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Dispatch

P E N N S Y L V A N I A S T A T E E D U C A T I O N A S S O C I A T I O N - E S P

Fall 2022

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

Message from your president

What can the union do for me?

As the new school year gets underway, I am proud of the work you do to support the students in your schools while helping them navigate, feel safe, and overcome any fear or anxiety they may have about getting their education. We will continue to face many challenges, and reaching out may be necessary at times during this school year. Keep in mind that PSEA has your back!

Additionally, you may have the opportunity to meet new ESP colleagues and assist them with their new jobs and responsibilities. Please reach out to these new employees and, if possible, have a safe, face-to-face conversation or conduct building or online meetings with potential members. Encourage them to become members and be prepared to answer the following questions: Why should I join the union? What can the union do for me?

All members and non-members should be aware that a strong union will benefit us during these unprecedented

times. The most important thing to realize is your role in the union: You are its backbone. With more people joining up there can be good things happening, like improved wages and benefits or even job protection from unfair firings.

“There is power in numbers, and a strong union comes from the membership. Thank you for belonging and for the great work you do!”

If everyone works hard enough at representing themselves properly within your local unions then I’m sure members will see great results indeed.

The ESP family is a proud and powerful group. We stand together to support our schools, our students, our teachers, and each other! We have one of the most essential jobs in our schools.

We remain the first and last to see our students each day.



Rudy Burruss
ESP Region President

With all of you at the forefront advocating for those in need during this school year, we can do anything.

In closing, if your local faces challenges such as furloughs or subcontracting, please contact your PSEA UniServ representative immediately. School districts may be making the wrong moves without exploring all options. PSEA has many resources that you can use to meet those challenges head-on. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any issue or concerns that you may have.

There is power in numbers, and a strong union comes from the membership. Thank you for belonging and for the great work you do! I hope you have a safe and healthy school year.



The Race for Pennsylvania Governor

The Candidates on Education Issues



Josh Shapiro

Listens to and respects educators and support professionals.

- ✓ Wants to address staffing shortages in our schools by increasing salaries. ¹
- ✓ Will protect school employees' pensions and collective bargaining rights. ²
- ✓ Will reduce high-stakes standardized testing in public schools. ³
- ✓ Believes educators deserve to have a strong voice in decisions affecting school curriculum and policies. ⁴

1. PSEA House of Delegates, May 14, 2022
 2. www.joshshapiro.org/policy-workers
 3. Shapiro general election kickoff speech, May 26, 2022
 4. PSEA House of Delegates, May 14, 2022



Doug Mastriano

Believes schools are overstaffed and educators are overpaid.

- ✗ Wants to cut the state's public school funding by more than \$12 billion, meaning 118,000 fewer educators, support professionals, and nurses in our schools. ¹
- ✗ Supports bills curtailing collective bargaining for fair salaries and benefits. ²
- ✗ Doesn't think standardized testing is worth mentioning among his priorities.
- ✗ Thinks public education is "broken" and educators are the problem. ³

1. WRTA interview, March 24, 2022
 2. www.legis.state.pa.us
 3. PennLive op-ed, Jan. 13, 2022

UNDER DOUG MASTRIANO'S SCHOOL FUNDING CUTS PLAN, SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD LOSE \$12.75 BILLION AND 118,000 EDUCATORS AND SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS

Just imagine what our public schools would be like with 118,705 fewer educators, school nurses, school counselors, custodians, bus drivers, cafeteria cooks, and aides.

What would it mean for the education and well-being of Pennsylvania's students?

There's no doubt it would turn our

schools upside down and hobble day-to-day operations. Students would lose out on learning opportunities, after-school activities, sports, and one-on-one time with educators and support staff.

Go to www.psea.org/mastrianocuts to learn how his plan would impact your school and viewn an interactive map.

Find the public school champions on your ballot

When it comes to politics, PSEA supports champions of public education regardless of party affiliation. And since it's

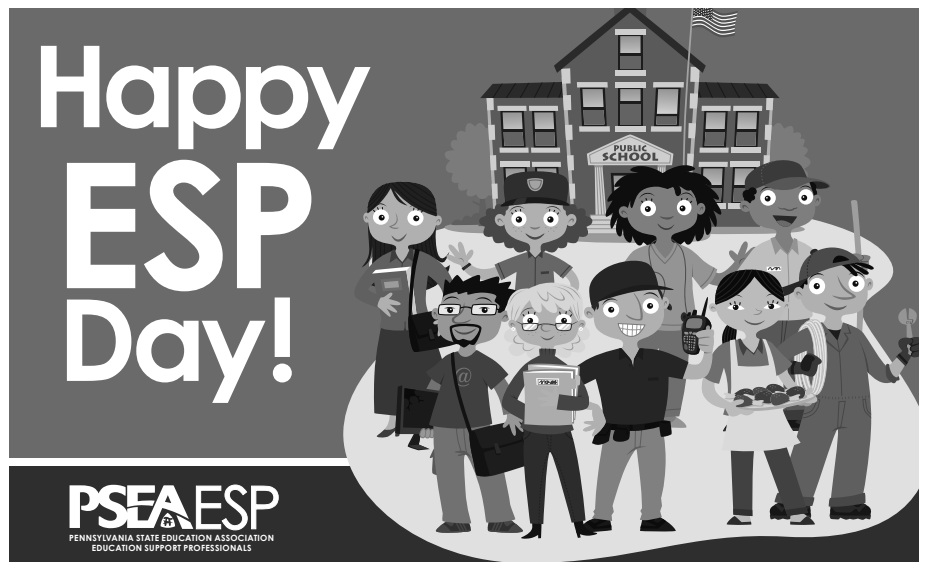
not always obvious who those candidates are, it helps to have a guide you can turn to for help casting your vote. That's where *schoolhouseballot.com* comes in.

Simply enter your information and get a localized list of public education-friendly officials up for election – from U.S. senator, governor on down.

National ESP Day

Communities across Pennsylvania will be saying “thank you” to education support professionals on Nov. 16 – National ESP Day. The observance is part of NEA's annual American Education Week, Nov. 14-18.

- **Monday, Nov. 14:** Kickoff Day
- **Tuesday, Nov. 15:** Parents Day
- **Wednesday, Nov. 16:** ESP Day
- **Thursday, Nov. 17:** Educator for a Day
- **Friday, Nov. 18:** Substitute Educators Day



Please visit the NEA website at www.NEA.org/ESP for the toolkit of press releases, letters to parents, etc.

If you participate in one of these activities, please submit pictures to Nate Greenawalt at ngreenawalt@psea.org.

PSEA Member Benefits

Before you booked your last hotel stay or secured a rental car, did you check out PSEA Member Benefits to see what you could save? Benefits of membership include discounts on mortgages, cell phone services, insurance,

financial services, restaurants, hotels, and many more. You could save yourself a lot of money!

The PSEA Member Benefits program offers you thousands of discounts and savings. So next time you're planning a trip

or need to book a hotel, be sure to check with PSEA first - your membership could save you a ton!

Visit the member benefits section of the website at www.psea.org/mb

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Dates to Remember

- **Local Association Presidents/Collective Bargaining Conference**
Oct. 28-29
Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA
- **General Election** – Tuesday, Nov. 8
Polls are open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.
- **American Education Week** – Nov. 14-18
- **Education Support Professionals Day**
Nov. 16.
- **PSEA House of Delegates** – Dec. 2-3
Wyndham Grand, Pittsburgh, Pa.