

2026, August 27 - PSBA REPORT

August 2026 Voting Session

Governance, Accountability and Family Engagement

PSBA continues to emphasize that effective school governance requires more than communication. It requires accountability, transparency, collaboration, informed decision-making, and mutual respect.

Board directors serve as part of a governing team, but each director also has an individual responsibility to ask questions, seek complete information, participate fully in discussion, and make decisions based on what best serves students, families, taxpayers, and the long-term interests of the district.

Strong governance also requires open and respectful communication among board directors, the board president, superintendent, district leadership, families, and the community. Difficult questions and differing viewpoints should be addressed professionally and constructively. Meaningful discussion and appropriate scrutiny strengthen decision-making and public confidence in the Board.

Families are essential partners in student success. Family engagement should be more than simply providing information. Parents and families should have meaningful opportunities to ask questions, raise concerns, receive timely responses, and participate in the educational process. Transparency and accessibility are fundamental to building and maintaining public trust.

August 2026, Legislative and Policy Updates

2026–27 State Education Budget

PSBA continues to review the impact of the 2026–27 education budget and related policy decisions on Pennsylvania school districts. Increased investments in basic education, special education, school facilities, and career and technical education are important, but districts must continue to evaluate whether state funding is sufficient, sustainable, and reaching the areas of greatest student need.

Cyber Charter Funding Reform

Cyber charter funding remains a significant financial concern for Pennsylvania public school districts. Reform efforts continue to focus on creating a funding system that is fair, transparent, and based on the actual cost of providing cyber education.

Every dollar committed to an outside educational provider is a dollar that must be accounted for locally. Funding decisions should protect educational opportunities for students while ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources.

School Facilities and PlanCon

Pennsylvania's need for long-term school infrastructure funding remains substantial. Districts face increasing costs for construction, renovation, maintenance, security, and aging facilities.

Without a reliable state partnership, these expenses are increasingly shifted to local communities. Sustainable state support for school infrastructure is therefore both an educational priority and a taxpayer issue.

Teacher Certification and Staffing

Legislation addressing teacher certification pathways, educational specialist credentials, classroom monitor permits, and staffing shortages continues to receive attention.

While districts must have reasonable tools to address legitimate staffing shortages, efforts to expand or accelerate certification pathways should not come at the expense of professional standards, instructional quality, or student outcomes. Staffing challenges should be addressed without lowering expectations for the qualifications and preparation of the professionals responsible for educating our students.

Student Safety and Wellness

Student safety and wellness legislation continues to focus on youth suicide awareness, student mental-health supports, anti-isolation resources, and physical school security.

These initiatives should be evaluated not simply by whether programs are implemented, but by whether they produce measurable improvements in student safety, access to support, and overall student well-being.

Continuing Priorities

PSBA continues to monitor:

- Basic education funding and adequacy
- Special education funding
- Cyber charter funding reform
- School construction, infrastructure, and PlanCon
- Career and technical education
- Teacher certification and staffing
- Student safety and wellness
- Property-tax implications for local communities

These are not simply legislative issues in Harrisburg. They directly affect the quality of education we can provide, the resources available to our students and staff, and the financial responsibility placed on our local taxpayers.

As board directors, our responsibility is not simply to receive information, but to understand its impact, ask appropriate questions, evaluate results, and ensure that district resources are being used effectively and responsibly.

I will continue to monitor PSBA and legislative developments and bring forward information that may directly affect our students, staff, district operations, finances, and community.