



**The Education Policy and Leadership Center**  
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## **EPLC EDUCATION NOTEBOOK**

### **Friday, January 24, 2014**

***Content in this edition:***

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The EPLC Education Notebook (current and past editions) also is available by visiting the EPLC website at <http://www.eplc.org/category/education-notebook/>.

### **PENNSYLVANIA POLICYMAKERS**

The Pennsylvania **House of Representatives** and **Senate** will reconvene in voting session on **Monday, January 27** at 1:00 PM.

### **Pennsylvania Budget Watch**

**Governor Corbett** will deliver his **Budget Address** to a joint session of the General Assembly on **Tuesday, February 4** at 11:30 AM.

The Governor and his staff are beginning to share some details about items in the budget, but nothing about plans for education funding so far. In a recent news conference about other items, the Governor did respond to a question about school funding and said, "It's not fair right now...so we need to address that."

The Governor and the Legislature approved a state budget in 2011 that reduced funding from the state to school districts by nearly \$900 million annually, with the state's poorest school districts getting the largest cuts. Districts began the 2013-2014 school year with approximately \$700 million less from the state for student programs and services than in 2010-2011.

### **PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

Throughout the past two weeks, **Governor Corbett, First Lady Susan Corbett, and Acting Secretary of Education Carolyn Dumesq** traveled to different areas of Pennsylvania to award various recognitions to schools and teachers.

The **Governor's Award for Excellence in Academics** was presented to [three schools in the Derry Township School District](#), Dauphin County; [one in the Carlisle Area School District](#), Cumberland County; [nine in the Mt. Lebanon School District](#), Allegheny County; and [five in the Manheim Township School District](#), Lancaster County. Governor Corbett and officials of his administration will continue visiting high-performing schools across the Commonwealth to present them this award. High-performing schools were determined by the 2012-13 School Performance Profile (SPP). **Statewide, 428 school buildings attained a SPP score of 90 or higher.** For a list of all high-performing schools, use the Advanced Search option on [paschoolperformance.org](http://paschoolperformance.org) to filter by Academic Score.

On January 14, during a surprise assembly, the prestigious **Milken Educator Award** was presented by Secretary Dumesq to **Meghan Nese**, a teacher at Burrell High School in Westmoreland County. The Milken Educator Award is the nation's preeminent teacher recognition program that honors K-12 educators across the country with a \$25,000 cash award and induction into the national Milken Educator Network. Since 1987, the Milken Family Foundation has awarded more than \$64 million to nearly 2,600 educators throughout the United States, including 52 in Pennsylvania. Nese was among the candidates recommended to the Foundation by an independent committee in the Pennsylvania Department of Education. For additional information about the award, [click here](#).

On January 15, Governor Corbett issued an announcement congratulating **Ryan Devlin**, a teacher in Brockway Area School District, Jefferson County, for being **selected as one of four national finalists** for the **2014 National Teacher of the Year** award. The other three finalists are from Florida, Maryland, and Virginia. In 2012, Devlin was named Pennsylvania's 2013 Teacher of the Year. The National Teacher of the Year will be announced in April and will be recognized during a ceremony at the White House.

## **EPLC NEWS**

- **Registration is open for EPLC's 2014 Education Issues Workshops for Legislative Candidates, Campaign Staff, and Interested Voters!** The day-long, non-partisan program is intended to provide information about the important education issues that will be key topics for voters and candidates in the 2014 Pennsylvania Campaign. Workshops will be held in Harrisburg, Monroeville (Pittsburgh region), and Philadelphia. [Click here](#) for registration information. **Register now – space is limited.**
- You can find on the EPLC website a list of confirmed **2014 gubernatorial candidates**, and links to information about their **plans, if elected, for education and arts and culture** in Pennsylvania. The list will be updated as more information becomes available. [Click here](#) to visit the new resource page.
- Shortly after Governor Corbett's Budget Address on February 4, EPLC will be hosting **policy forums in Pittsburgh (February 13), Philadelphia (February 24), State College (February 26), and Harrisburg (February 27) to discuss the proposed 2014-15 budget** and the Governor's proposals for education. [Click here](#) for more information about the policy forums. Space is limited for each event and an RSVP is required. Anyone wishing to receive an invitation should inquire by contacting [staff@eplc.org](mailto:staff@eplc.org) or 717-260-9900.

## **DATEBOOK**

- The **Pennsylvania Association for Justice** will host a **Meet the Candidates Forum** in Harrisburg on **Friday, January 24** at 6:30 PM. Six major candidates for Governor will discuss civil justice and other issues. RSVP information can be found [here](#).
- The **14<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> Ward Independent Democratic Club, Shady Side Dems**, and the **CMU Dems** will be sponsoring a **gubernatorial debate** for the eight declared

Democratic candidates for Governor on **Sunday, January 26** at 2:00 PM at Carnegie-Mellon University. [Click here](#) for more details.

- The **House Education Committee** will meet on **Monday, January 27** at 11:00 AM in Harrisburg to receive an informational briefing on the recommendations of the Special Education Funding Commission.
- The **Senate Appropriations Committee** will meet off the floor on **Monday, January 27** to consider [SB 1000](#) (rural regional community college pilot program); [SB 1205](#) (college to university designation); [HB 1559](#) (youth suicide awareness and prevention).
- The **Philadelphia Business Journal** and **WHYY** will be hosting a **2014 Gubernatorial Forum** for Journal subscribers and WHYY members on **Tuesday, February 4** from 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM in Philadelphia. [Click here](#) for more information.
- The **House Appropriations Committee** announced its schedule for the **February budget hearings** that will take place in Harrisburg. These hearings are for education-related agencies:

<b>Thursday, February 13</b>	10:30 AM	- State-Related Universities
<b>Thursday, February 13</b>	1:00 PM	- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
<b>Tuesday, February 18</b>	9:30 AM	- Public School Employees' Retirement System
<b>Tuesday, February 18</b>	1:30 PM	- Pennsylvania Department of Education
<b>Thursday, February 20</b>	9:30 AM	- Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
<b>Thursday, February 20</b>	1:30 PM	- Pennsylvania Commission on Community Colleges

- The **Senate Appropriations Committee** announced its schedule for the **February budget hearings** that will take place in Harrisburg. These hearings are for education-related agencies:

<b>Thursday, February 13</b>	1:00 PM	- State-Related Universities
<b>Tuesday, February 18</b>	1:00 PM	- Public School Employees' Retirement System
<b>Thursday, February 20</b>	1:00 PM	- Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education
<b>Monday, February 24</b>	3:00 PM	- Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency
<b>Wednesday, February 26</b>	1:00 PM	- Pennsylvania Department of Education

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