



Pennsylvania Association  
of School Administrators

**Education Update**  
**September 9, 2024**

**Reminder!** Renew Your PASA Membership today!

**Stay connected to PASA by renewing your members before the September 30 deadline!**

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](#)

**Save the Date:**

**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](mailto: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!](#)**

**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 – September 25-26: Strategic & Cultural Leadership

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, September 26 from 7-8 p.m.

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...

**FCC Announces Application Window for \$200M Cybersecurity Pilot** — The application window for the Federal Communications Commission's \$200 million, three-year pilot program to boost cybersecurity in schools and libraries will [open from Sept. 17 through Nov. 1](#), according to an FCC public notice issued Wednesday. District leaders looking to apply for federal funds from the Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program must fill out Part 1 of the FCC Form 484, providing basic information regarding their cybersecurity needs, experience and how they would use the pilot funds, the commission said. If selected, program participants will then have to provide more detailed information about their cybersecurity. *Read the rest of the story:* [“FCC Announces Application Window for \\$200M Cybersecurity Pilot”](#) (from, K-12 Dive, 9/5/24)

**New Data Shows Some Improvement in Youth Mental Health, With a Long Way Still to Go** — New federal data on youth mental health offers a few silver linings, but experts caution these signs of progress don't mean U.S. students are out of the storm. The CDC released the results of its biennial [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) earlier this month, highlighting changes in students' responses from 2021 compared to 2023. Over those two years, the percentage of students overall who reported feeling persistent sadness fell slightly (by 2 percent). Separated by gender, the percentage of girls reporting feeling hopeless and who said they considered suicide in the previous year both decreased. *Read the rest of the story:* [“New Data Shows Some Improvement in Youth Mental Health, With a Long Way Still to Go”](#) (from, EdSurge, 8/30/24)

**How Movement Can Enhance Learning** — Elementary school students benefit from movement during the school day, and this can be particularly beneficial when tied to elementary literacy curriculum. There are strategies educators can use to embed movement in their lesson plans either on their own or by partnering with others. Teachers can bring movement right into the classroom by moving desks and chairs to the edges of the space, said Susan Griss, who teaches graduate courses for early education and elementary teachers at the Bank Street College of Education in New York. But, she added, educators should always think about why they're choosing to have students move — and what they want that activity to bring to lessons. *Read the rest of the story:* [“How Movement Can Enhance Learning”](#) (from K-12 Dive, 9/4/24)

## In State News...

**New York and L.A. Schools Are Banning Cell Phones. Why Aren't More PA Schools?** — As students return to Garnet Valley High School this week, English teacher Deb Knox will make her now-standard announcement: Students are not to use their cell phones in class. Still, she expects to spot the inevitable signs that the rule isn't being followed: eyes cast downward, thumbs typing at lap-level. Knox, who is entering her 26th year teaching, said her students are “respectful kids.” But she can't compete with the lure of smartphones and teens' desire to check text messages and social media. *Read the rest of the story:* [“New York and L.A. Schools Are Banning Cell Phones. Why Aren't More PA Schools?”](#) (from Philadelphia Inquirer, 8/25/24)

**Rising Vaccine Exemptions In PA Schools Up Chance of Measles Outbreaks** — As kids revel in the final days of summer break, Pennsylvania school nurses statewide are hustling to make sure students are vaccinated. The mandatory recordkeeping is routine, and helps school officials to keep children safe from preventable diseases like tetanus and hepatitis B. But rising requests for exemptions to vaccinations are making this work fraught and revealing fears some parents have about caring for their children. Under state law, parents who object to immunizations for philosophical or religious reasons can still send their children to school, though their kids can be barred from attending during an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease. *Read the rest of the story:* [“Rising Vaccine Exemptions in PA Schools Up Chance of Measles Outbreaks”](#) (from, Spotlight PA, 8/27/24)

### **New State Grant Program Means Solar Panels Could Bring Deeper Savings To Cash-Strapped Philly Schools**

— As the school year kicks off, many Philadelphia students are [returning to aging buildings](#) that are powered by an [electric grid fueled largely by planet-warming natural gas](#). But that could change in the coming years. Solar for Schools, a state grant program currently under development, aims to launch Pennsylvania schools into a climate-friendly future by subsidizing the cost of rooftop solar panels. *Read the rest of the story:* [“New State Grant Program Means Solar Panels Could Bring Deeper Savings To Cash-Strapped Philly Schools”](#) (from NPR Philly, 8/26/24)

### **Schools Have Made Slow Progress On Record Absenteeism, With Millions Of Kids Still Skipping Class**

— Flerentin “Flex” Jean-Baptiste missed so much school he had to repeat his freshman year at Medford High outside Boston. At school, “you do the same thing every day,” said Jean-Baptiste, who was absent 30 days his first year. “That gets very frustrating.” Then his principal did something nearly unheard of: She let students play organized sports during lunch — if they attended all their classes. In other words, she offered high schoolers recess. *Read the rest of the story:* [“Schools Have Made Slow Progress on Record Absenteeism, With Millions of Kids Still Skipping”](#) (from Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, 8/25/24)

### **Environmental Group Claims PA Water Testing Requirements Don’t Protect Students From Lead**

— Pennsylvania’s school districts are failing to protect children from exposure to lead in school drinking water, an environmental advocacy group said as it called on lawmakers to require and pay for the installation of filtered water fountains. In a [report published Wednesday](#), PennEnvironment found that Pennsylvania’s 2018 rules requiring school districts to test for lead annually are poorly enforced, include loopholes to avoid testing, make it difficult for the public to find test results and do little to protect children. *Read the rest of the story:* [“Environmental Group Claims PA Water Testing Requirements Don’t Protect Students From Lead”](#) (from, Environmental Group Claims PA Water Testing Requirements Don’t Protect Students From Lead, 9/4/24)

### **\$1M in PA Grants Up for Grabs for Environmental Projects**

— State grants that total \$1 million are available to fund projects that educate and engage Pennsylvania residents about the environment... State officials last week announced the \$1 million pool for the [2025 Environmental Education Grants Program](#), as well as the Nov. 15 deadline to apply. The program, open to schools, colleges, nonprofit community and environmental organizations, county conservation districts and businesses, focuses on educating residents in environmental issues. *Read the rest of the story:* [“\\$1M in PA Grants Up for Grabs for Environmental Projects”](#) (from, LehighValley News, 9/3/24)

## **In National and International News...**

### **The School Year Is Off to a Hot Start—Again. What Districts Need To Know**

— The school year is off to a blazing start—literally. High temperatures have stifled the early days of the school year in several cities, forcing some to dismiss students early or call off classes altogether to beat the heat. Temperatures eclipsed 100 degrees in some areas of the Midwest and Northeast on Monday, and heat warnings and advisories were issued for several states, from Oklahoma to South Dakota to Ohio. Several schools in the Detroit area released students early on Monday—for some, [it was the first day of the new school year](#). *Read the rest of the story:* [“The School Year Is Off to a Hot Start—Again. What Districts Need to Know”](#) (from EducationWeek, 8/27/24)

### **How Schools Can Survive a Global Tech Meltdown**

— The domino effect of human error on technology systems—including those used by K-12 schools—showed its disruptive power in July when global cybersecurity company CrowdStrike issued a faulty software update. The speed at which that mistake paralyzed all kinds of companies and organizations around the world that use Microsoft Windows systems was startling. Airlines delayed or canceled thousands of flights, hospital operations were jeopardized, hotel personnel had to personally escort guests to their rooms because key cards did not work, and 911 emergency systems in some places were not operational. *Read the rest of the story:* [“How](#)

[Schools Can Survive a Global Tech Meltdown](#)" (from EducationWeek, 8/28/24)

**How Much Does Special Education Truly Cost? Finally, an Answer Is On The Horizon** — How much do America's schools spend to provide special education services to students with disabilities? How have special education costs nationwide risen over the last two decades? What is the typical cost of providing services to a K-12 student who has autism, or ADHD, or Down syndrome? The answer to all of these questions is painfully simple: We don't know. Educators, policymakers, and researchers can make educated guesses. Some states collect data from school districts on special education spending. Some researchers have an inkling about the trajectory of special education costs so far during the 21st century, particularly as the proportion of America's students receiving special education services has trended upward. *Read the rest of the story.* ["How Much Does Special Education Truly Cost? Finally, an Answer Is On The Horizon"](#) (from EducationWeek, 8/26/24)

**Americans' Satisfaction with K-12 Education Rises from Record Low** — [Americans' satisfaction with K-12 education](#) rose 7 percentage points to 43%. The metric had dipped to 36% last year — its lowest reported level since Gallup began tracking it in 1999. Still, a 55% majority of the 1,015 adults surveyed in August said they are completely or somewhat dissatisfied with K-12 education. Though public satisfaction with the quality of schools is nearing back to a trend average of 45%, Gallup data also shows the public's perception of K-12 education started to steadily decline during the COVID-19 pandemic's onset in 2020. *Read the rest of the story:* ["Americans' Satisfaction with K-12 Education Rises from Record Low"](#) (from, K-12 Dive, 9/4/24)

### **Upcoming Legislative Schedule – (Subject to change)**

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

**Next Session:** September 30 at noon.

#### **Senate:**

**Next session:** September 16 at 1 p.m.

#### **Senate Scheduled Session Days:**

September 16, 17, 18, 30

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

#### **House Scheduled Session Days:**

September 30

October 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

### **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...

September 12-13:	PASA Board of Governors Meeting
September 25-26:	New Superintendents' Academy (Phase 1): Strategic & Cultural Leadership
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.