

## CCSBLC June 2024 Meeting

June 26, 2024

*Virtual Meeting*

### Attendees:

Bill Wood (Chairperson, Avon Grove), Caryn Ghrayeb (Downingtown), Samantha Jouin (Great Valley), Matt Hurley (Octorara), Dan Wisner (Phoenixville), Maryann Piccioni (Tredyffrin/Easttown), Jody Allen (Unionville-Chadds Ford), Alex Christy (West Chester), Christa Fazio (CCIU), Melissa Smith (CCIU)

1. Chairperson Bill Wood of Avon Grove opened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.
  2. Christa Fazio, CCIU director of communications, marketing, and engagement, provided a legislative update as follows:
    - a. Remaining 2024 Session Days before summer break: PA House and Senate
      - i. June 27, 28, 29, 30
    - b. Legislation of interest:
      - i. **HB 2370 (Sturla): A Thorough and Efficient System of Public Education**
        1. Includes cyber charter funding and accountability reforms (as was set in HB 1422)
        2. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, a cyber charter school shall be paid by a student's school district of residence using the Statewide Cyber Charter School Tuition Rate, or the rate calculated under section 1725-A(a)(2), whichever is lower.
        3. For the 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years, for non-special education students, a cyber charter school shall receive for each student enrolled eight thousand dollars (\$8,000). This amount shall be the Statewide Cyber Charter School Tuition Rate.
        4. For special education students, a cyber charter school shall receive the Statewide Cyber Charter School Tuition Rate adjusted as follows:
        5. For each special education student enrolled in the cyber charter school, multiply the Statewide Cyber Charter School Tuition Rate by one and sixty-four hundredths (1.64).
        6. If the cyber charter school determines that the annual expenditure for providing special education specific services and programs to an enrolled student is likely to meet or exceed the amount specified under section 1372(8) for Category 2, the cyber charter school may apply to the department for an increase in the Statewide Cyber Charter School Tuition Rate for the student.
- HB 2370 also includes Increases in the stability and predictability in PA's current fair funding formula.**

7. Determines an adequate spending target for each school district and commits to paying down the adequacy gap over a period of seven years.
  8. Statewide, the state is responsible for a \$5.1 billion adequacy gap across 371 school districts
  9. Closing this gap over a 7-year period requires a \$735 million adequacy investment each year
  10. School districts are required to spend these funds on programs that are proven to improve student success.
  11. Provides tax equity payments for the school districts with the highest tax burdens relative to their local resources.
  12. This funding (\$1 billion over seven years) will help 169 school districts provide property tax relief or mitigate future increases
  13. [Spreadsheet with the 2024/25 estimates](#) and the 7-year adequacy and equity gaps by school district from the Basic Education Funding Commission's majority report.
  14. Does not include the \$200 million annual increase in BEF formula. This concern particularly plays out when reviewing the following section of HB 2370 where they prioritize the funding, as this \$200 million is missing in the priority listing. We recommend it is added as top priority - under (i) with the resetting of the base.
  15. *If insufficient funds are appropriated to make the Commonwealth payments required under this section, the Department of Education shall make payments on a pro rata basis in the following priority order:*
    - a. *The payments under subsection (b.2)(1).*
    - b. *The payments under section 2502.56(b).*
    - c. *The payments under section 2502.56(c).*
  16. Bill passed the House on June 9 and is currently sitting in the Senate Education Committee.
- ii. **[SB 801](#) (Aument, A. Williams): Literacy Achievement for all Pennsylvanians**
1. Continuing to move forward on this bill. We expect that this bill (801) will pass in this budget season.
  2. Possible scaffolded approach to implement in schools over several years (K and 1- 1st year, 2nd added year 2, etc.)
  3. Added need to use approved Professional Development programs.
  4. Passed the Senate June 11 and currently sits in the House Education Committee.
- iii. **[SB 913](#): (Langerholc) - Requiring Parental Consent for School Based Web Counseling Services**
1. Consent required.--A school entity may not provide or coordinate any virtual mental health services for a student whose parent or guardian has not provided consent under this section.

2. Obtaining consent.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a school entity providing or coordinating virtual mental health services shall, no later than 14 days after the beginning of the school year, obtain a completed form with the consent of the parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age prior to providing or coordinating virtual mental health services to the student.
    - a. Amended by Education Committee to replace “no later than 14 days...” with “annually”
  3. SB913 has gone through second consideration and was recently reported as committed from Appropriations (6/26) meaning it could pass the Senate this week.
- iv. **SB 971: (Coleman) - Weapons in Schools: Providing for the notification of parents and guardians when a weapon is brought onto school grounds or related activities.**
1. *Amendment*
    - a. Adds (3) If the school building at which the incident occurs shares a campus with other school buildings, the school entity shall make notification to parents and guardians of students enrolled in or attending, or school employees assigned to, any building situated on the shared campus.
    - b. Amend Bill, page 2, by inserting between lines 25 and 26 (5) Subject to 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family educational and privacy rights), a school employee to whom a student in possession of a weapon under subsection (a) is assigned shall be deemed to be a school official with legitimate educational interest in the student, and the school entity shall notify the school employee of the student's identity and portion of the student's records relating to the incident.
  2. School leaders continue to advocate to retain the ability to discern intent when dealing with a weapon issue. For example, if a child left a knife in his backpack after a camping trip and reported it to the principal's office, that instance would not need to trigger a notification requirement.
  3. Passed second consideration and was just reported as committed from Appropriations on June 26 meaning it could potentially be based through the Senate in the coming week.
- v. **SB 1171: (Argall) - Volunteer Training for the Administration of Emergency Seizure Treatment in Schools**
1. It is the policy of this Commonwealth to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people by permitting a school district or charter school participation in a program to provide, in the absence of a credentialed school nurse or other licensed nurse onsite at the school or charter school, emergency medical assistance to pupils with epilepsy suffering from seizures.

2. In order to meet that goal, it is the intent of the General Assembly that licensed health care professionals train and supervise employees of school districts and charter schools to administer an emergency anti-seizure medication to children with epilepsy in public schools.
  3. In the absence of a credentialed school nurse or other licensed nurse onsite at the school or charter school, a school district or charter school may elect to participate in a program to allow nonmedical employees to volunteer to provide emergency medical assistance upon request by a parent or guardian.
  4. Note that this is voluntary for a school to participate but does provide us options if there is absence of a school nurse. We would expect something similar to this bill to be included in this year's school code bill.
  5. This bill was committed out of the Education committee and went through first consideration on June 12
  6. The partner bill is HB1990 which also was committed out of the House Education committee and went through first consideration on June 3.
- vi. **SB1252: (Argall) – Requiring Reporting of School Building Conditions**
1. Duty of Department.--By October 1, 2024, the Department shall develop a facilities condition assessment form for a school entity to use in filing assessments under subsection (d). The form shall require the following information to be reported:
    - a. School entity enrollment.
    - b. A list of the names, addresses, building age, including dates and descriptions of major renovations, owned or leased status, including who is responsible for maintenance, of all school entity buildings.
  2. Duty of school entities. By October 1, 2025, and every seven years thereafter, a school entity shall submit a facilities condition assessment to the department. The assessment may be conducted by an individual with professional qualifications and experience in architecture, engineering, construction or facilities management.
  3. Went through second consideration in the Senate and currently sits with Appropriations (since June 24).
- vii. **HB 2386 (Topper)- Expand the scope of grants available for administrative partnerships**
1. Legislation that will expand the scope of grants available for administrative partnerships, ensuring that they encompass instructional programming partnerships and consolidation feasibility studies. By providing financial incentives, this legislation aims to empower school entities to explore and embrace innovative models of collaboration that will yield lasting benefits for our educational system and the students it serves.
  2. Amendment 05070 (Abney)

- a. Removes the term consolidation to broaden the scope that the feasibility studies may focus on.
  - b. Adds parameters to the shared service agreements to ensure their focus is to provide students with more or better academic opportunities.
  - c. Permits a school district to explore intradistrict school mergers through a feasibility study grant and adds additional areas that a feasibility study may address.
  - d. Changes the savings clause language to reflect the language in the Public Employee Relations Act.
  - e. It also clarifies that grant funding is dependent on funding being made available for the program by the General Assembly.
3. There are no mandates with this bill, but this bill would provide grant funds for those interested in exploring ways to develop partnerships with other school entities in programs and services (such as business office, courses for students, funds to do a financial study for possible consolidation, etc.)
  4. PASA supports this bill. Sharing of services is a good strategy to consider as our budgets tighten. This is not a mandate or a call to consolidate districts. We believe this will be part of the school code bill this year.
  5. Passed out of the House Education and through first consideration on June 24; currently sits with Rules Committee.
- viii. **HB 1526: (Ciresi)** - Removes the limitation on intermediate units to rent facilities and allows them to own instructional space and use facilities they already have for instructional purposes. (Ciresi)
1. Amendment 05068 (Ciresi)- school safety targeted grants for nonpublic schools would be awarded directly to the Non-Public Schools and not go through the IUs. PCCD would administer the grants.
  2. Reported as amended from Education Committee June 24 and completed first consideration; Currently sits with Rules Committee
  3. SB1187 is Senator Comitta's companion bill re: IUs owning property. Her bill currently sits in the Senate Education Committee.
- ix. **SB 1266 (Brown)** – Special Education Cyber/Charter School Funding
1. This legislation implements the bipartisan 2013 Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation for applying the same special education funding principles used to distribute state special education funding to school districts, in the calculation used to determine a school district's tuition payment for a special education student enrolled in a charter school.
  2. Introduced June 21 and sits in the Senate Education Committee.

- x. **SB 1157 (Argall)** – Roman’s Law – Delayed School Enrollment for Children with Autism, Developmental Delays, or Intellectual Disabilities
  - 1. Companion legislation to HB2124, this legislation will allow parents or guardians of a child who has reached the compulsory school age of six to request a waiver from the Department of Education to delay compulsory attendance if the child has been diagnosed with autism, developmental delays or intellectual disabilities.
  - 2. Public School Code requires all children to begin compulsory education at age six. This bill would provide a limited exception to allow parents or guardians to request a waiver for up to one-year from the compulsory attendance requirement if:
    - a. The child has been diagnosed by a qualified health professional with autism spectrum disorder or has been identified by the State as having developmental delays or intellectual disabilities.
    - b. The child has been evaluated by a qualified health professional in the last six months and has been recommended for continued intensive early intervention services.
    - c. The parent or guardian provides evidence of alternative services being provided or documentation of their efforts to obtain such services.
- xi. **HB 2311: (Schlossberg)** - establishes a pilot program to implement annual mental health screenings for students in grades 6-12.
  - 1. A05050 (Schweyer) - cleanup language to address drafting errors and remove the \$15 million appropriation.
  - 2. Amendment 5067 (Gleim)
    - a. Changes the opt out provisions under the bill. Parent/guardian may opt out of MH screening according to this section.
    - b. School District must inform the department in writing if no longer want to participate in the program by May 1 of preceding year.
    - c. It adds the Mental Health Procedures Act in reference to preventing unauthorized disclosure of records or information involving the mental health screening process as part of an involuntary examination and treatment commitment under this act.
    - d. Requires a school entity who no longer participates in the mental health screening program to destroy student records pertaining to the program.
  - 3. PASA worked with PSBA on this bill to make it less prescriptive. These changes are not reflected in either of the amendments but are to be addressed in future versions.

4. Has undergone two Corrective Reprints – the most recent one on June 25 – sits in Rules Committee
- xii. **House Resolution 481: (Abney)**- Directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Commission to conduct a study and provide the legislature with information on the barriers to entry into CTE programs students face.
1. RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a study, issue a report and make recommendations on the current barriers to students being accepted into career and technical education programs and schools; and be it further RESOLVED, That the report include:
    - a. the number of students placed on wait lists or turned away due to capacity or condition of facilities or staffing, per area of study;
    - b. the number of students without access to career and technical education programming due to a lack of program availability in their home district;
    - c. the number of students placed on wait lists or turned away due to capacity or condition of facilities or staffing, per career and technical center and high-school based program.
  2. This should move through the House this week. As a resolution, it only needs to pass in one chamber. Reported as committed from House Education Committee on June 24.
- xiii. **SB 366: (Lindsey Williams)** – Ensuring Predictability of Career and Technical Education Funding- Locks in data for CTE funding formula on the first day of June
1. Currently, the annual distribution of Career & Technical Education funding is finalized in late April of each school year. Not knowing the funding allocation until close to the end of the school year makes it difficult for both CTCs and school districts to plan. For this reason, the Special Education and Basic Education funding formulas were changed to now be set on June 1 of every year. This bill would make the same change to CTE funding and lock in the data as of June 1.
  2. Passed second consideration on June 26 and currently sits in Senate Appropriations.
- xiv. **SB 1207 (Aument): Limiting Access to Smartphones and Social Media in Schools**  
*Section 1321- B: Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program*
1. Bill sponsored by Sen. Aument – Limiting Access to Smartphones and Social Media in Schools
  2. Establishment - The Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program is established in the commission. The purpose of the program shall be to provide funding to cover the costs of purchasing secure cell phone lockable bags. The committee shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this section and subject to availability of funds, award grants

to successful applicants and ensure that grant funding under the program is geographically dispersed throughout this Commonwealth. The number of applicants chosen shall be contingent upon the amount of funding allocated.

3. Duties -A school entity that participates in the program must:
  - a. Create a school entity policy that prohibits the use of cell phones during school time and employs the use of cell phone lockable bags. The policy shall provide for exemptions for students who have a documented medical condition that necessitates the use of the phone, such as diabetes. The school entity's adopted policy shall be posted on the school entity's publicly accessible Internet website.
  - b. Track changes over the course of two school years in student mental health, incidents of bullying, incidents of violence, and academic performance and submit that information to the commission. The committee shall develop a uniform report method for the school entity to use to track each of the metrics.
4. Passed second consideration on June 26 and currently sits in Senate Appropriations

xv. **SB 1208 (Aument): Individualized Plan to Administer Medication**

1. The policy shall require a child of school age and their parent/guardian to request an individualized plan to administer medication for medical emergencies not able to be treated by an asthma inhaler or epinephrine auto-injector. Upon receipt of the request for an individualized medication plan, the school entity shall, in collaboration with the parent or guardian and school nurse, develop an individualized medication plan for the student.
2. If the individualized medication plan allows a student to self-administer medication, the student must demonstrate the capability for self-administration and for responsible behavior in the use thereof and to notify the school nurse immediately following each use the medication.
3. The individualized medication plan must include the following:
  - a. Written request from the parent or guardian of the student for medication to be administered in a school setting.
  - b. Written statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant..
  - c. The ability of the school entity to reserve the right to require a statement from the physician, certified registered nurse practitioner or physician assistant for the continued use a medicine beyond a specified time period. The school entity shall also require updated prescriptions and parental approvals on an annual basis from the pupil.



- d. A copy of the individualized medication plan signed by the parent or guardian, school nurse, and school administrator.
  - 4. One concern is the waiver. Can a parent sign for the child? Can a minor sign the waiver without a parent? There are rights questions yet to be determined. Should this be a 504 or a separate piece?
  - 5. Reported as committed from Senate Education Committee and went through first consideration on June 25.
- xvi. **State Board—Academic Standards and Assessment—Public Comment**
  - 1. The State Board of Education (Board) recently introduced a proposed rulemaking that might be of interest.
  - 2. The proposal, “Academic Standards and Assessment,” was delivered to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and the Senate and House Education Committees for review on May 21, 2024. A copy of the proposal, as it was delivered to those parties, can be found on IRRC’s website – <https://www.irrc.state.pa.us/regulations/RegSrchrslts.cfm?ID=3419> .
  - 3. This copy of the proposal includes the required Regulatory Analysis Form and copies of any forms referenced in the rulemaking. If IRRC has any comments on the proposal, those comments must be delivered to the Board by August 14, 2024.
  - 4. The proposal was published in the June 15, 2024, edition of the Pennsylvania Bulletin and opened for public comment. See <https://www.pacodeandbulletin.gov/Display/pabulletin/data/vol54/54-24/822.html>

3. Member Discussion:

a. Proposed Transportation Bill

- i. Ms. Caryn Ghrayeb mentioned that Senator Comitta has inquired with the Superintendents on what the largest priority would be in terms of a transportation bill that would reduce the amount of mileage we would have to transport children to non-public schools. For example, should we reduce the mileage to 5 miles outside of the district? Should we measure from the child's home to the school? Should it only be reserved for students that are on free and reduce lunch? Should crossing state lines be restricted?
- ii. Ms. Maryann Piccioni mentioned that there had been some discussion at the TESD legislative breakfast around recognizing the potential impact for regions where population isn’t as dense as it is in Chester County.
- iii. Mr. Jody Allen mentioned that the options being considered may not be mutually exclusive.
- iv. Mr. Wood and Ms. Ghrayeb both indicated a need for obtaining data to determine what the actual financial impact might be for various options.
- v. Mr. Wood will work on putting together a list of desired data points that the group can collectively work with their business managers to obtain information.

b. Multi-County Taxation Update ([SB 1239](#))

- i. Mr. Allen provided an update on how his district has worked with local legislators to help draft the bill currently in the Senate. The language follows very closely to what was recommended.
    - ii. The bill is a bipartisan bill with multiple co-sponsors (led by Senators Kane and Comitta). A House bill has been in the works as well (Representatives Sappey, Pielli, and Williams), but has not yet been published.
    - iii. Mr. Allen is now working to garner further support in neighboring counties where districts are facing the same challenges.
  - c. Mr. Wood called attention to [SB 27](#) which is calling for a moratorium on all cyber charters, as well as [SB 97](#) seeking to pilot community engaged schools.
  - d. Mr. Allen called attention to the recently passed legislation regarding the moment of silence for September 11. [HB 1097](#) was signed by the Governor on June 17, passing Act 25 of 2024.
  - e. Mr. Daniel Wiser provided an updated on his district's Air Force JROTC which was able to identify a candidate. US Senator Chrissy Houlahan was able to step in to help ensure a continuation of their program and is also seeking changes in law that lower the required number of participants.
  - f. Mr. Wood thanked the team for their work on the resolutions surrounding school vouchers as [SB 795](#) has come alive again. He mentioned work he has been doing to continue the conversations with local legislators and has recommended the group consider utilizing the Governor's text line to reinforce the points of the resolution.
4. Ms. Fazio led a discussion regarding the 2024-25 CCSBLC Meeting Schedule
  - a. Ms. Fazio recommended keeping an in-person meeting in September (start of school year) and February (budget address and possible new members) and moving to virtual the remainder of the year.
  - b. Ms. Piccioni supported the plan.
  - c. Ms. Samantha Jouin also supported but did ask that a virtual option still be made available for the two in-person meetings. She also recommended that if the purpose of in-person is to also allow the committee to get to know each other better that there perhaps be more time made available for such activity.
  - d. Committee agreed to moving to virtual, except for in-person meetings in September and February. Ms. Fazio reminded the committee that an in-person opportunity also exists in March/April with the legislative breakfast.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37p.m.