

# PARSS eNews

September/October 2024



Dear PARSS Members,

We hope your 2024-25 school year is off to a successful start. I like to check in with you during these early weeks to remind you that PARSS staff is always on duty to help you and your district in a variety of ways. I've compiled a list of our organization's "can-dos" to benefit the new crop of superintendents now on duty and to remind our long-standing members that our services cover a lot of ground.

Here's a quick review of how we can assist:

- Post job openings on our website
- Conduct superintendent searches
- Award more than \$70,000 in grants annually
- Provide Title I workshops, keynote speeches, board retreats, etc.
- Advocate for small school districts in Harrisburg and throughout the state
- Provide legislative updates
- Conduct webinars on a variety of topics
- Plan an exceptional conference each year (includes ACT 45 hours)







We want to hear from you and hope that you will call with questions, concerns, or requests for help of any sort. We're confident that we'll have the information you need. If not, we'll be sure to have a rapid response to identify the exact resources you require.


We look forward to serving you and helping you reach all your goals. Best of luck this school year!

Sincerely,  
Edward Albert, Ed.D

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## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARSS MEMBERS!

Carlynton School District	Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology	Deer Lakes School District
		
Fayette County Career and Technical School	Halifax Area School District	Muhlenberg School District
		



**PARSS now has the highest  
membership in its history!**

**272 school districts,  
intermediate units, and career and  
technical centers are 2024-25  
members of PARSS!**

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

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## **'Tis The Season For Grant Applications**

The big news here is that our grant budget has doubled, and \$50,000 is now available for PARSS member school districts that want to update equipment, heighten learning experiences with new and improved technology, even expand or introduce in-demand career skills for students. Don't forget, grant monies are also available for afterschool clubs and competitions.

Last year PARSS received more than 80 applications for funds, and with a heftier budget in place for 2024 we expect applications to increase. If you have a dream for your students or classrooms or the members of an after-school group, please apply.

Some tips:

- Follow directions and complete each question. We **MUST** know how much you are requesting and how many students will benefit.
- **Attach the grant form to an application essay (about 500 words) that fully explains your needs.** Tell us your story. Offer up details about your situation now and how a grant would change the learning potential for your students. Remember, we no longer request a budgetary breakdown of monies awarded. Instead, we're asking for details. For example, how might a high-tech skill acquired in a science lab lead to a job or more study at the college/university level? Tell us why a robotics competition for elementary school inventors will be a game-changing event you don't want to miss. Why will a new 3-D printer change everything for your

classroom? Have a unique opportunity for an artist in residence? We'd like to know more about who it is and why it's essential for your school.

- Write clearly. All application forms completed by hand must be legible. Be sure we can clearly identify names, emails and numbers.
- Request realistically. PARSS grants are typically a mix of small (0-\$1,999), moderate (\$2,000-4,999) and larger (\$5,000-9,999) amounts. Although we've got more to spend this year, we'd like more districts to share in this benefit. As worthy as they may be, requests totaling \$10,000 or more are difficult to approve when so many districts are requesting assistance.

**It is our custom to announce grant recipients by the start of Thanksgiving vacation. To meet that deadline, applications must be received at PARSS by November 1. We recommend sharing this letter with faculty/staff members completing the grant form so they can read and apply our tips and suggestions to their application.**

**All the best to you!**

**[Click Here to Download the Grant Application!](#)**

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## **2024 Conference Recap - Scholarship Winners**

**PARSS has awarded over \$50,000 in scholarships over the last 10 years!**



Bedford Area School District	Cambria Heights School District	Clarion Area School District
		
<p><b>Sophia Pyle</b> Sophia plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to major in Law, Criminal Justice and Society.</p>	<p><b>Nathaniel Saltsgiver</b> After graduation, Nathaniel is attending Bucknell University to major in Electrical Engineering.</p>	<p><b>Gia B.</b> Gia's future plans are to attend Slippery Rock University to major in early childhood education.</p>
Port Allegany School District	Troy Area School District	
		
<p><b>Julia Postlewait</b> Julia will attend Penn West - Clarion to study early childhood education.</p>	<p><b>Shaun Wood</b> Shaun plans to attend Emerson for video production.</p>	

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## Four Ways to Build Leadership Trust



We know that trust is the foundation of leadership. People don't follow people they don't trust when they have a choice. Here are four ways you can build trust in your leadership:

1. **Be quick to admit errors and mistakes.** People will see you as willing to be straight with them.
2. **Ask for help.** Being willing to ask for help can be a sign of wisdom, self-compassion, and trust.
3. **Be a good collaborator.** Constantly competing can divide people and make some feel less valued and unworthy.
4. **Be competent.** People want assurance that you know what you are doing if they are going to follow you.

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## To Be Successful, Try These 10 Personal PR Tips



As s Superintendent, one must always be aware of the many ingredients for success that are available to him or her. But the one that stands out above the rest is “great communication skills.” You can have the most innovative reform plan around, but if you are not effective in communicating the plan, it will fail.

The following are 10 tips that can help you become a more successful communicator:

1. Remember That It Is All Personal: You Can Never Not Lead
  2. Take The Wheel And Keep The Course On Your District’s Vision
  3. Relations Are Like Investments: The More You Put In, The Greater Your Return
  4. Focus Your Communication Effort On Teaching, Learning And, Achievement
  5. Spend Your Time Lifting People Up, Not Putting Them Down
  6. Transparency And Engagement: You Can’t Successfully Lead In The Long Term Without Them
  7. If You Believe Your Comments Are Always Being Taken Out Of Context, Maybe You Are Failing To Provide One
  8. Communication Is A Contact Sport
  9. Be Visible In A Crisis
  10. You Know You Have A Successful Communication Plan When Everyone In Town Says ***OUR*** Schools Instead Of ***THE*** Schools
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## Contact Us

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**ashley rednak**

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