



Pennsylvania Association
of School Administrators

Education Update
September 30, 2024

Reminder! Today is the last day of the membership year! **Renew Your PASA Membership today to remain a current member!**

Stay connected to PASA by renewing your membership today!

Your membership is important to the statewide work that we do at PASA. PASA provides quality and relevant professional development programs throughout the year that are specific to the needs of all our members and provide Act 45 PIL hours. We offer timely advocacy outreach and communications through weekly updates, a monthly newsletter, PASAConnect, and free webinars on critical state policy and procedure updates. Additionally, we provide numerous networking opportunities with colleagues across the state and legal support for commissioned officer contracts.

Renew your PASA membership today for the new membership year which begins October 1 and to ensure you will be included in the 2024-25 Membership Directory.

[Renew online](#) | [Download our renewal application](#)

Register today:

2024 PASA Assistant Superintendents and Supervisors Summit

Transforming Schools for a New Era: Rethinking Educational Practices for Today's Students

Do you notice a difference in today's learners? Are your students coming to school ready to learn? Today's students are coming to our schools with different needs. Have we adjusted our practices to ensure their success?

As an educational leader, you are at the forefront of shaping young minds and driving academic excellence. What if you could *revolutionize* your school's approach to student success by harnessing the power of executive functioning? Executive functioning skills—such as organization, time management, and emotional regulation—are critical to student achievement, yet often overlooked in traditional educational approaches.

Imagine equipping your students with the tools they need to thrive—not just in the classroom, but in life.

At the 2024 PASA Assistant Superintendents and Supervisors Summit, you'll gain cutting-edge insights into how these skills impact learning, behavior, and mental wellness, plus get connected with innovative practices happening in our schools across the Commonwealth. You'll connect with experts and educators who are rethinking how we teach, support, and empower students to reach their fullest potential.

Investment: \$159 for PASA Member | \$125 for Guest of PASA member | \$199 for Non-member

****PASA member: Bring other members from your own school/ district (either members or non-members) at a cost of \$125 for each additional team member!****

[Visit PASA's website to for more information and to register.](#)

PA Principals' Association seeks Principal nominations for pair of awards:

The Pennsylvania Principal's Association is accepting applications for the 2025 State/ 2025-2026 NASSP Principal of the Year and the 2024-25 National Outstanding Assistant Principal—Elementary Level awards.

The deadline for state award nominations is Friday, October 4. Nomination forms should be submitted to Julie Sunday at Sunday@papprincipals.org.

[Click here for the Award Letter](#) (Includes Criteria and Program Specifications.)

[Click here for a Nomination Form](#) (Form is a writeable PDF. You can type directly into the document.)

The deadline to make a nomination for the National Outstanding Assistant Principal—Elementary Level award is Friday, October 11. Nomination forms should be submitted to Julie Sunday at

Sunday@papprincipals.org.

[Click here for the Award Letter](#).

[Click here for a Nomination Form](#). (Form is a writeable PDF. You can type directly into the document.)

Save the Date:

PASA Education Briefing Update: Pennsylvania Department of Education Introduces the Pathways to Graduation Tool: An Overview

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators will host a briefing to provide an overview of the Pathways to Graduation Tool on **October 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

The Pathways to Graduation Tool provides an easy-to-use tool to track individual student progress on graduation pathways. Learn about the benefits of the tool, including automatic updates and easy reporting to the Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Portal.

Looking for assistance in tracking student graduation pathways data? Join this PASA webinar to learn about this new tool from PDE!

Presenter: Andrea Brown, Senior Education Systems Manager, PLS 3rd Learning

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83175429612>

A Zoom link will be shared with all PASA members. If you do not receive the link, please contact Adam Kulikowski at pasa@pasa-net.org.

The briefing will be recorded and posted for review at your convenience if you are not able to join us October 1.

PSBA-PASA School Leadership Conference October 6-8 at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions in the Poconos

Registration is open for the 2024 PASA-PSBA School Leadership Conference October 6-8 at Kalahari Resorts & Conventions. [Dynamic keynotes](#), dozens of education sessions, networking opportunities, exhibit hall, student performances -- it's all here! Registration includes the Awards and Student Showcase event on Sunday, October 6 at 6 p.m.

PASA members **register now** by emailing conference.info@psba.org.

Choose from more than 30 sessions

Here's a first look at some of the topics at this year's conference!

- Strategic and effective board culture
- Building relationships with unions
- School safety preparedness
- High school athletic program compliance
- Leading through school director turnover
- Social media guidelines for school boards
- Understanding finance metrics
- School-university partnerships
- Legal updates
- and dozens more!

Check the [schedule](#) on the conference website for details as they become available.

Meet our Keynotes:

Dr. John W. Hodge is president and co-founder of Urban Learning and Leadership Center (ULLC), an organization focused on student achievement and reduction of the achievement gap. He has served as a reading teacher, English teacher, AVID teacher, and assistant principal and associate director of AVID Center Eastern Division. AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) is an international college-preparatory program with an impressive record of success. He served as director of An Achievable Dream Academy, an inner-city school that piloted many of the interventions used by Urban Learning and Leadership Center. Prior to starting his career in education, Dr. Hodge distinguished himself in the service of our country with the 7th Infantry Division of the United States Army.

[Read a detailed bio.](#)

Stevie Van Zandt is a world-famous performer, music producer and a foremost authority on contemporary and traditional rock and roll. A founding member of Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, he went on to become a successful solo artist, recording and performing with his band Little Steven and the Disciples of Soul. With a team of other music and filmmaking superstars, Van Zandt founded TeachRock, supported by the Rock and Soul Forever Foundation, to provide a simultaneous solution to two escalating problems: music classes being cut from schools and a high school dropout epidemic. Believing that student engagement is a significant facet of the crisis, Van Zandt conceived a truly interdisciplinary curriculum based around popular music.

[Read a detailed bio.](#)

Visit <https://paschoolleaders.org> for more information on registration, keynote speakers, lodging and more!

Managing the Risks:

About the webinar series:

Are you navigating the uncertainty of today's ever-changing educational landscape? As superintendents and administrative teams, you face challenging decisions every day in your roles as leaders in your district, schools, and community. Staying informed about the latest issues and avoiding common pitfalls is essential for effective leadership and long-term success. Whether you're a new superintendent or a seasoned veteran, the insights and discussions from our panel of experts in this webinar series are designed to provide valuable guidance for everyone.

Don't miss the opportunity to enhance your leadership skills and knowledge. Register now for the 2024 PASA Webinar Series, "Managing the Risks," tailored specifically to support school leaders like you in achieving success!

Each Webinar is scheduled 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., including time for participants to ask questions and

share experiences on the topics presented! Come listen and learn!

Session topics:

How to Navigate Bias-Related Incidents as Educational Leaders Completed (and available by recording)

Professional Ethics and the Educator Discipline Act

Thursday, October 10

Record Retention, Right to Know, Board Conflict of Interests, and Litigation Holds

Thursday, November 7

Instructional Materials and Red Flags

Thursday, December 5

Navigating Challenging Board Meetings

Thursday, January 9, 2025

The Pennsylvania Public Officials and Employees Ethics Act—Compliance and Potential Unintended Violations

Thursday, February 13, 2025

Complex Student Issues: Avoiding Ethical and Legal Pitfalls

Thursday, March 27, 2025

[Visit PASA's website](#) for full session descriptions and to register for the complete series or individual sessions.

New Superintendents' Academy (Phase 1)

[Register today!](#) Join the other 40 registrants to this 3-part Series!

Are you or will you soon be taking on a new role as chief school administrator? GET READY BY PARTICIPATING IN THIS 3-PART SERIES BUILT SPECIFICALLY TO SUPPORT NEWLY APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENTS!

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) encourages new superintendents to attend the high-value, three-part New Superintendents' Academy that will provide you with an in-depth overview about your new role. Sessions vary in theme and are led by experienced Pennsylvania superintendents and education experts who offer information and practical advice regarding the complicated issues and challenges unique to your new leadership role. This series is aimed at enhancing your leadership skills and capacities in the key areas of Strategic and Cultural Leadership, Systems Leadership, and Professional and Community Leadership.

BONUS! The Academy provides you, as a first-time superintendent, with an excellent opportunity to network with your peers and build a network of colleagues from across the state! Additionally, you will have the opportunity to gain a statewide perspective from participants and session leaders representing the diversity of districts across the Commonwealth.

PIL CREDIT Each two-day session of the Academy is approved for 25 hours of PIL/Act 48 credit, predicated upon program attendance and completion of the embedded activities.

Part 1 – Completed: Strategic & Cultural Leadership (2025 session date TBD)

Part 2 – November 21-22: Systems Leadership

Part 3 – January 16-17: Professional & Community Leadership

Note: Although Academy programs are sequential, new superintendents are urged to attend them as they are able. Academy programs are repeated annually.

Investment:

Complete Series with Mentorship with an experienced Superintendent (Available exclusively to PASA members):
\$2,000 for PASA members

Complete Series:

\$800 for PASA members | \$950 for nonmembers

Single two-day Program:

\$280 for PASA members | \$330 for nonmembers

Superintendents' Academy (Phase 2): Identifying Effective Systems and Processes for Success NEW This Year!

This newly developed Superintendents' Academy is designed specifically for experienced Superintendents. Each strand of this course will provide advanced insights and school system practical knowledge to lead your district with new initiatives in innovative curriculum and instruction, facilities planning, and contract negotiations. Join PASA and network with your colleagues from across the Commonwealth to sharpen your skills and have a positive impact on your students and school community.

Our ***Superintendents' Academy: Phase 2- Identifying Effective Systems and Processes for Success*** professional learning series is designed specifically for superintendents who have completed PASA's New Superintendents' Academy (NSA) or have at least one year of experience in the role.

This newly developed, comprehensive 3-part series will build on the foundational lessons from our popular New Superintendents' Academy program and will equip you with advanced strategies to foster coherence and excellence within your district. By adopting a systems perspective, you will gain a deeper understanding of the complex, interrelated components of leading and managing schools, enabling you to achieve optimal outcomes.

- (Completed) *Assessing the Educational Landscape and Identifying Systems and Processes* (2025 session date TBD)
- December 3-4: *Integrating Operations into Your District Ecosystem*
- April 16-17: *Building Relationships for Successful Negotiations*

Note: Although the Superintendents' Academy programs are sequential, school leaders are urged to attend them as they are able. Academy programs will be repeated annually.)

Investment:

Complete series: \$800 for PASA members | \$950 for nonmembers

Single session: \$280 for PASA members | \$330 for nonmembers

For more information and to register, visit [PASA's website](#).

Build on the discussion from PASA's Leadership Forum with Authors Gregg Behr and Ryan Rydzewski!

Join authors Gregg Behr and Ryan Rydzewski for a book study on their acclaimed read, “When You Wonder, You’re Learning: Mister Rodgers’ Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids”

Dates:

Thursday, October 3 from 7-8 p.m.

[Click here to learn more and register](#) for this free learning opportunity!

New Superintendent Induction Program: Mentors for New Leaders

PASA’s New Superintendent Induction Program provides needed support and guidance for beginning Superintendents by providing an experienced superintendent mentor to help with the transition into the Superintendency. This program facilitates a working relationship between the Superintendent and an experienced Mentor that allows for open and private discussions and provides resources to sustain school system leaders.

For more information and to apply, visit [PASA’s website](#).

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

Districts Balk At 2024 Title IX Rule Amid Legal Turmoil — Federal complaints against school districts for not implementing the U.S. Department of Education’s 2024 Title IX rule are trickling in weeks after the Aug. 1 rule protecting LGBTQ+ students went into effect. The rule, which was met with widespread litigation from Republican-leaning states after its release in April, has been enjoined in at least 26 states and hundreds of individual schools nationwide, including in Democratic-leaning states. In those states and schools, the former Title IX rule from 2020 remains in effect, creating a hodgepodge of policies that [left districts confused](#) in the days and hours leading up to the Aug. 1 enforcement date. *Read the rest of the story: [“Districts Balk at 2024 Title IX Rule Amid Legal Turmoil”](#)* (from, K-12 Dive, 9/24/24)

Artificial Intelligence and Schools: When Tech Makers and Educators Collaborate, AI Doesn’t Have to Be Scary — As we enter another school year, the debate over AI’s role in education is intensifying. There’s [a sharp divide](#) between those urging us to take advantage of these tools and others who support a more cautious approach. Educators want guidance on the best ways to use emerging technologies without compromising privacy, encouraging plagiarism or making learning less authentic. And yet, AI technology is evolving so quickly that it seems like we’ll always be playing catchup. Fortunately, the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Educational Technology (OET) released new guidelines for EdTech companies earlier this year called [“Designing for Education with Artificial Intelligence.”](#) *Read the rest of the story: [“Artificial Intelligence and Schools: When Tech Makers and Educators Collaborate, AI Doesn’t Have to be Scary”](#)* (from, The 74, 9/24/24)

Schools Lack Supports for Victims of Sexually Explicit Deepfake and Real Images — Schools are focusing heavily on setting harsh penalties for students who share real or [deepfake sexually explicit images](#) online, but they are not giving enough attention to victims depicted in the images, said a report released Thursday from the Center for Democracy and Technology, a nonprofit that promotes civil rights in technology. CDT found that 71% of teachers said students at their school who were caught sharing deepfake “non-consensual intimate imagery,” or NCII, were referred to law enforcement, expelled from school, or suspended for more than three days during the 2023-24 school year. *Read the rest of the story: [“Schools Lack Supports for Victims of Sexually Explicit Deepfake and Real Images”](#)* (from K-12 Dive, 9/26/24)

In State News...

Clinton Foundation’s ‘Too Small to Fail’ Initiative to Focus on Early Literacy Across PA — [The](#)

[Clinton Foundation](#) announced the launch of “Too Small to Fail” this week, a statewide literacy outreach initiative aimed at families with young children. The effort, developed in partnership with the [Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy](#) and the [United Way of Pennsylvania](#), seeks to promote early literacy across the commonwealth. [Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) unveiled the plan at the Clinton Global Initiative’s annual meeting in New York, coinciding with the [U.N. General Assembly](#). She said the effort is committed to reaching families across the commonwealth. *Read the rest of the story: [“Clinton Foundation’s ‘Too Small to Fail’ Initiative to Focus on Early Literacy Across PA”](#)* (from NPR, 9/25/24)

Pennsylvania’s Public Schools Rank Amongst U.S.’s Best — The [2024-25 academic year](#) is well underway. And [Pennsylvania](#) has just been ranked as one of the top states as far as its [public education](#) goes. [ConsumerAffairs](#) — which, according to its [“About Us”](#) page, is a buyers’ guide whose website is “where consumers share their experiences and where thousands of businesses respond to them and improve” — recently [published a report](#) detailing those aforementioned best states for public education. *Read the rest of the story: [“Pennsylvania’s Public Schools Rank Amongst U.S.’s Best”](#)* (from, Pennlive, 9/24/24)

School Administrators Discuss PA’s Teacher Shortage, Working to Add to Educator Ranks — Not so long ago, Hampton School District Superintendent Michael Loughead wasn’t concerned about the pool of teacher candidates when it came time to fill a spot.... In the early 2000s, state education officials were offering attractive retirement packages in order to make room for younger teachers to enter the workforce. But over the past two decades, that course has reversed, with school districts seeing smaller and smaller pools of candidates applying for teaching jobs. *Read the rest of the story: [“School Administrators Discuss PA’s Teacher Shortage, Working to Add to Educator Ranks”](#)* (from The Tribune- Review, 9/23/24)

Gun Violence Roundtable Highlights Need for Mental Health Resources, Social Workers for PA Students— Gun violence prevention advocates gathered educators, law enforcement and students this week to discuss school safety. The conversation, hosted by CeaseFirePA, followed a spate of lockdowns at school districts across the region after threats of violence. [More than a dozen](#) school districts across the region reported threats earlier this month. Districts like Woodland Hills, Fox Chapel Area and Shaler Area all closed or delayed school out of caution. *Read the rest of the story: [“Gun Violence Roundtable Highlights Need for Mental Health Resources, Social Workers for PA Students”](#)* (from NPR, 9/27/24)

Opinion: Superintendents’ Forum: Reimagining Public Education in Pennsylvania— Gun violence prevention advocates gathered educators, law enforcement and students this week to discuss school safety. The conversation, hosted by CeaseFirePA, followed a spate of lockdowns at school districts across the region after threats of violence. [More than a dozen](#) school districts across the region reported threats earlier this month. Districts like Woodland Hills, Fox Chapel Area and Shaler Area all closed or delayed school out of caution. *Read the rest of the story: [“Superintendents’ Forum: Reimagining Pubic Education in Pennsylvania”](#)* (from Reading Eagle, 9/26/24)

In National and International News...

Democrats and Republicans Agree Teacher Prep Needs to Change. But How? — Effective college and university teacher-preparation programs could be the key to combating teacher shortages. Yet most programs don’t prepare teachers to meet the full scope of students’ needs, potentially leading many to leave the profession, a set of higher education and K-12 experts said at a Sept. 25 congressional hearing. *Read the rest of the story: [“Democrats and Republicans Agree Teacher Prep Needs to Change. But How?”](#)* (from *EducationWeek*, 9/26/24)

How Can Districts Control the Growing Costs of Special Education? — The cost of special education is rising as more students are being identified for these services, taking up a larger portion of

school budgets and forcing tough decisions over cuts. That's why school districts need to pay more attention to their special education spending, said Maggie Cicco, a research fellow at Georgetown University's Edunomics Lab, told attendees during a Thursday session at the Association of School Business Officials International annual conference. *Read the rest of the story:* [“How Can Districts Control the Growing Costs of Special Education?”](#) (from K-12 Dive, 9/23/24)

ESSER Is Ending. Which Investments Accomplished the Most? — After an unprecedented federal investment in K-12 education, school districts and states are racing to finalize plans for optimizing the final round of pandemic aid, even as they plunge into a future without that support. Congress in March 2021 approved the third and largest round of pandemic relief for K-12 schools, totaling \$122 billion and colloquially known as ESSER III. The funds came with two calendar requirements: “obligate” the money, or commit dollars to particular expenses, by Sept. 30, 2024; and “liquidate,” or transfer funds to their intended recipient, by Jan. 30, 2025. *Read the rest of the story.* [“ESSER Is Ending. Which Investments Accomplished the Most?”](#) (from EducationWeek, 8/29/24)

‘Fake Guns, Fake Blood, Fake Gunshots:’ Biden Order Seeks to Make Much-Debated School Shooting Drills Less Traumatic — President Joe Biden signed an executive order Thursday that seeks to ensure active school shooter drills are helpful without causing unnecessary panic amid a record spike in campus gun violence and pushback to sometimes dubious prevention strategies. *Read the rest of the story:* [“‘Fake Guns, Fake Blood, Fake Gunshots:’ Biden Order Seeks to Make Much-Debated School Shooting Drills Less Traumatic”](#) (from, The74, 9/27/24)

Cash-Starved Districts Are Turning to Four-Day School Weeks. Will That Harm Students? — The need was becoming dire. A school district in Brighton, in the Denver metro area of Colorado, was having a hard time keeping teachers. The salaries in the district, 27J Schools, were low for the region. And in Colorado, voters have to approve higher property taxes to send [additional dollars to schools, including for salary bumps](#), but by 2018 voters had refused six straight times. So, strapped for cash, the district decided to switch to a four-day school week. *Read the rest of the story:* [“Cash-Starved Districts Are Turning to Four-Day School Weeks. Will That Harm Students?”](#) (from, EdSurge, 9/24/24)

Legislative Updates from Last Week:

[HB 2581](#): Referred to the House Education Committee (9-24-24): This bill would help to recruit and retain quality principals across the Commonwealth by adjusting the administrator compensation plan (Act 93).

[HB 2311](#): Re-reported as committed; Laid on the table (House) (9-23-24): This legislation would establish a pilot program to implement annual mental health screenings for students in grades six through 12.

The bill would require the Pennsylvania Department of Education to assess the needs of each school district and their progress in establishing the community health infrastructure necessary to screen their students and direct grant funding to help districts bring on additional staff, expand their current programs, and work more closely with other community resources to accommodate the expected increase in students identified with mental health diagnoses.

Upcoming Legislative Schedule – (Subject to change)

House of Representatives:

Next Session: September 30 at noon.

Senate:

Next session: September 30 at 1 p.m.

Senate Education Committee: September 30 at 11:30 a.m. (Room 8E-A East Wing ([Watch the Stream](#)))

Senate Scheduled Session Days:

September 30

October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23

House Scheduled Session Days:

September 30

October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23

November 12,13

Sponsor Updates:

EF Education First will host a virtual professional learning symposium in October. The annual [EF Virtual Global Education Symposium](#) will explore ***The Power of Immersive Learning for Future-Readiness***. Secondary educators from across the U.S. and Canada will have the opportunity to explore the impact global-based learning can have on student outcomes and helping them build the essential skills they need to become engaged global citizens who make a difference in the world. You'll hear from **keynote speaker Dr. Carrie Olson of Denver Public Schools**, organizations such as **the United Nations Association of the USA**, and other **thought leaders** in global education.

- Registration is complimentary.
- Four unique 1-hour sessions will be offered – one each day at two different times. We highly encourage attending all four for the most robust learning experience!
 - Tuesday and Wednesday, October 22 and 23 (4:30 and 7:00 PM EST)
 - Tuesday and Wednesday, October 29 and 30 (4:30 and 7:00 PM EST)
- Four professional learning hours are available through EF, an accredited institution.

See more details and reserve your spot now by [CLICKING HERE](#).

On the PASA Calendar...

October 1:	PASA Education Update Briefing: PA Department of Education Introduces the Pathways to Graduation Tool: An Overview
October 6-8:	PASA/PSBA Fall Conference
October 10:	Managing the Risks: Professional Ethics and the Educator Discipline Act
October 23-24:	AASA/PASA National Certification Program
October 30-31:	Assistant Superintendent/Supervisors Summit
November 5:	Women's Caucus Fall Dinner (Southeastern)
November 7:	Managing the Risks: Record Retention, Right to Know, Board Conflict of Interests, and Litigation Holds
November 14:	PASA Awards of Achievement and Annual Meeting
November 15:	PASA Board of Governors Meeting
November 21-22:	New Superintendents' Academy (Phase 1): Systems Leadership
December 3-4:	Superintendents' Academy (Phase 2): Integrating Operations into Your District Ecosystem
December 5:	Managing the Risks: Instructional Materials Selection and Red Flags
January 9, 2025:	Managing the Risks: Navigating Challenging Board Meetings
January 16-17, 2025:	New Superintendents' Academy (Phase 1): Professional & Community Leadership
February 13, 2025:	Managing the Risks: The Pennsylvania Public Official and Employees Ethic Act— Compliance and Potential Unintended Violations
March 19-21, 2025:	PASA Leadership Forum
March 27, 2025:	Managing the Risks: Complex Student Issues: Avoiding Ethical and Legal Pitfalls (Registration to open this week)

April 16-17, 2025: Superintendents' Academy (Phase 2): Building Relationships for Successful Negotiations

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