

EPLC Education Notebook

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

SPECIAL EDITION

Summary of Governor Corbett's Proposed 2012-2013 Education Budget

The Education budget for 2012-2013 proposed by Governor Tom Corbett on February 7 would shift more K-12 school funding burden to local taxpayers and dramatically cut state funding for higher education.

The proposed K-12 budget would "block grant" or collapse four current line items for basic education subsidy funding (\$5.35 billion), pupil transportation (\$542.3 million), nonpublic and charter school public transportation (\$77.7 million) and \$541.56 million of School Employees' Social Security into a new **Student Achievement Education Block Grant**. This combined line block grant line item would provide an increase of only 3/10 of 1% over last year's figure, or \$21.8 million. This modest increase apparently covers only increased social security obligations, and provides no real increase for the basic subsidy to districts. Most other line items under the Governor's PK-12 education budget were level funded or received a 5 percent reduction.

The Education budget for 2012-2013 proposed by Governor Tom Corbett on February 7 would shift more K-12 school funding burden to local taxpayers and dramatically cut state funding for higher education.

The proposed K-12 budget would "block grant" or collapse four current line items for basic education subsidy funding (\$5.35 billion), pupil transportation (\$542.3 million), nonpublic and charter school public transportation (\$77.7 million) and \$541.56 million of School Employees' Social Security into a new **Student Achievement Education Block Grant**. This combined line block grant line item would provide an increase of only 3/10 of 1% over last year's figure, or \$21.8 million. This modest increase apparently covers only increased social security obligations, and provides no real increase for the basic subsidy to districts. Most other line items under the Governor's PK-12 education budget were level funded or received a 5 percent reduction.

BASIC EDUCATION-

The following education line items received a **5 percent reduction, as indicated by the dollar value.**

- Pre-K Counts (\$4.139 million).
- Head Start Supplemental Assistance (\$1.864 million).
- Adult and Family Literacy (\$614 thousand).
- Education of Migrant Laborers' Children (\$45 thousand).
- Services to Non-Public Schools (\$4.319 million).
- Textbooks, Materials and Equipment for Nonpublic Schools (\$1.314 million).
- Safe School Initiative (\$106 thousand).

The following line items received a **10 percent reduction, as indicated by the dollar value.**

- Teacher Professional Development (\$718 thousand).
- Community Education Councils (\$120 thousand).

The following line items were **level funded**. Total funding is listed for each item.

- Special Education would be flat-funded for the 4th consecutive year (\$1.026 billion).
- PA Charter Schools for the Deaf and Blind (\$39.401 million)
- Approved Private Schools (\$98.098 million)
- Authority Rentals and Sinking Fund Requirements (\$296.198 million)
- Payments in Lieu of Taxes (\$194 thousand)

These education items were ***eliminated entirely***. Last year's funding level indicated for each item.

- Mobile Science Education Program (\$650 thousand).
- School Nutrition Incentive Program (\$3.327 million).
- Job Training Programs (\$4.8 million).

These line items received **increases, as indicated by the dollar value**.

- **Career and Technical Education** was increased by 1.5 percent (\$1.089 million).
- **PA Assessment** was increased by 42.6 percent (\$15.601 million).
- **Early Intervention** received a 4.1 percent increase (\$8.057 million).
- **School Food Services** was increased by 2.4 percent (\$734 thousand).
- **School Employees' Retirement** was increased by 52.6 percent (\$315.880 million).
- **Tuition for Orphans and Children Placed in Private Homes** was increased by 3.5 percent (\$1.955 million).

HIGHER EDUCATION-

- The **Community Colleges** line item was reduced by 3.8 percent, a loss of \$8.801 million.
- **Regional Community College Services** was eliminated (\$700 thousand).
- Three of the four **State-Related Universities** (The Pennsylvania State University, University of Pittsburgh, and Temple University) have been cut by 30 percent.
- The **Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education** (PASSHE) has been reduced by 20 percent, a loss of \$82.550 million.
- The **Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency** was reduced overall by 6.4 percent, a loss of \$27.245 million. Grants to Students and Matching Payment for Student Aid were reduced by 5 percent, a combined loss of \$19.705 million. Institutional Assistance Grants (IAGs) were reduced by 30 percent, a loss of \$7.317 million.

LIBRARIES, THE ARTS AND PA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION-

- **Pennsylvania Council on the Arts** administrative budget and **grants to arts** organizations would be held level at \$886,000 and \$8,179,000, respectively.
- Funding to **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** would face a 5% reduction, decreasing from \$17,525,000 to \$16,649,000.
- **Library funding** (including the public library subsidy, services for the visually impaired and disabled, and the library access line item) would be reduced by 5%. Total state dollars will decrease from \$59,179,000 to \$56,220,000.

The EPLC Education Notebook (current and past editions) also is available by visiting the EPLC website at <http://www.eplc.org>.