



Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators  
*Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania Schools*

## Education Update

March 6, 2023

### Updates:

#### Save the Date:

**PASA Leadership Forum: Register Today! This is a critical year to rebuild trust in our communities and advocate for fair funding for all our schools. Come be a part of the team to make a difference!**

PASA is pleased to invite PA's school leaders to the 2023 Leadership Forum "A New Beginning: Advocating and Leading for a Positive Education System in Pennsylvania" on March 30-31. Come join us for this two-day forum to hear from some of Pennsylvania's most powerful State leaders and political analysts as to their vision for education in Pennsylvania, and to learn the skills and strategies needed to develop effective advocacy efforts in your local communities and at a state level. [Visit PASA's website to learn more and register.](#)

#### Now Accepting Applications:

**Teach Plus Pennsylvania** is now accepting applications for the 2023-24 Pennsylvania Teaching Policy Fellowship. This is a highly selective paid leadership opportunity for 30 outstanding Pennsylvania teachers looking to deepen their knowledge of education policy and amplify the voices of teacher leaders in the Commonwealth. Teach Plus hopes to build a diverse cohort of teachers from across Pennsylvania. Teach Plus will host three virtual information sessions prior to the application deadline on May 1. Questions? Contact Teach Plus Pennsylvania Policy Manager Zakiya Stewart at [zstewart@teachplus.org](mailto:zstewart@teachplus.org).

[Learn more and apply](#) | [Nominate a Teacher](#)

**Sign up for an information session:** [March 7, 7-8 p.m.](#); [March 29, 6-7 p.m.](#); [April 18, 7-8 p.m.](#)

**Join the PASC D Team:** The Pennsylvania Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (PASC D) is seeking a self-driven, inspirational, highly ethical, strategic leader. Successful candidate must be an effective communicator who possesses extensive knowledge and background in curriculum, instruction, supervision and event planning. Substantial experience as a successful PA school leader is required. Competitive salary. Position available on or before July 1, 2023.

For more job opportunities, visit [PASA's career page](#).

### Honor your colleagues:

#### Margaret Smith Leadership Award

This award is given to a female administrator who has demonstrated proven leadership in education. The award is named for Dr. Margaret Smith, first president of the Women's Caucus, a former Pennsylvania superintendent and a former PA Secretary of Education.

[Make your nomination now](#) for the 2023 award recipient by March 17.

#### Wanda McDaniel Award

The Wanda McDaniel Award is granted annually to a professional educator who displays outstanding leadership qualities, while aspiring to higher levels of leadership.

[Make your nomination now](#) for the 2023 award recipient by March 17.

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

**Equity Builder or Racial Barrier: Debate Rages Over Role of 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Algebra—** It's critical for

student success in college and beyond. It's an unnecessary barrier meant to keep students of color from higher education. That's the argument on both sides of a long-standing debate about algebra. There is, however, consensus on a few key issues: Race and wealth play a role in how and when the course is offered in K-12 and students' failure to pass the course by high school or college has long kept them from graduating — and qualifying for high-paying jobs. *Read the rest of the story: [“Equity Builder or Racial Barrier: Debate Rages Over Role of 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Algebra”](#) (from EducationWeek, 2/16/23)*

**Keying In K-12 Equity**— This is the fourth school year educators, students, families, and administrators will be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. While recent data from NWEA shows early signs of rebounding,<sup>1</sup> which offers some hope, the research also shares some jarring insight—it may be at least three to five years until students fully recover from the pandemic. *Read the rest of the story: [“Keying In K-12 Equity”](#) (from Language Magazine, 1/8/23)*

**What An Inclusive School Environment Looks Like For This Transgender Teen**— Dandelion Hunt-Smith, a transgender and nonbinary senior at John O'Connell High School in San Francisco, Calif., moved from Georgia last year in search of a more welcoming school environment. Dandelion says they see great value in school environments that treat all students as human, and where students can feel safe and supported in exploring their gender identity. As a growing number of legislation targeting LGBTQ students is introduced across the country, families like Dandelion's are calling on schools to better support future generations. *Read the rest of the story: [“What An Inclusive School Environment Looks Like For This Transgender Teen”](#) (from EducationWeek, 2/27/23)*

#### **In State News...**

**Shapiro To Propose Tax Credit For Frontline Personnel** — During a [Friday morning interview with KYW NewsRadio](#) in Philadelphia, **Gov. Josh Shapiro** announced that he plans to propose new incentives for workers in education, public safety and public health in his first budget address. He will propose a tax credit for Pennsylvanians who acquire a license or certification in front-line professions, including teachers, nurses and police officers, or for individuals in these fields who move to the Keystone State with Pennsylvania-recognized credentials. *Read the rest of the story: [“Shapiro To Propose Tax Credit For Frontline Personnel”](#) (from Politics PA, 3/3/23)*

**PA Gov. Josh Shapiro Hints Education, Economy Will Get Top Billing In Pennsylvania Budget Proposal**— On the campaign trail and early in his term, Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro has **voiced** his ambitions to make the state more economically competitive. During a Wednesday visit in Pittsburgh, he hinted at how he wants to finance that vision. He said when he proposes his first state budget on Tuesday, he will include significant spending increases for two academic initiatives that aim to encourage innovation. *Read the rest of the story: [“PA Gov. Josh Shapiro Hints Education, Economy Will Get Top Billing In Pennsylvania Budget Proposal”](#) (from, WIFT 3/2/23)*

**Teachers Should Make At Least \$60K Annually, Education Official Tells PA Senate Committee** — Faced with a [nationwide educator shortage](#), Pennsylvania ought to up its minimum starting salary for teachers to \$60,000, the president of a commonwealth teachers' union told a Harrisburg panel Tuesday. The current statutory minimum for Pennsylvania teachers is \$18,500. *Read the rest of the story: [“Teachers Should Make At Least \\$60K Annually, Education Official Tells PA Senate Committee”](#) (from The Philadelphia Inquirer, 3/2/23)*

**Democratic Lawmakers Announce Legislation to Invest in School Facilities** — State Reps. Bridget M. Kosierowski, Elizabeth Fiedler, Robert Merski and Tarik Khan today partnered with state Sen. Tim Kearney to announce legislation addressing toxic school buildings in Pennsylvania. Gathered outside the lieutenant governor's office, Kosierowski, Fiedler, Merski and Khan said they plan to introduce legislation to fund the school construction program PlanCon to address the school facilities crisis in Pennsylvania. The lawmakers' legislation would fund the maintenance program within the traditional PlanCon program for vital projects including repairs to roofs, HVAC systems, boilers, plumbing and electrical wiring. Under

the legislation, the lawmakers propose opening applications only to the new Maintenance Program created under Act 70 for a temporary 3-year period. After this period, the Department of Education would re-open the program for traditional PlanCon projects, with the Maintenance Program returning to its 20% share of available funding. *Read the rest of the story: [“Democratic Lawmakers Announce Legislation To Invest In School Facilities”](#) (from PA House Democrats, 3/1/23)*

**Senator Hughes Announces Bold School Funding Proposal Following Historic Commonwealth Court Ruling** — State Senate Democratic Appropriations Chair Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia/Montgomery) announced a \$3.1 billion proposal for funding Pennsylvania’s education system. The bold proposal is a significant step in addressing the inequitable, inadequate, discriminatory, and unfair funding system that has affected Pennsylvania students and school districts for decades. *Read the rest of the story: [“Senator Hughes Announces Bold School Funding Proposal Following Historic Commonwealth Court Ruling”](#) (from Sen. Vincent Hughes, 2/27/23)*

### In National and International News...

**A District’s Long-Term Investment in Cultivating Future Teachers Is Paying Off**— While schools across the country struggle to fill vacant teaching positions, one Texas district is capitalizing on groundwork it laid in 2019 that has led to a near-zero vacancy rate. When Ector County Superintendent Scott Muri took over the 33,500-student district in the summer of 2019, there were 356 teaching vacancies—the equivalent of 18 percent of the district’s teaching positions—just weeks before classes were set to begin. Less than four years later, the district had a vacancy rate of 1 percent across its 44 campuses at the start of this academic year. *Read the rest of the story: [“A District’s Long-Term Investment in Cultivating Future Teachers Is Paying Off”](#) (from EducationWeek, 2/28/23)*

**Efforts Grow To Support Pathways For Teachers And Ed Leaders Of Color** — As districts struggle to make the proportion of Black teachers more reflective of student demographics, [a report released this month](#) by the National Center for Teacher Residencies offers six recommendations to improve preparation and recruitment of Black educators. The guidance draws from lessons learned from the organization’s [Black Educators Initiative](#), which aims to recruit and retain 750 Black educators between 2019 and 2024. *Read the rest of the story: [“Efforts Grow To Support Pathways For Teachers And Ed Leaders Of Color”](#) (from K-12 Dive, 2/27/23)*

**How One School’s Mentorship Program Paid Off Big In Academic Gains** — Fifteen years ago, educators at Oregon Junior/Senior High School in northern Illinois realized something needed to change: Too many of their 9th graders were floundering academically and socially. The class of 130 freshmen had a collective 273 Fs in their classes. And the stakes were high—grades and attendance during students’ freshman year are [critical indicators](#) of on-time graduation. [Studies have found](#) that when freshmen are disengaged, missing school, and failing classes, they’re more likely to drop out or not graduate in four years. *Read the rest of the story: [“How One School’s Mentorship Program Paid Off Big In Academic Gains”](#) (from EducationWeek, 2/21/23)*

**How Can Schools Keep Educators From Leaving? Teacher Retention Looms Large At SXSW EDU** — The annual SXSW EDU conference centers on “innovation” in education—discussions about emerging technology, new ways of approaching equity and inclusion, and efforts to advance instructional practice in schools are all on the agenda for the Austin, Texas-based education event, starting March 6. But all this innovation requires one key component to bring it to life—educators. Recruiting and retaining K-12 educators, and making sure they’re happy in their jobs, is the theme of many panels and presentations at this year’s conference. *Read the rest of the story: [“How Can Schools Keep Educators From Leaving? Teacher Retention Looms Large At SXSW EDU”](#) (from EducationWeek, 3/1/23)*

### Legislative Updates:

**SB 232: Reported as committed**—This bill, sponsored by Sen. Michele Brooks, amends the public school code to allow school staff to remove a tick from a student in accordance with guidelines set by the secretary of health and published online for school districts. The bill also provides for the tick to be sent to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing if the parent wishes to do so and for information on ticks and Lyme disease to be shared with parents.

**SB 297: Reported as committed**—This bill, sponsored by Sen. Michele Brooks, allows for the provision or sale of Pennsylvania milk in Commonwealth schools.

**SR 48: Reported as committed**— This resolution, sponsored by Michele Brooks, calls for the U.S. Department of Agriculture to include two percent and whole milk in the Nutrition Standards for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The resolution also asks the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to recommend a modification to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to include two percent and whole milks to the milk standard.

### **Upcoming Legislative Schedule –**

#### **House of Representatives:**

Next session: March 6 at noon.

No committee meetings scheduled at this time.

#### **Senate:**

**Next sessions:** March 6 at 1 p.m.

No committee meetings scheduled at this time.

#### **2023 House Session Schedule**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>March</b> | 6, 7 (Governor Shapiro’s Budget Address), 8         |
| <b>April</b> | 24, 25, 26  |
| <b>May</b>   | 1, 2, 3, 22, 23, 24                                 |
| <b>June</b>  | 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 |

#### **2023 Senate Session Schedule**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>March</b> | 6, 7 (Governor Shapiro’s Budget Address), 8     |
| <b>April</b> | 24, 25, 26                                      |
| <b>May</b>   | 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10                               |
| <b>June</b>  | 5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 |

#### **Platinum Sponsor Updates:**

Lincoln Investment will host a Virtual Retirement Seminar for Pennsylvania teachers and school district employees who are within five years of retirement. The seminar will help you gain a better understanding of:

- Your pension options with the Pennsylvania Public School Employees’ Retirement System
- Pros and Cons of each pension option
- Social Security strategies
- Healthcare in retirement
- Purchase of Service Procedures
- How to help maximize taxes: before and in retirement
- Understanding how Life and Long Term Care Insurance protects your retirement
- Potential pitfalls to avoid in retirement.

**Register today:** [Tuesday, March 14 at 5 p.m.](#) | [Thursday March 23 at 5 p.m.](#)

Horace Mann recently released **Checks & Balance: How Financial Stress and Heavier Workloads are Accelerating the Teacher Shortage** based on a nationally representative survey of U.S. educators. The report reinforces factors that are accelerating the teacher shortage and provides insights for school leaders to help improve their districts' staffing levels.

Learn more:

[Full report](#) | [Horace Mann Press Release](#) | [Video](#) | [Sign up to receive more information](#)

### **On the PASA Calendar...**

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|----------------|--|
| March 30-31:   | PASA Leadership Forum - "A New Beginning: Advocating and Leading for a Positive Education System in Pennsylvania"            |
| May 21-23:     | PASA Women's Conference – featuring Ruby Payne, Keynote Speaker on Emotional Poverty   |
| October 16-18: | PASA/PSBA Fall Conference  |
| August 6-8:    | PA Summit for Educational Leaders (Held at The Allow King of Prussia and Upper Merion Area High School.) PIL Hours Available |

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