

About PASBO:

The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials is a professional association whose members are engaged in or provide products and services for school business management. The largest membership segment is the position of business administrator/business manager, but membership also consists of various other administrators in the fields of facilities, transportation, human resources, information technology, food service, communications, safety, purchasing, accounting and many more.

Core Purpose:

To develop educational leaders in school operations.

Core Organizational Values:

- Visionary & effective leadership
- Integrity & professionalism
- Objectivity & reliability
- Advocate for Public Education
- Adaptable & collaborative environment



PASBO Legislative Staff

Jay Himes, CAE

Executive Director
jhimes@pasbo.org

Jennifer Hoover-Vogel

Legislative & Research Coordinator
jhoover@pasbo.org

Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

Mailing Address:

PO Box 6993
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Building Address:

2608 Market Place
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Phone: (717) 541-9551

Fax: (717) 540-1796

http://www.pasbo.org



Policy Priorities

2010

**55th Annual Conference
First General Session**

School Funding: Supports continuing progress on phasing in the fair and predictable school funding formula enacted in July 2008 and improved in 2009; supports increased funding to offset the costs of special education mandates.

The formula could be further improved by assuring a 2% minimum increase and providing increased flexibility to allow school districts to use new funds for maintaining existing programs rather than be required to create new and expanded academic programs. Until December 31, 2010, school districts may seek waivers for up to 25% of the funding that exceeds inflation.

Cyber Charter Schools: Supports a more rational funding system, fund balance limitations and additional verification of enrollment for charter school students.

Tuition rates for all charter schools are based on expenditures of a sending school district, not on instructional expenses of the charter school, resulting in school districts paying varying costs to the same cyber charter school. Charter school fund balances have been shown to be in excess of their costs to educate their students.

Going Green: Supports incentives to encourage school entities to adopt green practices, including energy conservation, environmentally preferred purchasing, and resource reduction.

PSERS Employer Contribution Rates (ECR): Supports reducing the huge ECR beginning in 2010-2011 (8.22%) and creating future efficiencies in order to reduce costs to schools and taxpayers.

ECR projections show the projected FY 2011-2012 rate at 10.59%; the rate more than doubles in FY 2012-2013 to a dramatic 29.22%. Projections for subsequent fiscal years show the ECR as high as 33.60%. PASBO supports any legislation that would establish the system's normal cost as the floor for the ECR plus the healthcare program add-on.

Statewide Healthcare: Supports a statewide healthcare plan delivered at the regional level by consortia.

Existing consortia of local education agencies currently provide expertise and implement school employee's healthcare plans effectively while controlling future costs. PASBO therefore opposes any legislation that would create a new state bureaucracy with no proven cost control experience.

Annual Financial Report (AFR): Supports simplifying AFR reporting requirements.

Certain components of the AFR are unnecessary, time consuming and duplicative with the annual audit filing by local education agencies. Eliminating entity-wide statements from the AFR would, with no cost to the Commonwealth, improve administrative efficiencies within a school district, enabling them to better comply with the timing of departmental reporting requirements.

Tax Collectors' Compensation: Supports school districts' efforts to reduce real estate tax collection costs and to consolidate the process; supports local discretion in setting compensation.

School districts across the Commonwealth have implemented automated collection systems, e.g., lockboxes in which banks are authorized to collect school taxes. In so doing, school districts have improved efficiency, provided for the safety of their assets, enhanced liquidity and interest earnings, improved reporting, and realized significant savings. PASBO opposes any legislation that would thwart efforts of school districts to use less expensive, more up-to-date collection methods.

Mandate Waivers: Supports the reauthorization and expansion of the Mandate Waiver Program.

Previous mandate waivers for purchasing, advertising and single prime contracting have given schools options to reduce costs to taxpayers and eliminate inefficiencies. PASBO further supports improving the process through which a bill's fiscal impact is determined to avoid imposing additional costs on local education agencies.

Interest Rate SWAPS: Supports the adoption of amendments, regulations or policies to improve Act 23 of 2003 and enhance existing safeguards.

Interest rate management agreements, when properly used, can reduce risk and lower interest rate payments. PASBO opposes legislation that would ban SWAPS altogether.