



# PASA POINTS

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators

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## 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.

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Legislative Chair

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Executive Director



Dr. Gennaro Piraino, Jr., Franklin Regional School District, was selected as the PA 2019 Superintendent of the Year.

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## PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) extends congratulations and best wishes to all new and returning members of the General Assembly. We look forward to working with all legislators and the governor to support public education and improve learning opportunities for students.

Our organization represents more than 900 school leaders across the state, including superintendents, assistant superintendents, central office administrators, building administrators, education professors, and aspiring school leaders. PASA is proud to represent and support Pennsylvania's school leaders as they work with their staff, parents and communities to provide a quality education to the children they serve.

The goal of this periodic publication is to relay this in-depth understanding of public education to policymakers and state leaders in an effort to provide information, suggestions and practical advice from practicing school leaders that may be helpful. Our first priority is to be part of the solution and provide forthright thoughts and advice on the difficult issues and challenges confronting public education.

One of the most critical aspects for public school leaders is sustainability of funding to effectively operate our school systems and meet the need of students. Many districts are still struggling to adequately educate their students due to mandated costs and the increasing social, emotional, and academic needs of children that must be addressed in the local school district. We ask legislators to ensure that our public schools have the financial resources necessary to help our children receive and sustain a quality education well into the future.

PASA has reviewed the governor's budget proposal for 2019-2020. We appreciate the increased funding for basic education funding, special education funding and CTE programs, which is a good starting point toward allocating what is truly needed to adequately fund our schools. We also were pleased to see a continued line item for safety funding, but believe these funds must be significantly increased over last year's allocation as the safety needs in our schools are of the utmost importance to our children and school staff members.

Please review PASA's public education funding priorities on the next page.

*“Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them.”*

*John C. Maxwell*



**Pennsylvania Association  
of School Administrators**

*Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania's Schools*

## **PASA Principles**

All partners in education must stand accountable for their contributions 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

## **2019 PASA Priorities Funding for Public Education**

Five principles should guide state funding of public schools: equity, adequacy, predictability, accountability and efficiency. If these goals are met, then schools should be accountable for academic results.

1. **Equity:** While standards are the same for every school, resources are not. PASA believes that all communities and students should have equal access to the services and programs needed to meet academic goals.
2. **Adequacy:** Funding resources must be adequate to support real and actual costs of educating ALL students to meet the state and local standards, be based on local costs, individual student needs, district size, geographic size, and district wealth, and reflect the shared responsibility of adequately funding schools by the state and local community. In particular, the rising costs of providing services and programs for children with special needs, as well as the rising costs of litigation, necessitates an increased level of financial support from both the state and federal level. PASA believes that the commitment to provide adequate educational resources to Pennsylvania's children is necessary for the success of all students.
3. **Predictability:** Changes in administrations and changes in political philosophy have rendered a consistent, predictable way for school districts to make long-term operational decisions nearly impossible. PASA believes that, in a time of increasing focus on student achievement and operational efficiencies, a predictable and stable school funding formula is essential to meet local, state and federal expectations.
4. **Accountability:** Public schools should be held accountable for practices and operations. However, PASA believes that state and federal governments also must be held accountable for providing to schools the resources necessary to meet operational goals, particularly in student achievement.
5. **Efficiency:** Public schools are among the most highly regulated entities in the nation. State and federal mandates, taken together, impose a tremendous time and cost burden on school operations. PASA believes that state and federal policymakers should examine all existing mandates imposed on public education to determine the actual cost/benefit for the school and for students. PASA further believes that no mandate should be imposed on school districts unless it is essential to school operations or student needs, is evidence-based and does not entail additional costs to implement in either time or resources.

The Commonwealth's share of school funding should be made available to school districts in predictable, regularly scheduled payments and allocated based on a fair, equitable and adequate funding formula.