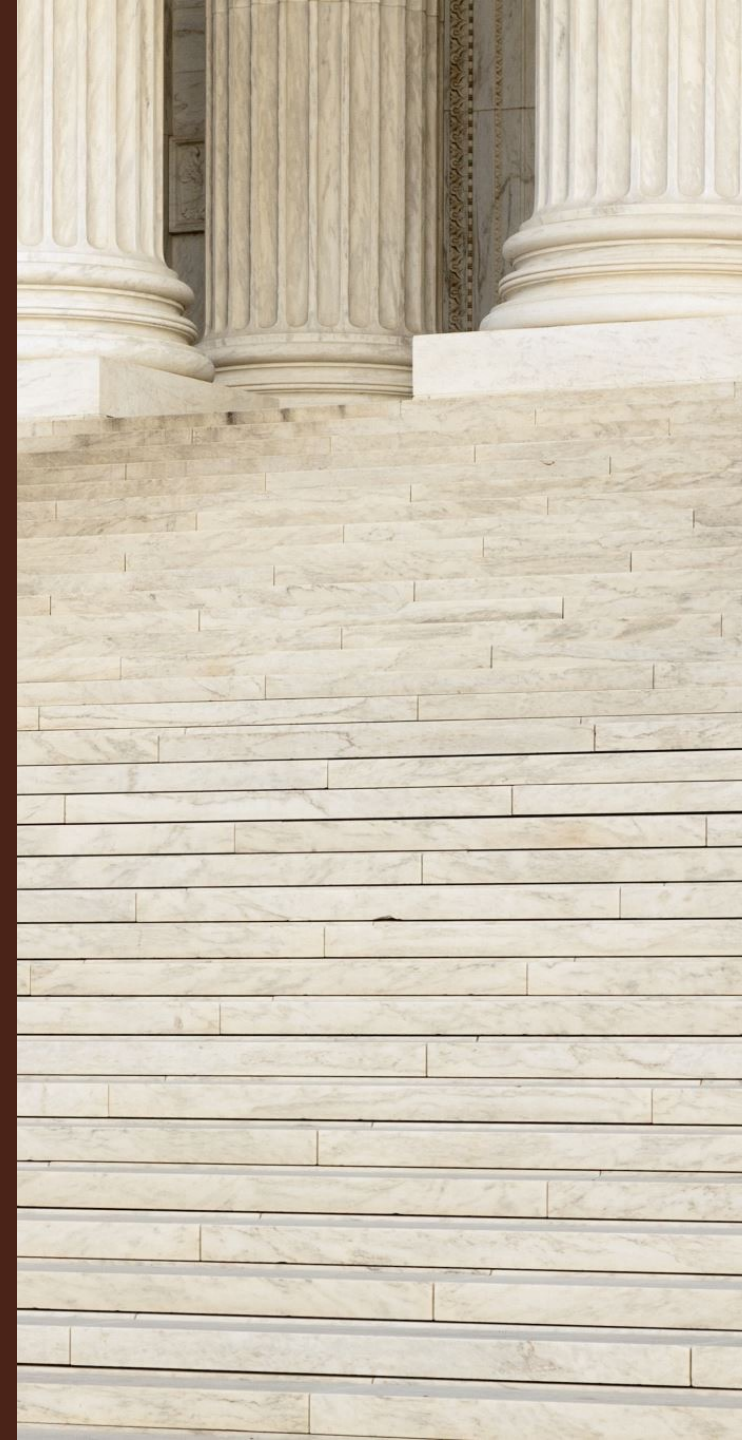
# House Bill 27

House Bill 27 provides for a 3-year extension of the following provisions:

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

Senate passed with the following amendments:

1. Regan Amendment –Transfers the functions of the Office of Safe Schools to PCCD for better coordination of school safety priorities.
2. Costa Amendment – Provides implementation language to release the previously appropriated \$100 million in K-12 mental health funding.



# House of Representative Actions



Amended House Bill 27 with  
29 additions 10/04/23



Senate response to be  
determined

# Legislative Update

- 1. 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. **Passed the Senate October 24, 2023.**
- 2. SB 7 (Aument):** 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.**
- 3. SB 353 & SB 456 (Dush):** 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.**
- 4. 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.**



# Legislative Update

1. **HB 1507 (Topper):** 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.
2. **HB 1258 (Rep. Kinsey):** 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.
3. **SB 907 (Senator Reagan):** 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.
4. **SB 700 (Senator Brooks):** SB 700 suggests allows individuals with four years of paid experience in an occupation to obtain a Career and Technical Instructional I Certificate. First and second consideration; referred to Senate Appropriations



# Basic Education Funding Commission Hearings Schedule


- September 12 in Allentown
- September 13 in Harrisburg
- September 14 in Philadelphia
- September 21 in Lancaster
- September 28 in Hanover
- October 5 in Hazleton
- October 11 in Pittsburgh
- October 12 in Lemont Furnace
- November 2 in Enola
- November 9 in Bedford





# Remaining 2023 Session Days PA House and Senate

- October 30, 31, November 1 (House)
- November 13, 14, 15
- December 11, 12, 13 (Senate)



# CCSBLC Meeting Schedule

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

## Legislative Update

**SB 757:** School voucher program. Passed Senate; Received in House Education on September 25, 2023.

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.