



PARSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Friday, June 9, 2023

STATE BUDGET EMERGES IN THE HOUSE

In 24 hours, a lifeless state budget process transitioned to a speed of light pace with the House adopting a state spending plan on June 5 that added substantial education funds to Governor Shapiro's proposal. The sudden movement on the budget in the House sets up the remaining weeks this month to get a final budget to the Governor by June 30. The education funding increases beyond Governor's Shapiro's initial proposal were focused on Basic Education Funding (additional \$100 million), Special Education Funding (additional \$50 million) and reinstating the Level Up funding to the one hundred lowest resourced districts (\$225 million). You can [go here](#) to see if your district qualified for Level Up funding and your district's share of the \$225 million as well as the new Basic Education Funding dollars. You can see the [additional Special Education Funding dollars here](#).

The state budget bill, [House Bill 611](#), was expedited in the House via a floor amendment from House Democrats which was adopted, not surprisingly, on a 102-101 party line vote. As a result, expect that the final budget will see significant changes in the Senate. What is potentially promising in the House budget proposal is the significant funding for Level Up which was not in the Governor's budget proposal in March.

In another budget related development, the House Finance Committee, on another party line vote, sent [House Bill 1249](#) to the full House for consideration. The legislation will implement the Governor's call for \$2,500 state tax credits to boost the recruitment of nurses, teachers, and public safety personnel. The bill

makes eligible a Pennsylvania resident, who becomes newly certified as a nurse, teacher, or police officer, and secures employment in Pennsylvania within their profession; or is certified as a nurse, teacher, or police officer in another state, moves to Pennsylvania, and secures employment in Pennsylvania within their profession.

Another initiative to address the teacher shortage by providing stipends to student teachers appears to be gaining traction as well. A bi-partisan effort in the Senate by Senators Vince Hughes (D-Philadelphia) and Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) would grant a \$10,000 stipend (\$15,000 in areas that attract “few student teachers or that has a high rate of open teaching positions”) to student teachers. [Read more about this issue here.](#) You can read the legislation, [Senate Bill 300](#), which has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.

Prior to the Memorial Day holiday break, the House Education Committee did approve three School Code bills—[House Bill 804](#), [House Bill 1094](#), and [House Bill 1097](#). House Bill 804 will allow students in military families who are being reassigned to PA to be enrolled as residents in higher education institutions. Similarly, House Bill 1094 would provide residency rights for k-12 students who are being assigned but may have not yet become school district residents. House Bill 1097 would require all school entities to have a moment of silence to recognize the victims of September 11. The bill also would require the creation of a September 11 model curriculum for schools. A similar bill, Senate Bill 290, has been approved by the Senate Education Committee. House Bills 804 and 1094 were unanimously passed by the full House at the end of May.