

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE...GETTING ANSWERS

PASA Resources

PASA is monitoring the coronavirus pandemic in our state and nation and its implications for schools and students. In an effort to assist school leaders, we are providing on the PASA website links to updates, resources, information and strategies from both the state and federal level to help in planning and management during this uncertain time.

The web page provides members with easy access to a wide variety of important resources, including: links to important documents and guidance from the PDE; information on Continuity of Education Plans; updates on Pennsylvania legislation addressing school closure (specifically, Act 13); school meal updates from both the PDE and the USDE; links to various resources from the PDE; links to the pandemic web pages from the Governor's website, PEMA, Ready PA and the PA Department of Health; AASA resources and information about what is happening on the federal level; and links to numerous national and international resources, including the USDE, CDC, World Health Organization, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others.

Find the resources here: <https://www.pasa-net.org/coronavirus>. PASA updates this growing list as information and resources continue to develop.

Daily Briefings

In addition to providing online links to resources, PASA is updating superintendents and I.U. executive directors through a Daily Briefing via Zoom with our Executive Director Dr. Mark DiRocco to provide an opportunity for Q&A on issues that arise in district planning and operations and to share updates from both the state and federal level.

From the Department of Education

The PA Department of Education has many resources and updates posted on its [coronavirus webpage](#), including such topics as Messages from the Secretary, Meal Distribution by County, Continuity of Education Resources, Waivers, Talking to Children about COVID-19, and links to Pennsylvania's COVID-19 website and the CDC Covid-19 website.

One link in particular is aimed at providing guidance to school districts in

the form of frequently asked questions on many pressing issues, including the 180-day school year, early intervention, essential staff, federal programs, graduation requirements, meals for children, school construction, special education services, statewide assessments, student teaching and transportation.

The department is constantly updating these resources. PASA is in touch with department officials to have specific questions from our members addressed.

See Coronavirus Update, page 4

ELECTION FOR PASA OFFICERS, AASA REPRESENTATIVES

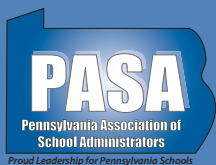
The online election for 2020-21 PASA president-elect, PASA treasurer, and two representatives to the AASA Governing Board will be held this month. Voting members will receive information on the candidates and voting process by email no later than April 15.

If you are a voting member (categories: Commissioned Officer, District Cabinet, Small District Leader) and you do not receive information by that date, please contact PASA at pasa@pasa-net.org.

For information on your membership status, contact Jolene Zelinski at jolenez@pasa-net.org.

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PASA Members:

Please report your appointments, renewals, awards or special achievements, or that of others in your region to **Barbara Jewett** at PASA either by phone (717) 540-4448, by fax (717) 540-4405, or via email at pasa@pasa-net.org. Copy deadline is the 1st of each month.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DR. MARK DIROCCO

THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN



March 13, 2020 will be a day to remember in the history of public education in Pennsylvania.

At approximately 3:00 p.m. that day, Governor Wolf closed all public schools due to the escalating cases of COVID-19 across the commonwealth. As students and staff were heading out the door for the weekend, the educational world had been turned on its head, causing one of the most rapid transitions in educational programming for students in the history of our state.

Many other states found themselves in the same situation over the next few weeks, resulting in millions of students staying home with their families wondering how they were going to stay connected to their schools. School leaders and staff members were thrust into uncharted waters with no experience on how to navigate an actual pandemic that would close school for several weeks, if not the remainder of the year.

While heads were spinning, and the economy started to tank due to massive layoffs of the non-essential business closures, many educators began to rally during that first weekend to continue to feed their students while school was closed. This was especially important to low-income students who rely on school breakfast and lunch as their main sustenance through the week. Amazingly, some districts had their meal programs up and running by Monday, and most had meals going out to students before the first week of the closure ended.

Any military leader would have marveled at how quickly food preparation and delivery was enacted and executed by districts across the state. One urban district distributed nearly 12,000 meals on Wednesday of that first week. This act of caring has been noticed and appreciated by parents and community members. It says a great deal about who we are as public school educators.

Unfortunately, navigating the whitewater rapids of school closures was just beginning. There were many more questions than answers, and the inequities of our school system came to light right away. While some districts were able to quickly pivot to online or some form of distance learning, others did not have the technology or logistical wherewithal to do so. Some districts began moving ahead to deliver educational programming for their students, while others decided to wait it out as initially there was no requirement to conduct educational programming during the shutdown.

However, with the passage of Act 13 of 2020 and the governor signing the legislation on March 27, every district was required to implement a Continuity of Education Plan. This was truly a call to action for school district leaders by the legislature and the governor. Districts had to find a way to deliver planned instruction or enrichment and review for their students to comply with the act.

Once again, public school educators have risen to the occasion.

I have been heartened by some of the examples of how districts are finding creative ways to deliver educational activities to their students. One district simply does not have the resources to operate an online educational program due to lack of devices and internet connections in their students' homes. They quickly devised a program where teachers would develop lesson packets and materials, which would be delivered by the bus contractors on a periodic basis. I am sure this is a logistical challenge to even attempt, but the superintendent was driven to serve the students. Another district opened their district WiFi, so parents could drive to the parking lot of their child's school to download lessons and activities.

The creativity and ingenuity have been impressive. Within three short weeks since the governor announced the closure of schools, the majority of our 500 districts have a Continuity of Education Plan up and running, with others coming on line every day. It has often been said that public education is one of the most resilient institutions in our nation. That has proven to be true this past month.

I applaud all our school leaders and staff members who have been working tirelessly in re-

See Executive Director's Message, page 3



NEWS RECAP

Don't forget to check the PASA website for the weekly **Education Update** that provides a summary of up-to-date legislative, state and national education news. For more information on the following news briefs, see the PASA Web site at www.pasa-net.org. (Click on "News and Advocacy" to access the current and archived updates.) And follow us

on **Twitter** for the latest updates @PASASupts.

In Budget & Finance News

State Revenue: Pennsylvania collected \$4.4 billion in General Fund revenue in March, which was \$294.6 million, or 6.2 percent, less than anticipated. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$25.3 billion, which is \$45.6 million, or 0.2 percent, below estimate. "The shortfall in March is only partially related to the COVID-19 outbreak. We expect the pandemic will have a greater impact on revenues in the coming months, particularly in a month like April when many of the tax filing due dates are pushed back," Secretary Dan Hassell said.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

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cent weeks to fundamentally change their entire educational system on a dime, relying mostly on their own grit, fortitude, and problem-solving skills. This is when leadership matters the most. And I am proud to say that our educational leaders have risen to the challenge to take on an unprecedented crisis and make something positive happen for students. You have my respect and admiration.

Unfortunately, there is still much to do, and there will be no respite for weeks to come. The coronavirus will continue to dictate the timeline for school and business closures. We may not get back into school this term, which will cause another set of issues and problems to solve. There will be problems with your Continuity of Education Plan as it unfolds over the next few weeks, and the economy will no doubt affect the state budget and your local budget situation.

Expect significant problems and lean into them. This is when your staff, students, parents, school board and community need you the most. Poise, strength, and confidence are paramount in a crisis, and people will look to their school leaders for those attributes and reassurance. That's also why it is important to take good care of yourself. Being strong and effective requires you to remain healthy.

PASA will continue to hold briefings and push information out to our members to help you deal with an educational world gone awry. Please visit our [coronavirus webpage](#) for the latest information and documents that can be of help to you. Also, please email me at mdirocco@pasa-net.org if you have questions or need advice.

Although this has been a tremendously scary and unsettling time for our students, staff, communities, and nation. I believe it can also be one of public education's finest hours.

Legislative News

Session Schedule: The General Assembly is now operating on modified rules that will change timelines and committee meeting and floor session operations during the pandemic. The Capitol is currently closed to all but lawmakers, legislative and Capitol staff, and credentialed press.

Legislation: Since lawmakers have returned to session following a month of appropriations hearings, legislation considered has focused on pandemic-related issues, including a School Code bill (Act 13), pushing back the April primary to June, and extending deadlines for unemployment compensation filing.

School Property Taxes: There is word at the Capitol that lawmakers may want to consider legislation that would freeze school property tax rates for 2020-21 at current rates. While PASA is grateful for the financial assistance school districts have received from the state and federal levels to date and understands that the current situation is putting a strain on household budgets and business operations, the coronavirus pandemic timeline remains an unknown. For that reason, PASA believes that the status of state and local tax revenues, the economic impact of the pandemic, the fiscal needs in all public sectors, and tax rates on both the state and local level must be considered together in light of pandemic timelines rather than considered separately.

State News

Alternative Pathways: The State Board of Education last month approved course equivalencies and established scores representing alternatives beyond the Keystone Exams by which high school students may demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success, and, as defined in Act 158 of 2018, create additional pathways for meeting state graduation requirements beginning with the Class of 2022. Established scores were approved relevant to two pathways established by Act 158: the Alternative Assessment Pathway (including SAT, PSAT and ACT scores) and the Evidence-Based Pathway (ACT WorkKeys assessment, SAT Subject Test, AP exam and IB exam). In addition to approving the established scores, the Board also approved the list of additional evidence that may be utilized under the Evidence-Based Pathway. [Click here](#) to read more.

COMING UP

How the General Assembly and Gov. Wolf will approach budget negotiations this spring is difficult to predict, considering the great unknown about state revenue. Related issues, such as property taxes, tax breaks, and fiscal and health care supports will continue to be a big part of the conversation. But timelines for all of that will be dependent on virus timelines – and that is the really great unknown. Stay informed and be prepared for anything. And stay tuned for the latest information by following us on **Twitter** @PASASupts.



THE NEW NORMAL

BY BARBARA W. JEWETT, ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Since the last issue of *The PASA Flyer* was published (March 11), it would be fair to say that the world has been turned on its head.

We've gone from the normal spring rhythms of attentiveness to the legislative agenda and hectic spring activities in our schools to total disruption and a very different reality. The focus now is staying apart, while

simultaneously trying to pivot on a

dime and provide meaningful education to students who very well may not return to their schools this year. Nothing is certain. Timetables are no longer based on federal and state deadlines or on comprehensive plans or board policies but rather on a microscopic, air-borne virus and our ability to maintain the distance we need to slow its spread.

College students are home, business has ground to a halt, we're staying-in-place and apart as much as possible, the number of unemployed is reaching record numbers, the economy is in a world of hurt, and our health care and safety professionals are stretched thin. For those in education – staff, students, parents and the PASA staff – we've had to quickly adjust to the loss of the rhythm that comes with the spring calendar.

And all of this happened in less than a month.

This pandemic will end, but the challenges it has created in this small amount of time will take months and years to address. It's now a world of unnatural rhythms, in which some kind of normalcy seems a long way off.

You and your district staff are now doing things you didn't anticipate when the school year started: getting meals to students who aren't in their classrooms, making plans for instruction in a wide variety of forms, developing creative ways to ensure students don't lose too much of what they've learned, ensuring the safety of your custodial crew and essential employees. And in the back of your mind, you are already thinking about what the 2020-21 school year will bring and what your new normal will be.

Right now everyone is in "power" mode, charging ahead to forge a temporary reality. While you are brainstorming fast-moving strategies to meet the needs of your students, we are adjusting to the world of the virtual office. We're going to convene our Board of Governors this month virtually. We've had to cancel some amazingly content-rich conferences and workshops, and put others on hold, but are busy making plans for future events. Our Resolutions Committee work is suspended to allow committee members to focus on district concerns. The list goes on.

We all are managing day-to-day within the rhythms of this very different world. But, as we always have, PASA stands ready to support you by continuing to provide updates, answer your questions, and keep you informed about policy and guidance related to the pandemic and school closures. That work will not end, no matter where we are.

Most importantly, we are proud that public school administrators in Pennsylvania have pushed forward in

this new reality in amazing ways to support their students and staff. Your dedication, leadership and commitment to the job, no matter the circumstances, is beyond commendable.

We will get through this. The world will right itself eventually, and we will take from this many lessons learned about making public education even stronger and more vital.

Take care of yourself. Take care of the ones you love. We need you. Our students need you. You truly are the upside in a downside world.



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

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FAQ from the Education Associations

PASA, along with seven other education associations – PSEA, PSBA, PASBO, the PA Principals Association, PAIU, PARSS and the PA Assn. of Career & Technical Administrators (PACTA) – is providing to school leaders a continually updated list of frequently asked questions. This list is based on concerns from the field and often address specific operating issues and questions about guidance documents from the state and federal level.

You can find the list on the [PASA coronavirus page](#).

Have a question you would like added to the list? Let us know!

Contacting PASA

Although PASA staff is working remotely, we are available for you as we always have been.

For urgent questions and concerns, call our alternative phone number: 717-514-8718. For general questions, contact PASA via the general email (pasa@pasa-net.org) and your question will be directed appropriately and promptly. In addition, you may send an email directly to specific PASA staff members. ([Click here](#) for the staff list.)

We will be monitoring all correspondence and will respond as quickly as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your questions and concerns!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR A NEW ERA

BY CONNIE KINDLER,
PASA CONSULTANT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PASA is dedicated to training, educating, and mentoring aspiring, new career, and experienced central office leaders. Professional development is one of our core functions. While the coronavirus forced the cancellation and postponement of programs planned for March, April, and May, similar to those we serve, we are making adjustments.

Looking ahead, below is a line-up of programs targeted to school leaders' current challenges and the after-effects. Several have not yet been scheduled and will be added to the list of our annual programs when the future becomes clearer.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING UPDATE

Please watch the PASA website for updates.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY COORDINATOR WORKSHOP

was scheduled for April 2 at Capital Area Intermediate Unit; to be rescheduled

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOP: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

was scheduled for April 28 at Allegheny I.U. 3; to be rescheduled

PASA WOMEN'S CAUCUS SPRING CONFERENCE

was scheduled for May 17-19 at The Hotel Hershey - canceled

PASA/PASBO HUMAN RESOURCES SYMPOSIUM

was scheduled for June 18 in the PASA/PASBO Building – postponed until further notice

NEW SUPERINTENDENTS' ACADEMY PART 1 STRATEGIC & CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

July 27-28 in the PASA Office

<https://www.pasa-net.org/workshopnsa>

PA EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Offered by PASA and the PA Principals Assn.

August 2-4 in Lancaster

<https://www.pasa-net.org/leadsummit>

PASA/PSBA SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Oct. 14-16 in Hershey

<https://www.paschoolleaders.org/>

Webinar: "Supporting Students, Staff and Ourselves in the Aftermath of a Crisis"

David Schonfeld, MD, Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics (FAAP), Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician and Director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement at the Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, CA; Keynote from canceled 2020 PASA Leadership Forum. Date TBD.

Webinar: "Building Resilient Students from the Inside Out"

J.C. Pohl, author, national school culture expert and speaker on mental health; Keynote from cancelled 2020 PASA Leadership Forum. Rescheduled date TBD.

2020-21 Webinar Series: "Responsive Schools/ Resilient Students"

Webinars featuring breakout sessions from the cancelled 2020 Leadership Forum. Dates TBD.

Summit for Assistant Superintendents and District-Level Supervisors: "Bridging SEL Research and the Applied Implementation of SEL in Schools"

CASEL model for needs assessments, self-care, care of principals and teachers who directly support students' SEL, sustained practice, and funding. Date: **November 6, 2020**, Harrisburg location TBD. Carol Paxton, Ph. D. Dr. Paxton, an educational psychologist and the Director for the Center for the Promotion of Social and Emotional Learning, (25 PIL hours).

Webinar: "A Community Commitment to School Safety"

Dr. Jay Burkhart, Superintendent of Southwestern School District. Rescheduled date TBD.

2021 PASA Leadership Forum: March 28- 30, 2021

State College, PA (location tentative)

Bill Daggett, Ed.D., Founder and Chairman of the International Center for Leadership in Education, recognized worldwide for his proven ability to move pre-K-12 education systems to a new era (40 PIL hours).

More programs are in the works.

In the meantime, we will continue to serve you via superintendent daily briefings, an online discussion board for all PASA members, and resource links on the PASA website. You have our utmost support as you provide the responsive and resilient leadership your students, staff, families, and communities need at this time.

Last, but not least, please take care of yourselves, and do not hesitate to contact us with questions, concerns, or simply to talk. We're here for you!

A MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT! PASA LEGAL SERVICES

PASA's legal staff offers a wide range of employment-related legal resources and services to PASA members who are Commissioned Officers. These services include consulting services, employment contract services, non-litigation dispute resolution, and assistance with the negotiation and development of separation agreements.



Go to:

**[www.pasa-net.org/
legalservices](http://www.pasa-net.org/legalservices)**
to read more about it.



THE SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

AASA Coronavirus Resources

AASA has been working with federal officials and members of Congress to influence legislation and policy concerning the coronavirus pandemic and its effect on schools. The AASA website offers school leaders updated information and resources from the federal levels, including Congress, the CDC, the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture. [Click here](#) to see a list of resources and information provided by AASA.

Advocacy in Washington

Over the past month, AASA has advocated on behalf of school districts across the nation to urge federal officials to provide the most flexibility and assistance possible during the pandemic crisis.

Among those efforts was:

- ♦ a joint letter AASA sent with NEA, AFT, NASSP, NAESP and the Council of Great City Schools outlining critical areas of needed funding investment for K-12 schools
- ♦ an ASE assessment/accountability waiver letter sent to Congress and coordination of a nationwide effort to urge Congress to provide a assessment waiver (which was successful)
- ♦ leading an initiative to urge the USDE to provide more flexibility to school districts in complying with IDEA during school closures
- ♦ regular phone calls with state affiliates to review strategies and issues of concern among the states

AASA continues to advocate on these and other issues as school districts leaders are confronting new and ongoing challenges.

Join AASA today and become part of a supported community of school leaders nationwide who advocate for public education!

See the AASA website, <http://www.aasa.org>, for details or contact the PASA office.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!



For breaking education news and the latest from the Capitol, follow us on Twitter **@PASASupts**.

Find what you need to know in the weekly "Education Update." Watch your email on **Mondays** for the E-Update and link to this weekly report, a source for the latest in education and budget news from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and the nation.



Check the PASA website at www.pasa-net.org for reports, testimony, the program and meeting schedule, archived Updates, the PASA Career Center (job postings)...and more!



FOR OUR RETIRED MEMBERS...

The second annual Retiree Luncheon scheduled for Wednesday, June 17 in the PASA office has been canceled and will be rescheduled.

The ADVOCATE

COVID-19 UPDATE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

What a difference one month can make!

As the nation's public schools face the never-before-seen reality of nearly nationwide statewide school closures, school system leaders are navigating the new norm of implementing a fully remote approach learning and all that entails, from continuing food service and figuring out how to comply with IDEA to planning for likely economic downturn and how to address payroll.

This month's The Advocate is a quick breather, a top-level overview of how we got here, resources available, and what comes next.

HOW WE GOT HERE

- 12/1 through 1/11: First case and death reported in Wuhan, China
- 1/12 through 1/31: Cases spread across Asia ahead of/during the Lunar New Year; U.S. and South Korea confirm first cases; World Health Organization (WHO) declares COVID-19 an international public health emergency
- 2/1 through 2/19: Virus spreads across Asia and Europe; U.S. cases begin to grow
- 2/21 through 2/29: Italy confirms first few cases and infection count surges to 655 within a week; U.S. reports first death; WHO raises threat of COVID-19 global outbreak to "Very High"
- 3/1 through 3/6: U.S. cases continue to grow; Congress passes first emergency COVID supplemental
- 3/7 through 3/14: WHO declares COVID-19 a pandemic; Trump declares a national emergency; Congress passes second emergency COVID supplemental
- 3/15 through 3/27: Wuhan, China reports no new cases (hits peak) as virus makes its way across Africa; countries begin announcing widespread closure of businesses, schools, etc. and cancelling/postponing large events; Congress passes third emergency COVID supplemental (CARES Act)
- Source: <https://www.pharmaceutical-technology.com/news/coronavirus-a-timeline-of-how-the-deadly-outbreak-evolved/>

FEDERAL RESPONSE TO COVID

To date, Congress has moved three emergency supplementals in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: HR 6074 – Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act; HR 6201 – Families First Coronavirus Response Act; and S 3548 – CARES Act.

The **Families First Act** included provisions related to education but not any significant education-specific funding:

Nutrition Provisions: flexibilities related to school meal programs for serving in non-congregate settings, to allow child and adult care centers to serve food to go, allow the Secretary of Agriculture to waive meal pattern requirements in child nutrition programs if there is a disruption in food supply, and to allow a meal to be picked up without a child present, among others.

Health Provisions: Provides free COVID-19 testing to all Americans, regardless of insurance; clarifies that Medicaid and CHIP, which cover over 45 million children between the two programs, will cover diagnostic testing, including the cost of a provider visit to receive testing, with no cost to the patient; increases states' federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for public health programs like

Medicaid and CHIP for the duration of the emergency; and increases Medicaid allotments for U.S. Territories, among other items.

Paid Sick Leave, Unemployment Insurance, and Family and Medical Leave Provisions:

- ♦ Provides employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to two weeks of fully-paid leave when they are sick, or two weeks of paid leave at 2/3 of their normal rate to care for a family member. (To the best of our knowledge, the employer size applies only to private employers; all school districts are included in this provision, regardless of size.)
- ♦ Provides employees of employers with under 500 employees the right to take up to 12-weeks of job-protected leave.
- ♦ Provides \$1 billion in 2020 emergency grants to states to meet the increased need for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits.
- ♦ Provides several tax breaks for employers who give their employees mandatory paid leave during the emergency.

The **CARES Act** was the first bill to include money specific to education. The \$13.5 billion earmarked for K-12 schools is included in the bill's Education Stabilization Fund, which also contains \$14.25 billion for higher education, and \$3 billion for governors to use at their discretion to assist K-12 and higher education as they deal with the fallout from the virus. The legislation also states that any state or school district getting money from the stabilization fund "shall to the greatest extent practicable, continue to pay its employees and contractors during the period of any disruptions or closures related to coronavirus."

Beyond the SFSF funds, the CARES Act includes:

- ♦ \$15.5 billion for the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program;
- ♦ \$8.8 billion for Child Nutrition Programs to help ensure students receive meals when school is not in session;
- ♦ \$3.5 billion for Child Care and Development Block Grants, which provide child-care subsidies to low-income families and can be used to augment state and local systems;
- ♦ \$750 million for Head Start early-education programs;
- ♦ \$100 million in Project SERV grants to help clean and disinfect schools, and provide support for mental health services and distance learning;
- ♦ \$69 million for schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education; and
- ♦ \$5 million for health departments to provide guidance on cleaning and disinfecting schools and day-care facilities.

This package includes waiver flexibility for states to get waivers on accountability (related to publicly reporting various indicators under their accountability systems, as well as waivers from reporting on progress toward their long-term achievement goals, and interim goals under ESSA and waivers to freeze in place their schools identified for improvement. No schools would be added to the list, and no schools would be removed from the list for the 2020-21 school year, under this expedited waiver process.

See AASA Advocate, page 8

There is no additional language related to IDEA flexibility. That remains the huge, bruising conversation we are having with the hill.

There are also a handful of waivers available at the state and local level re flexibility from sections of ESSA related to funding mandates. SEAs/LEAs can seek a waiver:

- ♦ from ESSA's requirement for states to essentially maintain their education spending in order to tap federal funds;
- ♦ to make it easier to run schoolwide Title I programs regardless of the share of low-income students in districts and schools;
- ♦ from requirements governing Title IV Part A, which funds programs aimed at student well-being and well-rounded achievements. Caps on spending for different priority areas would be lifted, and schools would no longer be barred from spending more than 15 percent of their Title IV money on digital devices;
- ♦ to carry over as much Title I money as they want from this academic year to the next one. Normally there's a 15 percent limit;
- ♦ from adhering to ESSA's definition of professional development.

RESOURCES – AND WHAT'S NEXT

What's next: AASA advocacy is very focused on navigating COVID-4, and are pushing for significant investment in education. We are looking for additional funding in the state fiscal stabilization fund, funding through critical categorical funds like Title I and IDEA, inclusion of infrastructure funds for schools if broader infrastructure is in the package, relief and flexibility within IDEA, dedicated funding to support remote learning through the E-Rate program, and clear language related to state maintenance of effort and supplement/supplant, as well as language related to actual enforcement. (We want to avoid the shell game we saw during ARRA in 2009.)

IDEA Call to Action: Congress Must Grant narrow, temporary IDEA Flexibility NOW. In light of the hardship districts are experiencing in trying to educate all students during a pandemic, we call on Congress to provide practical, narrow flexibility in how districts meet some of the requirements under IDEA. If your district is struggling to meet IDEA mandates, we urge you to take a moment to email the education staff on Capitol Hill and ask them to ensure the next COVID-19 relief package contains sensible flexibility for IDEA. Please send an action alert to your full Congressional delegation today using [AASA's Action Alert System](#). You simply input your address and they will direct you to the appropriate Rep./Senators for you to email and supply a template email for you to use. Or you can download a list of all the education staffers for your Congressional delegation and email them individually [here](#). We urge you to make your advocacy more impactful by personalizing this email and adding a paragraph describing the issues your district is specifically facing in complying with IDEA. Direct any questions to Sasha Pudelski (spudelski@aasa.org)

Resources: [EdWeek Map](#) Tracking School Closures; AASA Policy Blog [The Leading Edge](#), AASA [COVID-19 Resources Page](#) and [AASA Webinars](#) (multiple COVID-specific webinars in the coming weeks).



It is with regret that Pasa announces cancellation of the 2020 Annual Spring Conference, scheduled for May 17-19 in Hershey.

We are already working toward planning for the conference in 2021, tentatively scheduled for May 16-18 in Hershey.

The Women's Caucus will continue its mission to support, inspire and empower women in leadership positions and encourage aspiring women to move into leadership roles.

****SAVE THE DATE****

Southeast Region Women's Caucus Annual Fall Dinner

November 10

King of Prussia

featuring Dr. Colleen Lelli

*Author of Grit, Determination & Resilience:
Trauma Practices for Educators*

COMMUNICATIONS TIP OF THE MONTH

"For the past several years, I have been intrigued with companies, corporations and school districts that have moved beyond the traditional communications campaigns and strategies and into the world of better governance and more robust leadership in this new era. As this new language of governance takes root, it brings a new leadership for all of us to embrace and master. This change in language is important because the language we use tends to frame how we view the world. The traditional language always viewed the world in such a way that the leader needed to have the right answer. The new language of leadership comes with the recognition that leaders don't always hold the answers but must be able to create ownership around the conversation." – Quintin D. Shepherd, superintendent of Victoria Independent SD in Victoria, Texas, from "Differentiating the Complex from the Complicated," as published in the April issue of School Administrator, AASA's monthly publication. This month's issue offers insights and advice on coherent governance in public school systems.



TOPIC: LEADING LEARNING IN A COVID-19 WORLD

The Consortium for School Networking ([CoSN](#)) and its state affiliate chapter, Pennsylvania Association for Educational Communications and Technology ([PAECT](#)) are honored to support the work of current and aspiring superintendents and district leadership teams in leading all aspects of digital learning transformations.

Our focus this month is on resources for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic as well as leading digital transformation in rural school districts. Digital transformations in all school districts has never proven to be more urgent or vital than it is now.

COVID-19

CoSN has created a special web page with resources to provide information for school leaders as they deal with our current national emergency: **"CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) EDTECH GUIDANCE"** available at <https://www.cosn.org/coronavirus>. Under the "CoSN Resources" tab you are able to access the following documents:

- ♦ Video Conferencing Tools in the Age of Remote Learning: Privacy Considerations for New Technologies
- ♦ Preparing To Take Your Schools Online
- ♦ Cybersecurity Consideration in a COVID-19 World

You can also access a webinar presented in partnership with AASA titled, *"Virtual Collaboration and Learning Continuity."*

The web page also gives you access to resources from CoSN Partner Organizations and Corporate Guidance as well. More resources will be added in the weeks and months ahead.

COSN 2020 – Going Virtual

The 2020 CoSN Annual Conference that was originally scheduled to be held in mid-March in Washington DC is now going forward as a lively interactive virtual conference scheduled for May 17-21. Learn more and join CoSN 2020: A Breakthrough

Virtual Experience by accessing this web page: <https://cosnconference.org/cosn2020-is-going-virtual/>.

CoSN / edWeb Super-Connected Webinar – April 13, 2020 at 5:00 pm ET

CoSN, in partnership with [edWeb.net](#), hosts *The EmpowerED Superintendent* monthly webinar series on topics that are essential for all educators engaged in leading digital transformations. The focus of the April 13, 2020 webinar (5:00 pm ET) is *"Leading Digital Transformations in Rural School Districts."*

Three superintendents share the strategies they use to maximize the opportunities and overcome the challenges in leading digital transformation within their rural school districts. Each will also update webinar participants on how they are leading learning in their school districts during our current national COVID-19 health crisis. Their stories and expertise have great value for all school leaders.

You are invited to register for this free webinar, as well as access recordings of previously broadcast CoSN/edWeb webinars, at <https://home.edweb.net/supers/>.

If your school or district would like more information about joining CoSN or getting more involved with CoSN, please contact Brian Calvary, CAE, CoSN Director of Membership and Chapters, at bcalvary@cosn.org.



“NOTEWORTHY QUOTES”

"Even as public servants lead in the midst of this crisis we must ensure that we care for our families and loved ones as well. Support the educators caring for their communities right now." - Thomas Parker, superintendent, Allentown City School District, Pa., via Twitter.

"This is the most prudent option to stop the spread of COVID-19 across our commonwealth, where cases continue to grow daily. We appreciate the shared sacrifice of all 12.8 million Pennsylvanians; we are in this together and this statewide stay-at-home order is being made after many discussions with multiple state agencies, Dr. Levine, and state, county and local officials as we continue to monitor the most effective ways to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19." – Gov. Tom Wolf (press release, 4/1/20)

"The decision to extend school closures is a difficult one, but we must take the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of all citizens of the commonwealth. These are unprecedented times that call for extraordinary measures. We must do everything we can to create equitable learning environments for our students under these circumstances." – Pedro Rivera, PA Secretary of Education

"If we don't get school in at all and we can't come in for the rest of the school year, that's another set of issues that's going to take a long time to unpack." – Dr. Mark DiRocco, PASA Executive Director

"They want to be working with kids. They want to be helping families. It's trying to define our new normal." – Dr. Richard Fry, superintendent of the Big Spring SD, on what he hears most from teachers and staff

MEMBER NEWS

REGION 10

Dr. J. Hugh Dwyer, executive director of Central I.U. 10, is now retired, effective April 6.

REGION 16

Pete Cheddar has been appointed superintendent of the Mount Carmel Area SD, effective July 1. He currently serves as assistant to the superintendent and junior high principal. Cheddar will replace **Bernard Stellar**, who is retiring.

REGION 20

Dr. Lee Lesisko is now serving as superintendent of the Pleasant Valley SD. Lesisko, who has been serving as the district's K-12 Technology Director, replaces **Dr. Charlene Brennan**, who was serving as acting superintendent since November when **Dr. David Piperato** left the district to become superintendent in the Easton Area SD.

REGION 22

Dr. David Baugh, superintendent of the Centennial SD and the 2020 Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year, has accepted the position of superintendent of the Aspen SD in Colorado, effective July 1. Baugh, who also serves as PASA Treasurer, has been Centennial's superintendent since 2015.

REGION 23

Dr. Robert Milrod, superintendent of the Upper Moreland Twp. SD, has announced he will retire after the current school year. Milrod has served in public education for 37 years, 21 of them in Upper Moreland and 13 as the district's superintendent.

Please report member news to PASA at pasa@pasa-net.org.

Announcements of professional vacancies across Pennsylvania and in neighboring states are posted on the PASA Web site at www.pasa-net.org (Click on the "Leadership Development" button and look for "Career Center.")

PASA CALENDAR

PASA CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2020

continues to closely monitor the coronavirus outbreak and its implications for our schools, our students and our communities. We also want to make the health and well-being of Pennsylvania's school leaders a high priority, and we are sensitive to the need for our members to be in their districts as these challenging situations continue.

For that reason, as have other education associations, PASA has already canceled, postponed or modified several in-person conferences, workshops and meetings. We continue to monitor the latest information on the virus and its implications for other scheduled programs and meetings moving forward. Please watch the PASA website for updates.

Thank you for your patience as we all continue to work through this uncertainty. For more information and for updates, see the PASA web site at www.pasa-net.org.

APRIL

- 16 Resolutions Committee meeting (virtual)
- 16 Board of Governors' meeting (virtual)

MAY

- 6 Professional Development Committee meeting (virtual)
- 25 *PASA office closed*

JUNE

- 23-26 AASA/PASA Natl. Supt. Cert. Program® (PASA office)

JULY

- 3 *PASA office closed*
- 27-28 New Superintendents' Academy Session 1 (PASA office)

AUGUST

- 2-4 PA Educational Leadership Summit (Lancaster)
- 12 Professional Development Committee meeting (virtual)

SEPTEMBER

- 10-11 PASA Board of Governors meetings (PASA office)
- 22-23 New Superintendents' Academy Part 2 (PASA office)

OCTOBER

- 12-13 National Superintendent Certification Program (PASA office)
- 14-16 PASA/PSBA School Leadership Conference (Hershey)