



The Education Policy and Leadership Center
800 North Third Street, Suite 408, Harrisburg, PA 17102
717-260-9900 - www.eplc.org

EPLC EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

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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, April 28** at 1:00 PM.

House of Representatives

➤ During the week of April 7, the **House** acted on the following legislation:

- [House Bill 974](#), sponsored by **Rep. Rosemary Brown** (R-189), would amend the Public School Code to further provide for **automatic external defibrillators** (AEDs). HB 974 would establish a program to assist school entities and nonpublic schools in making AEDs available in school buildings. The Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Health and Department of General Services, would be required to biennially issue an invitation to bid for the cost of AEDs and other equipment necessary for the proper operation of the device. The House **approved the bill on concurrence** with Senate amendments on April 7 by a vote of [197-1](#). The bill was signed in the Senate on April 8 and has been presented to the Governor for final approval.
- [House Bill 2005](#), sponsored by **Rep. Michael Hanna** (D-76), would amend the Public School Code further providing for the **sale of unused and unnecessary lands and buildings**. The bill would add municipal authorities to the scope of administrative divisions to which a school district may convey unused and unnecessary lands and buildings. HB 2005 **passed** on April 7 by a vote of [198-0](#).

Prior to the passage in the House the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.

- [House Resolution 637](#), sponsored by **Rep. Ed Neilson** (D-169), urges the **Congress of the United States to support the adoption of H.Res. 456 relating to dyslexia**. H.Res. 456 calls on schools and state and local educational agencies to recognize that dyslexia has significant implications that must be addressed. HR 637 was **adopted** on April 7 by a vote of [198-0](#).
- [House Bill 2013](#), sponsored by **Rep. Jerry Stern** (R-80), would amend the Public School Code to allow a school board vacancy to be temporarily filled when a **school board member is called to active duty** in the military or naval forces of the United States. HB 2013 **passed** on April 8 by a vote of [200-0](#).

Prior to the passage in the House the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.

- [House Bill 2106](#), sponsored by **Rep. Will Tallman** (R-193), would amend Act 10 of 1991 regarding **military recruiter access to school students** to align it with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). The bill would name the act the Military Access to Student Recruiting Information Act. It would require a school entity that receives assistance under NCLB to make available to armed forces recruiters, upon request, the same information about students as is available to institutions of higher education, trade schools, and prospective employers. The bill would **expand the definition of secondary school student to include students in grade eleven** as well as grade twelve. HB 2106 **passed** on April 8 by a vote of [193-7](#).

Prior to the passage in the House the bill was reported as committed from the House Appropriations Committee. [Click here](#) to read the **fiscal note**.

- [House Resolution 641](#), sponsored by **Rep. Rick Mirabito** (D-83), recognizes the week of April 13 through 19, 2014, as “**National Library Week**” in Pennsylvania. HR 641 was unanimously **adopted** on the uncontested calendar on April 8.
- [House Bill 1559](#), sponsored by **Rep. Frank Farina** (D-115), would amend the Public School Code to provide for **youth suicide awareness and prevention education**. HB 1559 passed the Senate on February 4, and had been sent back to the House for concurrence on Senate amendments. On April 9, prior to the vote on the floor, HB 1559 was amended in the House Rules Committee. The House **concurred on Senate amendments, as amended by the House**, by a vote of [191-0](#).

The **amendment** sponsored by **Rep. Mauree Gingrich** (R-101) and unanimously adopted by the Rules Committee replaces the term “shall” with “may,” so that a **school entity may adopt a youth suicide awareness and prevention policy and may develop an age-appropriate youth suicide awareness and prevention education program**. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, each school entity’s professional development plan shall include four hours of training in youth suicide awareness and prevention every five years for educators in buildings grade six through twelve. Within 180 days, the Department of Education in consultation with a youth suicide prevention organization operating in Pennsylvania shall develop a model policy, curriculum, and recommend training guidelines and materials. The bill requires the State Board of Education to issue a report no later than November 30, 2017.

HB 1559 has been sent back to the Senate for concurrence on the House amendment.

- On April 9, the **House Education Committee** reported the following legislation:

- [Senate Bill 1205](#), sponsored by **Sen. Mike Folmer** (R-48), would amend the Public School Code to **simplify the process a college must follow in order to become a university**. SB 1205 was unanimously **reported as amended**. Prior to being amended, SB 1205 would allow a college that is authorized to confer bachelor's degrees to be designated a university if the institution submits a notarized affidavit to the Department of Education. The **amendment** sponsored by **Rep. Paul Clymer** (R-145) and unanimously adopted by the Committee requires an institution to submit, instead of a notarized affidavit, a **letter from the president of the institution** to the Department of Education. The bill provides for the contents and submission of the letter, and the review process for the Department. It would also allow for an accredited **trade school** conferring a minimum of associate degrees in specialized technology to be **designated as a college**.
- [House Bill 1801](#), sponsored by **Rep. Margo Davidson** (D-164), would amend the Public School Code to require the **Office for Safe Schools** to develop **telephone hotlines and internet notification systems** ensuring anonymity to be used by students, parents, teachers, school employees and members of the community to report potential or actual violence or possessions of weapons on school property. HB 1801 was unanimously **reported as amended**.

The **amendment** sponsored by **Rep. Paul Clymer** (R-145) and unanimously adopted by the Committee provides that the requirement to develop the hotlines and systems is **subject to funding appropriated by the General Assembly**. The amendment also allows the Office of Safe Schools to contract with any state agency or intermediate unit to comply with the provisions.

- [House Bill 2138](#), sponsored by **Rep. Bernie O'Neill** (R-29), would amend the Public School Code to provide for a **special education funding formula** based on the recommendations of the Special Education Funding Commission. The bill provides for the new formula, payments for services to charter schools, reimbursements by the Commonwealth and between school districts, and changes to the administration of the Contingency Fund. The formula is for the distribution of any increase in special education funding over the 2010-2011 levels. HB 2138 was **reported as committed** with Representative Dan Truitt voting in the negative.

Senate

- On April 7, the **Senate Appropriations Committee** unanimously **reported as committed** [House Bill 1164](#), sponsored by **Rep. Thomas Murt** (R-152), which would establish the **Higher Education Scheduling Preference for Veteran Students Act**. The Act would require a public institution of higher education to establish and implement a policy under which veteran students are provided with preference in course scheduling. [Click here](#) to read the Committee's **fiscal note**.
- On April 8, the **Senate Education Committee** reported the following legislation:
 - [Senate Bill 1316](#), sponsored by **Sen. Pat Browne** (R-16), would amend the Public School Code to provide for a **special education funding formula** based on the recommendations of the Special Education Funding Commission. The bill provides for the new formula, payments for services to charter schools, and changes to the administration of the Contingency Fund. The formula is for the distribution of any increase in special education funding over the 2010-2011 levels. SB 1316 was unanimously **reported as committed**. *This is similar to HB 2138 reported above.*
 - [House Bill 1738](#), sponsored by **Rep. Bernie O'Neill** (R-29), would amend the Public School Code to establish a **Basic Education Funding Commission**. The Commission shall develop a proposed basic education funding formula and identify factors that may be used to determine the distribution of basic education funding. The Commission would be required to gather public input and hold a series of public hearings across the state. It must issue a report of its findings and

recommendations no later than one year after the effective date of this legislation. Any formula developed by the Commission would not go into effect unless enacted by the General Assembly. The Commission would consist of fifteen members, and shall be reconstituted every five years to review the operation of the funding provisions. HB 1738 was unanimously **reported as committed**.

- [House Bill 1460](#), sponsored by **Rep. Mark Gillen** (R-128), would amend Title 51 (Military Affairs) to require educational institutions to grant a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States, or a member's spouse, an **"M" on their grade transcript for all classes they are unable to complete due to a military leave of absence**. HB 1460 was unanimously **reported as amended**.

The **amendment** sponsored by **Sen. Mike Folmer** (R-48) and unanimously adopted would allow the institution to place **either "M" or "MILITARY"** on the graded transcript.

➤ On April 8, the **Senate adopted** the following legislation:

- [Senate Bill 267](#), sponsored by **Sen. Stewart Greenleaf** (R-12), would amend the Public School Code to codify that a school district may **excuse a student from school for a nondistrict sponsored educational trip** in addition to mental, physical, and other urgent reasons which are already permitted. The Senate adopted the bill **on concurrence** with House amendments by a vote of [49-0](#). The bill was signed in the House on April 9 and has been presented to the Governor for final approval.
- [Senate Resolution 349](#), sponsored by **Sen. Wayne Fontana** (D-42), recognizes the week of April 13 through 19, 2014, as **"National Library Week"** in Pennsylvania.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In September, the **Arts Education Partnership** (AEP) will bring national leaders in arts, culture, education, government, and philanthropy to Pittsburgh for the 2014 National Forum.

AEP is looking to highlight and honor a young visual artist in the Pittsburgh area through the **2014 AEP Young Artist Award**. Students between the ages of 12-18 are invited to submit an original work of visual art inspired by what they picture as the future of education in America.

A national review committee will select a finalist whose artwork will be featured as the cover of the program booklet for the AEP 2014 National Forum. The finalist also garners a monetary prize and takes the spotlight with his/her art teacher during a special award presentation at the Forum.

The **deadline for submissions is April 30**. [Click here](#) to download the complete guidelines and application materials.

EPLC NEWS

- On April 16, EPLC President **Ron Cowell** provided **testimony on universal pre-k and kindergarten** to the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee during a hearing in Philadelphia. [Click here](#) to read the written testimony.
- 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 continues to be updated as more information becomes available. [Click here](#) to visit the resource page.

DATEBOOK

For more complete information on upcoming events, please visit www.eplc.org and click on "Events Calendar."

- **Monday, April 21** is the **last day to register to vote before the May 20 primary election**.
- The Committee of Seventy, Congreso, and the Philadelphia Education Fund are hosting **Educating the Voter: A forum on public education** Democratic gubernatorial debate on **Wednesday, April 30** in Philadelphia. Registration is at capacity, but the event will be broadcast live on PCN from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.
- **Jump Street's annual Derby Day** will be held on **Saturday, May 3** at the Mount Hill Tavern in Harrisburg. [Click here](#) to purchase tickets.
- The **House Education Committee** and **House Health Committee** will hold a joint public hearing on the school-based ACCESS Program on **Wednesday, May 7** at 9:00 AM in Harrisburg.
- The **National School Foundation Association's Annual Conference** will be held **May 7 – 9** in Philadelphia. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.
- The **PA STEM Vision Conference: From Classroom to Career** will take place on **Friday, May 9** from 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM in Pittsburgh. The conference will provide an opportunity for education, business, and policymaking leaders to collaborate and reflect on best practices for student achievement, bridging the skills gap, workforce development, and cross-sector partnerships. [Click here](#) to see the agenda and register for the event (free). Act 48 credit is available.
- The **State Board of Education** will meet **May 14 – 15** in Harrisburg.

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