

CCSBLC April 2024 Meeting

April 24, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Attendees:

Bill Wood (Chairperson, Avon Grove), Holly Charest (Coatesville), Samantha Jouin (Great Valley), Jennifer Kehs (Oxford), Dan Wiser (Phoenixville), Maryann Piccioni (Tredyffrin/Easttown), Jody Allen (Unionville-Chadds Ford), Christa Fazio (CCIU), Beth Edwards (CCIU)

1. Chairperson Bill Wood opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.
2. Christa Fazio, CCIU director of communications, marketing, and engagement, provided a legislative update as follows:
 - a. Legislation of interest:
 - i. SB801: Requires Universal Reading Screeners
 1. Beginning July 1, 2025, a school entity shall screen each student enrolled in kindergarten through third grade three times a year for reading competency using a universal reading screener chosen from the list of approved universal reading screeners.
 2. Provides that a school entity should provide educators time during the contractual school day to complete tasks associated with the screener, communicate with families and any other responsibility required in this section, further providing for exceptions for students.
 3. Requires a list of universal reading screeners and structured literacy intervention approaches be made publicly available online by the department before December 1, 2024, further provides for qualifications for universal reading screeners.
 4. Requires the department to provide professional development on reading screening and literary intervention. Provides for qualifications in which a student is identified to be at risk for reading failure or deficiency. Establishes school entities develop reading intervention plans and set up a system for parental notification for students with reading deficiencies.
 5. Allows the department to apply for grants and establishes where funding can be found. Requires school entities to submit a report on the instruction and its curriculum, further providing for accessibility of the report and to whom it should be submitted.
 6. Has left committee, up for review with Senate.
 - ii. HB2043: Restrict student use of mobile devices during the school day

1. Asserts that a student of a public school entity may not possess or use a mobile device during the school day in a school building of the public school entity.
 2. Provides that a student must deposit their mobile device in a lockbox, case or pouch with a locking mechanism or other secure location at the beginning of the school day for the duration of the school day, and the student may retrieve the mobile device from the secure storage location at the end of the day.
 3. Provides for exceptions in which subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to a student. Allows that an authority of the public school entity may approve of the possession and use of the mobile device by the student during the school day in a school building of the public school entity.
 4. Directs a public school entity to develop or update its written policies and that the written policies shall include a process for students and parents to contact each other during the school day.
 5. To be added to agenda for next month's round table discussion.
- iii. SB454: Interscholastic Sports for Phys. Ed Requirement (Intro.- Dush) First consideration in Senate Education Committee with Amendment (3-19-24)
1. Physical Education (a) The board of school directors in every school district shall establish a curriculum aligned with Pennsylvania academic standards on health, safety and physical education.
 2. (b) The board of school directors shall permit students to satisfy the physical education curriculum requirement under subsection (a) by participation in an interscholastic sport. A student may utilize participation in an interscholastic sport to satisfy the physical education requirement twice per school year, the utilization of which must be during the interscholastic sport's season.
 3. "Interscholastic sport" shall mean athletic contests or competitions conducted between or among schools.
 4. Amendment passed – move from “shall” to “may.” Passed on first consideration by the Senate Education Committee.
- iv. HB 663: Students Involved in School District Residency Disputes (McNeil)
1. If it is found that the parents, guardians, et., do not reside in the district and a determination is made that the child is not otherwise entitled to free school privileges, the child may not be disenrolled from the school until:
 2. The parents, etc., are provided an opportunity to appeal the decision through a hearing held pursuant to an appropriate grievance policy of the district and any appeal has been exhausted.

3. After the parents, etc., have been provided notice of such a hearing, the parent, etc., decline to participate in a hearing pursuant to the grievance policy or appeals process.
 4. After the parents, etc., have been provided information from the district's liaison for homeless children and youth regarding the educational rights of homeless students.
 5. A court enters an order directing the child to be disenrolled/enrolled in a different school.
 6. Passed the Senate Education Committee unanimously.
- v. HB 502: National Guard and Reserve parent student support (Guent)
1. An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14) providing for National Guard and Reserve parent student support
 2. A student who is a child of a member of the National Guard and Reserve shall be afforded the same rights as a student of an active duty military family under the act of February 2, 2012 (P.L.42, No.6), known as the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Act, if a parent is required to move to perform the parent's responsibilities in the service of the National Guard or Reserve, resulting in the student having to transfer from a public school in one state to a public school in another state.
 3. Passed the House unanimously.
- vi. HB 1875: AP Exam Cost Reduction (Intro. By Malagari)
1. An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14) providing professional development and for access to advanced courses for all students; establishing the Access to Advanced Courses for All Students Grant Program;
 2. This bill will cover an 80% exam fee reduction to all AP and International Baccalaureate (IB) students. School districts will be responsible to cover the remaining 20% for students with financial need, and may also choose to do so for all students. School districts may use federal funds to cover its portion of the exam fee.
 3. Passed the House on 3rd Consideration.
- vii. HB 974: Right to Know Exception (Intro. By Hanbidge)
1. An Act amending the act of February 14, 2008 (P.L.6, No.3), known as the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.
 2. This bill exempts reference notes and working papers prepared by or for a public official or public employee that are used to accommodate an individual's disability.
 3. Passed the House on 3rd Consideration.
- viii. HB 1434: Dual Credit Innovation and Equity Grant

1. Award grants to public institutions of higher education (IHE) that offer dual credit opportunities to high school students enrolled in a school entity.
 2. Funds may be used for tuition free dual credit (DC) courses, gain accreditation for DC courses, low/no cost course materials, PD for HS teachers to teach DC courses, provide a system of student supports to be success in DC courses.
 3. Priority given to IHEs that emphasize coursework aligned with high-priority career paths, service to students from low-income backgrounds, CTE programs, historically underserved student groups, students in rural areas.
 4. Annual data collection by PDE on specifics of program.
 5. Passed the House on 3rd Consideration.
- ix. HB 1665: Comprehensive school counseling services
1. Legislation would create the School Counseling Services Act - requires that schools develop a robust and comprehensive school counseling plan. The plan would ensure that academic, career planning, and social and emotional learning concerns are addressed, would include a multilevel school data review to determine student needs, and would align with guidance from the PDE.
 2. This bill would spell out the way in which counselors spend their time, requiring that they spend at least 80% of their working time engaged in direct and indirect services to students on days that students were in school. These services could involve academic advising, career planning, social and emotional skill building, intervening with students at risk of dropping out, orienting new and transferring students, and contributing to decision-making teams and programs that directly impact students and families. Administrative responsibilities could take up no more than 20% of their time.
3. Christa Fazio provides preview of Day on the Hill as follows:
- a. PAIU
 - i. Basic Education Funding
 - ii. Special Education Funding
 - iii. School-based Mental Health Needs
 - iv. Educator Workforce Shortages
 - v. Early Childhood Education Funding
 - vi. School Facilities
 - vii. School Safety and Security
 - viii. IUs Owning Learning Facilities
 - ix. Updated State Mandates Checklist
 - b. PASA
 - i. Basic Education Funding (BEF)

- ii. Special Education Funding (SEF)
- iii. Early Childhood Funding- Early intervention, Head Start, and Pre-K
- iv. Mental Health Initiatives
- v. Charter School Tuition
- vi. Safety and Security
- vii. IUs owning property
- viii. Educator Workforce Shortages
- ix. Schools Facilities Funding
- x. Cross-county taxation
- c. Will also discuss CTE funding
- d. Early childhood education funding
- e. Participating districts
 - i. Avon Grove
 - ii. Oxford
 - iii. Octorara
 - iv. Unionville

4. Member Discussion:

- a. Jody Allen of Unionville-Chadds Ford: Multi-county tax legislation
 - i. Still waiting on bill number
- b. Dan Wiser of Phoenixville: JROTC Act
 - i. Will reduce minimum number of enrolled students from 10% of student population or 100 students to 50.
 - ii. Possible thank you note to Chrissy Houlahan for supporting this act.
- c. Chairperson Bill Wood of Avon Grove: Thanked the districts for getting resolutions on fair funding to the Boards.
 - i. 10 out of 12 districts passed it.
 - ii. Conversations with districts in Delaware County and Montgomery County
- d. Chairperson Bill Wood of Avon Grove: Thanked the CCIU for providing list of state mandates.
 - i. What should the districts ask of the legislators to fix this issue?
 - ii. Talk to the superintendents to explore this.
- e. Christa Fazio of CCIU: Feedback on meeting sturcture.
 - i. Jennifer Kehs of Oxford: The Board truly appreciates the updates provided in this meeting.
 - ii. Samantha Jouin of Great Valley: What do other counties do?
 - 1. Sometimes the information overlaps with superintendent's councils. Is there a way to stay informed on what the hot topics are for the superintendents?
 - iii. Chairperson Bill Wood of Avon Grove: Boards are not always aligned with superintendents. Need to ensure alignment with both. It is helpful to know what other Boards are doing. Also noted that the bills being presented are highly relevant, focused, and likely to see movement.
- f. Jennifer Kehs of Oxford: Asked if there are updates or delays pertaining to the budget.

- g. Chairperson Bill Wood of Avon Grove: Ask if other districts would be interested in comparing phone policies.
- 5. CCSBLC Meeting Schedule:
 - a. IN PERSON: May 22, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. @ CCIU
 - b. VIRTUAL: June 26, 2024 @ 6:30 p.m.
- 6. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.