



President's Status Report
On the Actions
of the
New Business Items
from the
December 2021
House of Delegates

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. W. Askey", is positioned above the printed name.

Richard W. Askey
PSEA President



NEW BUSINESS ITEMS
PENNSYLVANIA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
December 3-4, 2021
Philadelphia and Virtual

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 1 – Passed

PSEA will advocate for an inclusive workforce and support programs across the state, including Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Aspiring to Educate program, in calling for the cultivation and diversification of the state’s educator pool.

Moved by: Drew Gingrich
Cornwall-Lebanon EA

Seconded by: Jody Barksdale
Harrisburg EA

Status Update: PSEA has been working for an inclusive workforce by advocating for legislation and policies that cultivate and diversify the state’s educator pool and attract and retain a diverse new generation of educators.

For example, PSEA is advocating for Senate Bill 99, legislation that proposes evidence-based strategies to support a robust and diverse pipeline of aspiring educators now and in the future. First, this legislation would establish high school CTE programs that are specifically designed to provide students with early exposure to K-12 education career pathways and allow interested students to begin their career training and credentialing—at no cost—while still in high school. In addition, SB 99 expands dual enrollment/dual credit programs, which - if funded - can make post-secondary education significantly more affordable. Third, the legislation would establish the Diversification of Education Workforce Fund, which would provide competitive grants to institutions of higher education to increase diversity within teacher preparation programs. Fourth, the bill provides a temporary waiver of the basic skills exam for entry into a PA teacher prep program. Finally, the bill would require PDE to collect and publish data, set goals, and coordinate efforts around teacher recruitment, retention, and diversity.

PSEA staff also participated in the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Attract-Prepare-Retain focus group and Statewide Steering Committee, offering feedback and policy recommendations.

Additionally, PSEA now offers new professional learning opportunities to help members develop welcoming work cultures: content in diversity and social justice, and curriculum and equity audits, as well as culturally responsive pedagogy. These classes also are designed to help educators reflect their profession in a way that might be more likely to attract students of color to the profession.

The Aspiring to Educate program continues to be Philadelphia-specific. PSEA has monitored the pilot program in anticipation of a statewide RFP release in late spring/early summer.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 2 – Passed

PSEA will advocate for and actively pursue policies and state legislation that emphasize academic integrity and empower teachers to teach authentic experiences, histories, identities, perspectives, stories, and voices without fear of disciplinary repercussion, retaliation, or termination.

Moved by: Drew Gingrich
Cornwall-Lebanon EA

Seconded by: Michele Rolko
Harrisburg EA

Status Update: PSEA has pushed back against a number of efforts to censor and attack educators who are merely doing their jobs. This includes successfully stopping—for now—proposals to require educators to post all instructional material online (HB 1332), and HB 2521 (the so-called Anti Indoctrination in Education Act), which would allow for the punishment of educators who “indoctrinate” their students.

PSEA has also proactively advocated for proposals to restore the educator pipeline and diversify the education profession by working in support of bills like Senate Bill 99, legislation that proposes evidence-based strategies to support a robust and diverse pipeline of aspiring educators now and in the future. First, this legislation would establish high school CTE programs that are specifically designed to provide students with early exposure to K-12 education career pathways and allow interested students to begin their career training and credentialing—at no cost—while still in high school. In addition, SB 99 expands dual enrollment/dual credit programs, which - if funded- can make post-secondary education significantly more affordable. Third, the legislation would establish the Diversification of Education Workforce Fund, which would provide competitive grants to institutions of higher education to increase diversity within teacher preparation programs. Fourth, the bill provides a temporary waiver of the basic skills exam for entry into a PA teacher prep program. Finally, the bill would require PDE to collect and publish data, set goals, and coordinate efforts around teacher recruitment, retention, and diversity.

PSEA supports local association efforts to advocate for school curriculum decisions that are in line with state standards, based on educator input, and focused on helping students learn to be critical thinkers, informed citizens, and good future leaders. PSEA represents members if any adverse employment action is taken against them for teaching age-appropriate curriculum.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 4 – Passed

PSEA will review the definition of Specialized Instructional Support Personnel in the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. A report of the review will be provided to the Department of Pupil Personnel Services, the Special Education Board, and the Board of Directors for consideration of potential future recommendations.

Moved by: Renee Driscoll
Erie EA

Seconded by: Marcia Tome
Erie EA

Status Update: PSEA staff in the Education Services, Government Relations, and Legal Divisions have initiated this review. They are tentatively planning to provide a report to the Special Education Board for their review and input at their June 2022 meeting, and to the Department of Pupil Personnel Services for their review and input at their August 2022 meeting. Thereafter, but prior to the December 2022 House of Delegates, a report will be provided the PSEA Board of Directors for consideration of future recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS ITEM 5 – Passed

PSEA shall form a task force to explore the possible solutions to the substitute teacher crisis in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Membership in this group should represent a diverse cross section of our union including but not limited to members in urban, suburban and rural districts. Solutions generated from this task force will be presented to the PSEA Board of Directors to consider potential future actions. This task force will sunset after three years but may be extended for an additional two years by the PSEA Board of Directors. Any further extension of this task force will require authorization from the PSEA House of Delegates.

Moved by: Brad Pawlikowski
Bristol Township EA

Seconded by: Brandon Mason
Bristol Township EA

Status Update: PSEA President Rich Askey created a Task Force of 14 members, including EA, ESP, and PSEA-Retired members as well as members from urban, rural, and suburban school districts; members have a range of years of experience.

Task Force members will meet in person four times a year and attend additional virtual Task Force meetings. The first meeting was in April, and the members received updates on current challenges, shared their experiences and perspectives, and had the opportunity to request additional information. The Task Force will meet again in June.

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