



For Immediate Release

Contact: Mark DiRocco, Executive Director, PASA, mdirocco@pasa-net.org
Jay Himes, Executive Director, (717) 350-8593 (cell) or jhimes@pasbo.org

PASA and PASBO Urge Responsible and Immediate Resolution of the State Budget

HARRISBURG, PA (8/31/17):—The PA Association of School Administrators (PASA) and the PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) applaud Governor Wolf for continuing to prioritize education funding given the current budget stalemate. The transfer to ensure that school districts received their August subsidy payments as scheduled illustrates the governor’s continued commitment to public education.

While this was positive, it was only a temporary solution, and with the school year already underway in many school districts, the lack of a final budget means that school districts across the state are bracing for a repeat of 2015-16.

By June 30, school districts made decisions and passed budgets based upon the state appropriations included in the spending bill that was passed by the General Assembly. Decisions regarding staffing levels, program offerings, transportation, property tax levies, school construction and maintenance needs were made based on this \$32 billion state budget.

Without immediate resolution of the budget, a spending freeze is imminent. For school districts, a spending freeze less than one month into the new school year means cash flow problems and potential cuts at worst. In addition to the concern created by a potential spending freeze, there is fear that efforts could be made to cut state subsidies—which could have an extremely detrimental impact on education, especially as 500 school district budgets were built on a \$32 billion state budget.

To ensure that all the positive steps made in education funding aren’t lost in this ongoing budget dispute, this stalemate must be resolved quickly. However, resolution must be in the form of a long-term solution that will move the commonwealth to a sustainable position for the future, continue to prioritize education funding, provide needed predictability for school districts in budgeting from year to year and ensure that students in all school districts have equal opportunities to succeed.

The clock is ticking. School leaders in 500 school districts did their jobs and developed balanced budgets for the current school year by the June 30 deadline. It’s time the state did the same.