



Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania Schools

Education Update October 25, 2022

Upcoming Trainings:

Managing the Risks: Fiscal Responsibilities—Managing Revenues and Expenditures

November 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Virtual)

About the Webinar: Topics include understanding your district school finance position, demographics, and trends; appropriate use of funds and prior board approval, etc.; donations and gifts; and appropriate allocation of local, state and federal funds.

Facilitator: Hannah Barrick, Executive Director and PASBO Staff

Investment: Members: \$49; Non-members \$69

[Click here to register.](#)

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>

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

PA. Students Have More Educational Opportunities Than The National Average, But Racial Disparities Are Among The Worst, Study Says—Pennsylvania students overall receive more access to educational opportunities than the national average, but disparities by race and income are some of the largest in the country, an analysis has found. According to [a data dashboard released this month by Philadelphia-based Research for Action](#), Black and Hispanic students in Pennsylvania are provided less access to educational opportunity than Black and Hispanic students in most other states, while white Pennsylvania students are provided greater access to educational opportunity than white students elsewhere. *Read the rest of the story: [“PA Students Have More Educational Opportunities Than The National Average, But Racial Disparities Are Among The Worst, Study Says”](#) (from The Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/13/22)*

The Keys to Diversifying America’s Teaching Corps—For many years, there have been calls for more diversity in the teaching corps of America’s public schools. Public school teachers across the United States are far more likely to be White than their students, even though data shows that the majority of students in public schools are not White. And research is clear that Black and White students benefit from having a diversity of teachers. *Read the rest of the story: [“The Keys to Diversifying America’s Teaching Corps”](#) (from The Washington Post, 10/21/22)*

In State News...

Legislation Proposed to Regulate Book Bans in Pennsylvania School Districts— A Philadelphia Democrat is working to reign in the number of book bans occurring at Pennsylvania schools as challenges continue at unprecedented rates. State Rep. Chris Rabb proposed legislation Tuesday that would establish uniform procedures for school boards to follow before they could eliminate a student's access to a book. *Read the rest of the story: [“Legislation Proposed to Regulate Book Bans in Pennsylvania School Districts”](#) (from Trib Live, 10/11/22)*

Pennsylvania Rolling Out Online Mental Health Care for K-12— The adoption of the new Kooth digital mental health services by the Wyoming Valley West School Board on Oct. 12 drew questions from two parents, but the board opted to use it, and the state of Pennsylvania is moving forward with plans to continue introducing it to school districts across the state. *Read the rest of the story: [“Pennsylvania Rolling Out Online Mental Health Care for K-12”](#) (from Government Technology, 10/21/22)*

PA and N.J. Reading and Math Scores Dipped During The Pandemic As U.S. Saw ‘Troubling’ Decline— Pennsylvania and New Jersey students saw declines in math and reading at slightly steeper rates than the national average as scores on the nation's largest educational benchmark dipped drastically since 2019—offering a widespread look at the pandemic's effect on student performance across the United States. *Read the rest of the story: [“PA and N.J. Reading and Math Scores Dipped During the Pandemic As U.S. Saw ‘Troubling’ Decline”](#) (from Philadelphia Inquirer, 10/24/22)*

In National and International News...

Low-Income Families Can Qualify for Free Internet, But Schools Should Explain How— Tens of millions of students still don't have internet access at home. And that is the case even though schools are still asking students to get a good chunk of their homework done online after school. What makes the situation even worse for students is that [fewer school districts are helping pay for students' home internet](#) now that full-time remote and hybrid learning are mostly in the rearview mirror. Education Week spoke with Jack Lynch, the chief operating officer for EducationSuperHighway, a nonprofit internet access advocacy organization, about the vital role schools and districts can still play in keeping families connected to the internet. *Read the rest of the story: [“Low-Income Families Can Qualify for Free Internet, But Schools Should Explain How”](#) (from EducationWeek, 10/19/22)*

What Do ‘Parents’ Rights’ Mean Legally for Schools, Anyway?— The issue of parents' rights is among the most heated in public education, invoked in political campaigns and debates over everything from COVID policy and curriculum choices to classroom discussions about race, gender, and sexuality. Most recently, the principle has been a potent rallying cry for conservative activists and politicians, including Virginia's Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin in his winning gubernatorial campaign. But the concept is tangled in more than a century of legal wrangling, court precedents, federal and state statutes, and rhetoric over what it actually means, especially in education. *Read the rest of the story: [“What Do ‘Parents’ Rights’ Mean Legally for Schools, Anyway?”](#) (from NewsWeek, 10/20/22)*

These PACS are Funding ‘Parents’ Rights Advocates’ Running for Local School Board Positions— Across the country, new right-leaning [political action committees](#) are pouring money into school board races, [aiming to flip control of who governs schools](#) in favor of self-proclaimed parents rights advocates in a way that rivals the role that [teachers unions](#) have historically had in these contests. For much less than [what it would cost them to influence a seat in the House or Senate](#), these PACs are putting thousands of dollars at a time – sometimes just hundreds – into races for local school boards and as a result, changing education on a national scale. *Read the rest of the story: [“These PACS Are Funding ‘Parents’ Rights Advocates’ Running for Local School Board Positions.”](#) (from USA Today, 10/23/22)*

5 Strategies States Are Using to Fill Teacher Shortages— To make sure schools are fully staffed, states are attempting a variety of strategies to bring more people into the classrooms—including those who haven't gone through any sort of teacher training. The pandemic has exacerbated teacher shortages in many regions and content areas, but the problem is not new: Enrollment in teacher-preparation programs [has declined by more than a third over the past decade](#). Experts say a combination of low pay, poor working conditions, and a lack of public respect has deterred people from pursuing a career in the classroom. Teacher morale [has declined since the pandemic](#), too, worsening the public perception of the job. *Read the rest of the story: ["5 Strategies States Are Using to Fill Teacher Shortages"](#)* (from EducationWeek, 10/17/22)

Diamond Sponsor Updates:

Lincoln Investments is holding a series of educational webinars to help educators increase their knowledge of financial wellness. Lincoln is offering the following free webinars:

Federal Student Aid Loan Forgiveness	October 26 at 4 p.m.
Traditional & Roth 403(b)'s	November 2 at 4 p.m.
Eldercare Planning	November 30 at 4 p.m.
Market and Economic Update	December 7 at 4 p.m.
Building Towards Your Future	December 21 at 4 p.m.

[Click here](#) to learn more about each webinar.

Legislative Updates:

SB 139: Received and referred to House Education

Sponsor: Doug Mastriano

This bill amends the Public School Code, to provide for a moment of silence on the September 11 anniversary. The legislation would require each school entity to conduct a moment of silence during instructional hours for students and faculty to observe the anniversary of September 11, 2001. The Department of Education (PDE) shall establish a model curriculum for instruction on the events of September 11 no later than 12 months after the effective date and the curriculum shall be posted publicly on PDE's website. Effective immediately.

SB 1243: Passed in the Senate on Oct. 18; Received and referred to House Education on Oct. 20

Sponsor: Chris Gebhard

Section 1529. Economics and Personal Finance Course Graduation Requirement.--(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be a high school graduation requirement for students to complete an individual economics and personal finance course in addition to the high school graduation requirements provided under SECTION 121 AND 22 Pa. Code § 4.24 (relating to high school graduation requirements). (Sponsor: Senator Gebhard)

(b) A student who completes the economics and personal finance course under subsection (a) may apply the successful completion of the course to satisfy the student's social studies, family and consumer science or mathematics or business education credit requirement for graduation. The governing body of the student's high school may determine the graduation credit requirement to which the credit earned by the student is applied.

This bill was amended last week with the following changes:

Struck out "graduation requirement"

The resources shall be reviewed and revised by the department prior to distribution. The department shall distribute the revised resources no later than July 1, 2023

Add in:

(5) Identify educator certification requirements that align with personal financial literacy instruction necessary for a school entity to integrate instruction on personal financial literacy into a specific course or

instruction.

(6) Develop guidelines to establish personal financial literacy educator and staffing criteria based on the department's identification in paragraph (5). The guidelines shall be posted on the department's publicly accessible Internet website.

(e.1) Within three (3) months of the effective date of this subsection and every five (5) years thereafter, the State Board of Education shall review the academic standards for economics, mathematics, family and consumer science, career education and work and personal financial literacy, as approved by the State Board of Education, to determine areas for the promulgation of regulations or necessary revision to implement this section. The State Board of Education shall promulgate or revise regulations after review subject to the act of June 25, 1982 (P.L.633, No.181), know as the "Regulatory Review Act."

(e.2) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year and each school year thereafter a school entity shall annually:

(1) Assess whether the school entity's integration of personal financial literacy meets the academic standards approved by the State Board of Education.

(2) Report the findings of the assessment under paragraph (1) to the local board of school directors or governing body of the school entity no later than May 1 of each school year.

Upcoming Legislative Schedule –

House of Representatives:

Next session: Oct. 25

Senate:

Next session: Oct. 25

On the PASA Calendar...

October 31-Nov. 2	PASA/PABA School Leadership Conference
November 10-11	PASA Board of Governors Meeting
November 15	Managing the Risks: Fiscal Responsibilities-Managing Revenues and Expenditures
November 16	Women's Caucus Annual Fall Dinner
November 17-18	New Superintendents' Academy Part 2: Systems Leadership
Nov. 28, 29 & Dec. 6	Federal Programs and Special Education Funding-Half-Day Workshop
December 13	Managing the Risks: The PA Public Official and Employees Ethics Act— Compliance and Potential Unintended Violations

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