

About PASBO:

The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials is a professional association whose members are engaged in or provide products and services for school business managers. The largest membership segment is the position of business administrator/business manager, but the membership also consists of various other administrators in the fields of facilities, transportation, human resources, information technology, food service, communications, safety, purchasing, accounting and many more.

Core Purpose:

To develop educational leaders in school operations.

Core Organizational Values:

- Visionary & effective leadership
- Integrity & professionalism
- Objectivity & reliability
- Advocate for Public Education
- Adaptable & collaborative environment



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Policy Priorities

2009

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First General Session

School Funding: Supports sustaining commitment to providing adequate and equitable resources using an improved version of the school funding formula enacted in July 2008; supports increased funding to offset the costs of special education mandates.

Improvements include eliminating the negative impact of the Location Cost Metric on 233 school districts in 44 counties; assuring a 2% minimum increase; Revising the phase-in schedule; and permitting school districts to use new funds to maintain programs begun under the Act 61 of 2008 accountability provisions.

Cyber Charter Schools: Supports a more rational and equitable funding system, fund balance limitations and additional verification of enrollment for charter school students.

Tuition rates for all charter schools are based on expenditures of a sending school district, not on instructional expenses of the charter school, resulting in school districts paying varying costs to the same cyber charter school. Charter school fund balances have also shown to be in excess of their costs to educate their students.

Going Green:

Supports incentives to encourage school entities to adopt green practices, including:

- **energy conservation,**
- **environmentally preferred purchasing, and**
- **resource reduction.**

PSERS Employer Contribution Rates:

Supports establishing a floor for the employer contribution rate at the system's normal cost plus the healthcare program add-on.

With a minimum rate increase projected at 400%, the current employer contribution rate should increase from 4.78% to at least 7.13%. Further employer contribution rate decreases will only exacerbate the rate spike. For example, the 2009-2010 rate has been certified at 4.78% but there is no change in the rate for 2010-2011 until the 2009-2010 market rate of return nears -30%, at which time the rate spike could rise to more than 30%.

Statewide Healthcare: Supports uniform statewide healthcare benefits delivered at the regional level by consortia.

Existing consortia of local education agencies currently provide expertise and implement school employee's healthcare plans effectively while controlling future costs. PASBO therefore opposes any legislation that would create a new state bureaucracy with no proven cost control experience.

Annual Financial Report (AFR): Supports simplifying AFR reporting requirements.

Certain components of the AFR are unnecessary, time consuming and duplicative with the annual audit filing by local education agencies. Eliminating entity-wide statements from the AFR would, with no cost to the Commonwealth, improve administrative efficiencies within a school district, enabling them to better comply with the timing of departmental reporting requirements.

Single Prime Contracting: Supports the ability of school districts to request and the Department of Education's authority to grant waivers for single prime contractors.

School Lunch/Breakfast Reimbursement: Supports increases in meal reimbursement rates.

School nutrition programs have experienced increased costs as a result of transportation costs, changing federal nutrition standards and rising rates of child obesity. Additional funding from state and federal sources is needed to ensure healthier food options.

School Consolidation: Supports incentives to encourage voluntary consolidations that result in combined enrollments of 3,000 or fewer students.

State-mandated consolidation based on an arbitrary number of districts will not create savings. The complexities of merging districts require a deliberative, local process involving school districts and their taxpayers.

Tax Collection; Appeals: Supports restoring the right of school districts to utilize third party collectors and eliminating outdated assessments while offering districts flexibility to seek an appeal.

Third party collection services can increase school districts' delinquent property tax revenues while decreasing their collection costs; severely limiting the circumstances under which a taxing authority in most counties may appeal an assessment will not ensure that all homeowners carry their fair share of local property tax burden.