



PARSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ***August 28, 2023***

Senate Set to Return This Week for More State Budget Work

The Senate is set to return on August 30 to work on the remaining \$1.1 billion in state funding that requires statutory language to provide further instructions on spending in some line items contained in the approved state budget bill. While most education funding has formulas embedded in state law, other programs, in some cases new programs, need to have statutory language to provide state agencies with guidance in providing the funding to schools.

Let's look at three categories of aid to schools. First are the programs not requiring any additional legislative action. This funding, the most significant state assistance programs to schools, such as Basic Education Funding (BEF), Special Education Funding (SEF), are flowing to schools. This category also includes retirement reimbursement, Social Security reimbursement, transportation, the Ready to Learn Block Grant and the expansion of the School Food Service funding to cover universal free breakfast. No worries here.

Second, what needs further action from the General Assembly are the following programs:

- Level Up Supplement
- Mental Health Grants
- School Physical Safety/Security
- Teacher Stipends
- Environmental School Facilities
- Any Increase in the Educational Improvement Tax Credit

The third category of school funding in the state budget is the Career and Technical Education line item. The funds have been approved but a change in the distribution formula may require further legislative attention.

The Senate will presumably take action this week and we will be monitoring the results. Then, the House will have to also agree on the so-called code language (e.g., Fiscal Code, School Code) before the legislation goes to Governor Shapiro. The House is not scheduled to return until later next month. Until the code language is signed into law, funding for these programs will not be available to schools. While most of the budget drama is over, there may be more to come surrounding these programs.

You can check these [PDE links for your estimated BEF funding and your estimated SEF funding](#) for 2023-24. We will keep you updated on the General Assembly's progress in completing the 2023-24 fiscal year spending plan.