



The Education Policy and Leadership Center
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EPLC EDUCATION NOTEBOOK

Friday, April 25, 2014

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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.

Governor's Office

On April 18, **Governor Corbett signed into law** the following legislation:

- **House Bill 974** ([Act 35 of 2014](#)), sponsored by **Rep. Rosemary Brown** (R-189), amends the Public School Code to further provide for **automatic external defibrillators** (AEDs). Act 35 will 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, will 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. Act 35 shall take effect in 60 days.
- **Senate Bill 267** ([Act 40 of 2014](#)), sponsored by **Sen. Stewart Greenleaf** (R-12), amends 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. Act 40 shall take effect in 60 days.

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.

- Pollster and political pundit G. Terry Madonna on April 22 released the results of the **Terry Madonna Opinion Research Spring 2014 Omnibus Survey**. The statewide poll, conducted in February, included education questions commissioned by the **Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)**, the **Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA)**, the **Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA)**, and the **Central Pennsylvania Education Coalition (CPEC)**. Madonna and the education associations held a teleconference for members of the media on the day of the release. The survey reported that:

- 84% surveyed said they believe public schools have a “Very Strong” or “Some” effect on economic development;
- 71% surveyed said they believe the state investment in public schools needs to be “Much Larger” or “Somewhat Larger”;
- 67% said schools with greater number of students in poverty should “Definitely” or “Probably” receive more state funding;
- 72% said they “Strongly Favor” or “Somewhat Favor” using a school funding formula to ensure fair distribution of funding;
- 72% said “Definitely Yes” or “Probably Yes” to whether a school funding formula should account for state education priorities.

[Click here](#) for links to the official news release and nine news articles written about the poll.

EPLC NEWS

- You can find on the EPLC website a list of remaining **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. Gubernatorial candidates will be on the ballot for the May 20 Primary Election.

DATEBOOK

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

- The **House Education Committee** will meet on **Wednesday, April 30** at 9:30 AM in Harrisburg to consider the following bills: [HB 1213](#) (student debt reduction/PHEAA); [HB 2049](#) (Epi-Pens on school buses); [HB 2076](#) (AP articulation); [HB 2124](#) (PlanCon overhaul).

- The **Senate Finance Committee** will hold a hearing on [SB 76](#) (property tax elimination) on **Wednesday, April 30** at 9:30 AM in Harrisburg.
- **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.
- **Tuesday, May 20** is **Primary Election day** in Pennsylvania. Visit votespa.com for polling place information or other voting needs.

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