



PASA POINTS

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators

June
2020

About PASA

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) is an organization that is instrumental in developing successful school leadership through advocacy, support, sustainment of high-quality school administrators and a statewide collegial network.

Contact us at:
2608 Market Place
Harrisburg, PA 17110
www.pasa-net.org
717-540-4448
Email: pasa@pasa-net.org

Dr. Jeffrey Fuller
PASA President

Dr. John Bell
PASA President Elect

Dr. Richard Fry
PASA Past President

Dr. David Baugh
PASA Treasurer

Dr. Eric Eshbach
Legislative Chair

Dr. Mark DiRocco
Executive Director



PASA thanks the Governor and General Assembly for the 2020-21 Education Budget.

In this issue

State Education Budget Review

- Comments on the State Budget
 - Financial Stability for Districts
 - Timeliness of Budget Passage
 - Federal Dollars as a Supplement
- The Year Ahead
- Planning for Various Learning Scenarios
- Safety and Security Grants
- Note of Gratitude

2020-2021 State Education Budget

PASA thanks the Governor and members of the General Assembly for the passage of the 2020-2021 Pennsylvania State Budget. We are especially appreciative of the effort to fund education for the entire 2020-2021 fiscal year. In a time of unprecedented economic uncertainty due to the Coronavirus, our public leaders made a strong statement that the education of our children is of critical importance to our communities, state, and nation.

Providing funding for the entire fiscal year will bring stability to local school district budgets and help stem the tide of anticipated financial losses at the local level that could be significant. While PASA had been advocating for increases in state subsidies earlier in the year, we fully understand that a new economic reality has taken effect over the past few months due to the pandemic. Providing districts with the same level of funding received during the 2019-2020 fiscal year is a welcomed relief for school leaders. Although level funding will make it difficult for many districts to cover the increased cost of state and federal mandates in the coming year, it will help stabilize district finances during this economic downturn. PASA appreciates the effort of our elected leaders to put education at the forefront of the state budget priorities.

PASA is appreciative of the timeliness of the state budget passage. There has been a tremendous amount of uncertainty in local school district budgeting with the expectation of lower-than-expected local revenue collections, the uncertainty of state subsidies, and how federal CARES Act funds would be distributed. Completing the state budget process at the end of May provides clarity to school leaders and school board members across the Commonwealth in constructing their local budgets.

School leaders are also grateful that the federal CARES Act ESSER Funds will not be used to supplant local school district subsidies or other state-provided education funds. These federal dollars will go a long way to help districts with their plans for COVID19-related expenditures as they prepare for the upcoming school year.

*"The true test of leadership is how you function in a crisis."
Brian Tracy*



**Pennsylvania Association
of School Administrators**

Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania's Schools

PASA Principles

contributions

All partners in education must stand accountable for their role to public schools and the impact their role has on student learning. This includes:

The Commonwealth's commitment to public education and recognition of shared responsibility with local communities for providing resources adequate to comply with laws and regulations regarding public education and essential to support student learning in Pennsylvania's public schools

The teaching profession's obligation to utilize evidence-based and research-based instructional strategies

Administrators' obligation to ensure that high quality leadership is in place to lead efforts to improve student learning

Student and family commitment to pursue, promote and support the value of education and life-long learning

Higher education's commitment to preparing future teachers, offering dual-enrollment courses for students and partnering with school districts to ensure student readiness

Commitment from the profession, the public, the media and the wider community in acknowledging the high importance of public education and the teaching profession to ensure a strong democracy

The greater business community's commitment to workforce development and career and college readiness

The Year Ahead

PASA understands there is much work ahead for school districts over the summer months as they prepare for the opening of the 2020-2021 school year. This will be a daunting task for school leaders as plans must be made for a variety of contingencies going into the new school term. Everyone would like to see a normal reopening of school in the fall with restrictions and protocols in place to help keep students and staff members safe in the physical environment of a school building. However, the reality is that school districts will have to plan and prepare for several school operation models to flex with the ongoing path of the Coronavirus.

Preparing for Various Schooling Scenarios

In our discussions with school leaders, most are making plans for three scenarios in the coming school year: a normal school operation with some restrictions; a hybrid operation with only a portion of the students in physical attendance each day; and a full closure with all learning being conducted through online or distance learning. Each of these options will require detailed planning and present unique challenges and expenses to operate. School districts will have to be prepared to pivot between these models of operation based on the activity of the virus as the school year proceeds.

Safety and Security Grants

The PCCD School Safety and Security Grants will be of great assistance to school districts in planning for these scenarios. PASA appreciates the increase of funds to these grants through the federal CARES Act in the 2020-2021 school year. The decision to distribute the money to all school districts without a competitive grant process is a positive development. This is an excellent use of federal dollars for the betterment of all students. We recommend that the Safety and Security Grants should be distributed in this manner every year.

These funds will be extremely helpful to school districts in the procurement of COVID19-related supplies, trainings, and services that will be needed to help school districts keep their students and staff safe when they return to school. The funds could also help provide the technical devices and programs needed to ensure that instruction can be delivered to students in the event of another school closure.

Note of Gratitude

PASA extends its gratitude to our state and federal leaders for supporting our public schools in this time of need. We thank all those who helped develop a financial package of state and federal funds that will assist school districts in meeting the needs of students in the coming year.