



## 2018 PASBO Policy Priorities

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PASBO advocates for policy changes to improve the practice of all areas of school business and to ensure that school districts have the resources they need to provide students with the programs and services necessary for success. PASBO evaluates all proposed policy changes that have the potential to impact the practice of school business. The items below are the major issues highlighted as policy priorities for PASBO in 2018, however, PASBO will engage legislatively in all other issues that affect the practice of school business either positively or negatively.

- **Sustainable State Funding:** PASBO will support efforts to incrementally improve the Commonwealths' tax mix towards mitigating the state's over reliance on local property tax for education funding. Such efforts must ensure that the state can provide sustainable and dedicated revenue streams that allow for growth in overall funding generally.
- **Basic and Special Education Funding:** PASBO will advocate for increased funding for the basic education funding line item as well as the special education line item, ensuring that there is sufficient, sustainable and growing funding to prevent continued cost shifts to school districts.
- **School Safety:** PASBO will advocate to make school safety a priority in Pennsylvania, focusing on significantly increasing state funding to LEAs for safety and security, as well as for supports for students. Recognizing that LEAs are in the best position to understand the safety, security and other needs of their schools, students, staff, parents and communities, efforts targeted at improving school safety must not be mandatory, one-size-fits-all approaches; efforts must allow LEAs to implement programs that are uniquely tailored and scaled to their individual needs.
- **PlanCon:** PASBO will advocate for implementation of a new school construction reimbursement program focused on school district construction, renovation and repair needs and will fight to obtain sufficient, sustainable and growing funding to accompany a new reimbursement program.
- **Property Tax Reform:** PASBO will support appropriate efforts to provide needed property tax relief while maintaining property tax as a revenue base for school districts, opposing efforts that would lead to nothing more than a dollar for dollar reduction in property taxes. PASBO supports efforts to give school districts the flexibility to diversify and expand the tax base to provide additional property tax relief.
- **Education Savings Accounts:** PASBO will oppose efforts to implement education savings accounts and any other form of tuition voucher program that would divert state and local education resources to private schools.
- **Mandate Relief:** PASBO will support proposals that provide relief from new or existing mandates that increase the cost of education without providing any corresponding benefits to educational programs or services, including, but not limited to, the payment of prevailing wage and the use of locally elected tax collectors.
- **Certification Flexibility:** PASBO will advocate for innovative, flexible and responsible changes and exceptions to teacher certification requirements. The ever growing difficulty in finding certified staff in many areas and the general lack of STEM, vocational and applied technical expertise in certification programs require greater flexibility for district leadership to meet a whole new generation of educational challenges.
- **Charter School Funding Reform:** PASBO will advocate for policy that requires review of the current charter school tuition calculation and will support implementation of a new and fair funding formula for both regular and special education charter school tuition and for revised payment processes and interaction with PDE to ensure a fair and reliable payment structure.
- **Statewide Healthcare:** PASBO will oppose efforts to mandate use of a single statewide healthcare plan, acknowledging that LEAs have taken steps, through consortia, to reduce healthcare costs and that a one-size-fits-all approach will not result in cost savings to all LEAs. PASBO will continue to advocate for other appropriate healthcare cost-saving measures that provide LEAs with flexibility.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact Hannah Barrick, Director of Advocacy, at [hbarrick@pasbo.org](mailto:hbarrick@pasbo.org).