

TAKE THE FOUR-WEEK SUMMER CHALLENGE!

Follow steps below for ongoing advocacy with your legislator. Once you have completed all four tasks, contact Jamie Zuvich for your PSBA swag!



WEEK 1
Email your legislator

WEEK 2
Call your legislator

WEEK 3
Visit your legislator

WEEK 4
Tweet a message to your legislator

READY, SET, ACTION!

Students are out for the summer, but the needs of public education don't take a vacation. Here are a few specific ways you can keep your advocacy efforts going in impactful ways throughout the summer.

Share your stories.

Email legislators all about the great things your students have been doing throughout the year. Highlight stories from your school entity that are featured on successtartshere.org for the Success Starts Here campaign.

ACTION Plan:

Schedule a meeting with your legislator in their district office. If you need assistance, contact Jamie Zuvich, PSBA advocacy coordinator at jamie.zuvich@psba.org or (717) 506-2450, ext. 3375.

ACTION Plan:

Leverage social media to reinforce your discussion and thank your legislators.

Utilize PSBA discussion topics.

Use the areas of focus contained in this email to guide your meetings with lawmakers.

Thanks for your ongoing work on behalf of your students, schools and communities!



TAKE ACTION

SEPARATIONS ACT – HB 163

Please support HB 163, introduced by Representative Everett, which eliminates the requirements of Pennsylvania's Separations Act.

- The Separations Act contains archaic requirements enacted over a century ago in 1913. Pennsylvania is among the last remaining few states to still have this requirement, if not the only remaining state.
- Current law requires public entities, including public schools, to solicit separate bids and award separate contracts to at least four prime contractors per construction project (general, electrical, plumbing, and HVAC).
- When given an opportunity, the majority of school districts who utilized Pennsylvania's now-expired mandate waiver program chose to seek relief from this burdensome requirement.
- The Separations Act is cumbersome, creates additional work for public school officials, and sets the stage for adversarial relationships amongst the prime contractors. Ultimately, the Separations Act has resulted in an increase in change orders and claims.

ELECTION REFORM – HB 227

Please support HB 227, introduced by Representative Gabler, which reforms school director petition requirements.

- This legislation seeks to correct the inconsistency that school directors are currently required to obtain differing numbers of petition signatures depending upon their location. Petition requirements sometimes even vary within the same school district.
- The bill would require a uniform number of signatures for each candidate statewide – 10 signatures, the number currently required in the overwhelming majority of election districts.
- We need to level the playing field for school director candidates statewide and encourage participation in school board elections where it is historically difficult or nearly impossible to find candidates.
- The reform offered in this legislation will serve to improve the election process for school directors statewide and potentially enhance candidacy in areas with numerous open school board seats.

CHARTER FUNDING REFORM

Please support charter school funding reform now.

- Charter School expenses are the fastest growing cost driver in school district budgets, outside of pension costs, and have increased 90% since the 2010-11 school year. The result of this unfunded state mandate is local tax increases and programmatic cuts.
- Charter school tuition paid by school districts is based on the school district's expenses and not on the actual cost of educating students at a charter school, resulting in overpayment.
- The charter school special education formula drastically overpays charter schools. This fact is evidenced in data which shows that in the 2014-15 school year, school districts made special education payments to charter schools over \$100 million more than charter schools reported spending on special education costs.
- Cyber charter school tuition payments per student are drastically different from school district to school district, even though cyber charter schools provide the same substandard education to those students.

