FAQs About PSEA

Where is the Central-Western Region of PSEA?

PSEA is structured into 11 geographic regions across the state. The Central-Western (CW) Region includes all local associations in the following counties:

• Armstrong
• Bedford
• Cambria
• Indiana
• Jefferson
• Somerset

Where are our Region Offices located?

Central-Western Region has two offices to best serve our geographically spread out region.

Indiana Office:
39 N. 7th Street
Suite 200
Indiana, PA 15713

Johnstown Office:
330 Bloomfield Street
Johnstown, PA 15904

What’s the best way to keep up with CW Region information?

Visit the website at psea.org/cwr AND join our closed Facebook group, “PSEA Central-Western Region” – we verify membership status so only PSEA members can be a part of this group.

Central-Western Region News

A Message from Maria Heinrich
Central-Western Region President and Fourth Grade Teacher

Ending the School Year Like Never Before: Something definitely is off about the end of school this year. Canceled field trips and activities, no yearbook signing, modified graduation ceremonies - maybe we never realized just how important some of these traditions were until we were unable to provide them for our students. But across our region, PSEA members still managed to make a difference for our students, to celebrate their achievements and to make the end of the year a special time. That’s what we do. That’s who we are. We are educators and school nurses and guidance counselors who want to see our students succeed. And we are an inextricable part of their success – yes, even remotely.

We’ve been tested in ways I never could have guessed and we’ve made it work, we’ve relied on our creativity and our ability to adapt and to lead. It hasn’t been easy, but we made it! And whether it was a funny post, an encouraging sign, a parade or a supportive email, it’s us – their teachers – who have made the end of the school year special for our students.

I wish that you all have a safe, healthy and enjoyable summer.

Blairsville Saltsburg Education Association members participate in a parade to show their support for students and families in the school district. Great Job, BSEA!
**Staff Spotlight**

Jen Statler, Assistant Director of Government Relations

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**How long have you worked for PSEA and what do you do?**

I started in 2004 as an associate in GR. In 2016, I became the Assistant Director of Government Relations. I manage and guide PSEA’s elite member advocacy program, Advocates for Children and Education (ACE) where I train and lead members to talk to, share stories, and build relationships with their elected officials. I am also heavily involved in our election program, and member-to-member communications (phone banks, postcards). I am also the staff consultant to PSEA’s Adler and Human and Civil Rights Selection Committee and coordinate the Celebrating Excellence Dinner.

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**Dog or cat person?** Dog! I used to want to be a veterinarian (and started as a pre-med major at IUP). We currently have a 10-year old Brittany named Kassie. Her breeder is a CW PSEA-Retired member, Jim Johnson!

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**What are you looking forward to doing most once stay-at-home orders are lifted?** Get my hair done and a pedicure!

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**School Funding – What Will it Look Like for 2020-2021?**

**Pennsylvania Budget:**

On May 28, the PA Senate approved a state budget bill that includes no cuts to basic and higher education. The bill funds K-12 public schools and colleges and universities for 12 months at the same funding levels they received in FY 2019-20. The budget bill now goes to the governor's desk for his signature and he is expected to sign it soon.

**The Need for Federal Funding:**

Contact your U.S. senators and urge them to support $175 billion in emergency federal aid for public education.

**Why is this important?**

- School districts project they could lose as much as $1 billion in revenue because of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.
- The state projects that it could lose as much as $3.7 billion in revenue because of the economic impacts of the COVID-19 emergency.
- Because of state and school district balanced budget and tax increase limits, there is little they can do to provide the resources schools need to open safely and avoid furloughs and program cuts.
- If school districts don’t have the resources they need, it could result in 40,000 furloughs, cuts to music, art, sports, and libraries, and increases in class sizes.

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**The PA Department of Education announced guidance on the physical re-opening of schools for the fall.**

Elementary and secondary schools in the yellow and green phase may provide in-person instruction after developing a written Health and Safety Plan, securing approval by each school entity's governing body and posting the plan on the school or district's publicly available website.

For more information on the Health and Safety Plan requirements, visit PDE’s website at [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov)