



Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania Schools

Education Update September 19, 2022

Upcoming Trainings:

September 21-22

New Superintendents' Academy Part 1: Strategic & Cultural Leadership

About this session: This program will focus on the importance of vision, goals, and an empowering culture that promote student and staff growth and working effectively with the school board.

Investment for Part 1:

Best value! Investment for All three sessions:

Members: \$280; Non-members: \$330

Members: \$800; Non-members: \$950

[Click here to learn more about the academy.](#)

Deadline extended:

For the 2022-23 school year, PaTTAN is offering a two-tiered approach to customized professional development and coaching at the school level. The Bureau of Special Education (BSE) extended the deadline for applications for comprehensive, systemic technical assistance and coaching supports to **October 31**.

Short-term coaching requests will continue to be reviewed in real-time, and technical assistance and support provided based on the significance of the needs. To access both coaching support applications, and the statewide webinar explaining the process, click here:

<https://www.pattan.net/About-Us/Two-Tiers-of-Support>

PASA News:

PASA hires Michele Balliet as its next Director of Professional Development: The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators is excited to announce the hire of Dr. Michele M. Balliet to fill the role of Director of Professional Development. She will succeed Dr. Sherri Smith who will transition to the role of Executive Director on Oct. 1. Dr. Balliet is a proven leader with nearly 20 years of experience in school administration. She currently serves as the superintendent of Elizabethtown Area School District—a role she held since 2011 when she became the district's seventh superintendent. She was promoted from the Assistant Superintendent position in the district. [Read more.](#)

In Health, Safety, Equity & Learning News...

Free breakfast for all PA. schoolchildren to start on Oct. 1— Pennsylvania parents will soon be able to check making breakfast off their list of things to do in the morning rush to get their children ready for school. Starting Oct. 1 and running through the remainder of the 2022-23 school year, that morning meal will be provided in schools. [Read the rest of the story: "Free breakfast for all PA schoolchildren to start on Oct. 1" \(from Pennlive.com, 9/9/22\)](#)

What's Academic Recovery Looked Like So Far? Slow and Uneven, New Data Show— At this point, we know the extent to which the pandemic has disrupted student learning. Study after study [has shown the stark consequences](#): Children are less likely to have mastered important skills than their pre-pandemic peers. But now, new research provides some insight into emerging efforts toward academic recovery. *Read the rest of the story: [“What's Academic Recovery Looked Like So Far? Slow and Uneven, New Data Show”](#)* (from EducationWeek, 9/14/22)

When Did Equity Become a ‘Trigger’ Word?: Equity May be the Law, but We Don’t Agree on What It Means— “Do you know what the trigger word down here is? ‘Equity,’” Joseph Cousins, a minister in Cherokee County, Ga., told me about a year ago. “To me, equity means fairness, compassion, goodness, honesty, decency.”

I had been reporting [a story about school boards’ passing resolutions restricting how schools can teach about race, gender, and other topics](#). And, as Cousins predicted, hot on the heels of the “critical race theory” legislative wrecking ball, equity had suddenly become a code word for scary-sounding things: race-related trainings, quotas, “Marxist” theory. A case in point: A school board member in Oregon told me a few days later that he understood equity as “trying to force the same set of outcomes for students,” which, he said, was different from giving them equal opportunities to succeed. *Read the rest of the story: [“When Did Equity Become a ‘Trigger’ Word?”](#)* (from EducationWeek, 9/6/22)

In State News...

Josh Shapiro Supports ‘Lifeline Scholarships’ Championed by School Choice Proponents— It doesn’t make his stump speeches, which he reserves for full-throated support for traditional public schools. But Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro confirmed Saturday that he is open, at least conceptually, to giving direct-to-student tax-funded scholarships that parents and guardians of students in the state’s worst-performing public schools could use for a variety of options ranging from tutoring to paying for tuition at a different school. *Read the rest of the story: [“Josh Shapiro Supports ‘Lifeline Scholarships’ Championed by School Choice Proponents”](#)* (from Pennlive 9/18/22)

“Pennsylvania’s Largest Teachers Union Denounces Mastriano’s Plan to Cut Education Spending— Leaders of the Pennsylvania State Education Association held a handful of events the week of Sep. 12 in western Pennsylvania to draw attention to what they call a damaging plan for public education. In March, Republican state Sen. Doug Mastriano said during a radio interview that he would cut per-student spending by almost half if elected governor. He said that instead of funding a school system, dollars should go to students who would use it to go to whichever school they’d like. *Read the rest of the story: [“Pennsylvania’s Largest Teachers Union Denounces Mastriano’s Plan to Cut Education Spending”](#)* (from 90.5 WESA, 9/16/22)

U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona Speaks in Lancaster, Highlighting the Road to Success Back to School Bus Tour— Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona continued the Road to Success Back to School Bus Tour in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The week-long, multi-state road trip was designed to showcase the many ways school communities are helping students recover and thrive – putting them on the road to success. *Read the rest of the story: [“U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona Continues Road to Success Back to School Bus Tour in West Virginia and Pennsylvania”](#)* (from U.S. Department of Education 9/14/22)

Chair of PA Senate Education Committee Outlines Biggest Legislative Priorities for Schools— The state House returned to session Monday but the state Senate returns on Sept. 19. Sen. Scott Martin (R), who chairs the Senate Education Committee, sat down with CBS 21 News’ Samantha York to discuss the biggest legislative priorities as the new school year progresses. *Read the rest of the story: [“Chair of PA](#)*

[Senate Education Committee Outlines Biggest Legislative Priorities for Schools](#) (from CBS 21, 9/12/22)

In National and International News...

Vermont's Top Education Official Says School Districts Cannot Deny Tuition to Religious Schools— Vermont's top education official has told school districts they cannot withhold public tuition money to schools because of their religious affiliation, issuing what appears to be the state's first public guidance on the subject since a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision this summer. "Requests for tuition payments for resident students to approved independent religious schools or religious independent schools that meet educational quality standards must be treated the same as requests for tuition payments to secular approved independent schools or secular independent schools that meet educational quality standards," Dan French, Vermont's secretary of education, told superintendents in a [Tuesday letter](#). *Read the rest of the story: ["Vermont's Top Education Official Says School Districts Cannot Deny Tuition to Religious Schools"](#) (from VT Digger, 9/14/22)*

How Arizona Became America's School Choice Lab— For a long time, Kathy Visser struggled to find the right school for her son Jordan. There had always been options in Arizona's public school system. The state has long had a policy of open enrollment, allowing any family to apply to any of the state's public schools, and it still has a nation-leading percentage of students attending charter schools. She remembers vividly the public school teachers who worked tirelessly to teach Jordan when he was younger, marveling at the talent and commitment they displayed. But when the family had to move, or when his teachers moved on, her experience navigating the system and finding the right fit for a son who's struggled with developmental and emotional challenges felt like being in a frustrating bureaucratic maze, she says. *Read the rest of the story: ["How Arizona Became America's School Choice Lab"](#) (from Yahoo News, 9/15/22)*

In Legislative News...

The House is back in session today at noon. Three bills related to the Public School Code are on the schedule for second consideration in the House:

[HB 1254](#): This bill, sponsored by Rep. Lewis Delrosso (R), would amend the Public School Code to require in-person instruction or a tuition grant program.

[HB 2022](#): This bill, sponsored by Rep. Aaron Kaufer (R), would create a School-Based Mental Health Services Pilot Grant Program.

[HB 2023](#): This bill, sponsored by Rep. Aaron Kaufer (R), calls for mental health awareness education in schools.

The Senate is scheduled to be in session at 1 p.m. today.

SB1660: This bill, sponsored by Rep. Curtis Sonney and up for third consideration, allows for any school board dealing with an unforeseen emergency to put into operation temporary emergency provisions for a period of up to four years after they are first put into place. This would allow schools to reduce the length of time of daily instruction for various courses and classes.

This Week's Committee Schedule –

House of Representatives:

Next session: Today at noon.

Education Committee:

September 21 at 9:30 a.m.

Topic: Receive comments from PIAA and PAB on Broadcasting High School Sports

Senate:

Next session: Today at 1 p.m.

Education Committee:

September 20 at 10:30 a.m.

[View the livestream here.](#)

On the PASA Calendar...

September 21-22:	New Superintendents' Academy Part 1: Strategic & Cultural Leadership
October 4,5, 11	Basics of School Budgeting and Finances: Understanding the Basic Education Formula
October 14	PASA Summit for Assistant Superintendents & Supervisors
October 20	Managing the Risks: Record Retention, Right to Know, Board Conflict of Interests, and Litigation Holds
October 31-Nov. 2	PASA/PABA School Leadership Conference

[Click here](#) to view the full calendar of events.