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PASA POINTS

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators

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. Jay Burkhart
PASA President

Dr. John Sanville
PASA President Elect

Dr. Thomas Lesniewski
PASA Treasurer

Dr. John Bell
PASA Past President

Dr. Shane Hotchkiss
Legislative Chair

Dr. Mark DiRocco
Executive Director



Current enrollment trends favor traditional public schools, not cyber charter schools, charter schools, or non-public schools.

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Enrollment Trends in Pennsylvania Schools

The Pennsylvania Department of Education recently posted the 2021-2022 school enrollment reports. The data shows some interesting trends in enrollment and dispels common misperceptions that are often mentioned by school choice advocates.

Non-Public School K-12 Enrollment

- 2016-2017: 246,855
- 2020-2021: 229,197

Non-public school enrollment has decreased by 17,658 students (7.2%) over the past five years. (2021-2022 data has not yet been posted).

Brick and Mortar Charter School K-12 Enrollment

- 2019-2020: 108,878
- 2021-2022: 107,709

Brick and Mortar Charter School K-12 enrollment has declined by 1,169 students (1%) over the past three years.

Cyber Charter School K-12 Enrollment

- 2019-2020: 38,266
- 2021-2022: 55,854

Cyber Charter School enrollment has increased by 17,588 students (46%) over the past three years. While this is a significant increase, enrollment declined by 5,030 students from their all-time high of 60,884 in 2020-2021 during the pandemic.

Traditional Public Schools K-12 Enrollment

- 2019-2020: 1,618,953
- 2021-2022: 1,581,792

Traditional public school enrollment saw a decrease of 37,161 students (2.2%) over the past three years after a sharp decline of 49,354 students during the pandemic year of 2020-2021.

However, traditional public schools are the only schooling option that saw an increase in enrollment in the current 2021-2022 school year with an addition of 12,193 students.

Bottom line: Parents and students are not flocking to cyber charter schools, charter schools and non-public schools. These schools have all seen enrollment declines last year or this year while traditional public schools have experienced a slight increase in students in the current year.



New Teacher Shortage Data from the U.S. Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education recently released a listing of teacher certification areas that are in short supply across the nation. It should be noted that, for the first time, elementary education and early childhood certifications have been added to this list. See below:

Report	
Subject Matter	Grades
Language Arts	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
English as a Second Language	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
World Languages	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Core Subjects- Early Childhood Education	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4
Health and Physical Fitness	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Science – Life Science	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Career and Technical Education – Computer Science	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Family Consumer Science	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Core Subjects – Elementary Education	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Business Education	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Mathematics	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Art and Music Education	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Career and Technical Education	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Social Studies	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Special Education - All Exceptionalities	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Career and Technical Education	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Language Arts	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
Health and Physical Fitness	Pre-K, K, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

PASA remains concerned about the teacher and school personnel shortage. With the addition of early childhood teachers and elementary teachers to the list of certifications in short supply, it is obvious that we need an immediate and long-term plan to address this growing crisis.

We encourage the General Assembly, Governor's Office, and the Department to work with higher education and our K-12 schools to address this issue.