

OF RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS

## PARSS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE September 5, 2023

## Senate Summer Session Sends Budget Related Bills to the House

In a rare Wimbledon Week voting session, the Senate approved and volleyed two Fiscal Code bills to the House. The House does not seem ready to return serve until later this month. So, nothing will apparently make its way to the Governor in the short term.

One of the Senate approved measures, House Bill 1300, contains budget implementation language that usually accompanies the line-item budget bill which has already been signed into law. The other measure, Senate Bill 757, would authorize the PASS Scholarship Program and increase funding for more educational tax credits targeted to private school tuition.

As important as the components of the Fiscal Code legislation are the items left out by the Senate. There is no Level Up language casting doubt whether authorization will make it to the Governor, at least in the short term. The teacher tax credit program, health grants, and school environmental repair grant funding were also excluded.

Important budget pieces still need to be put in place to finalize the state budget for 2023-24. There is no reason for panic, but there needs to be a resolution to the missing pieces. For additional details on the Senate action <u>go here</u>.