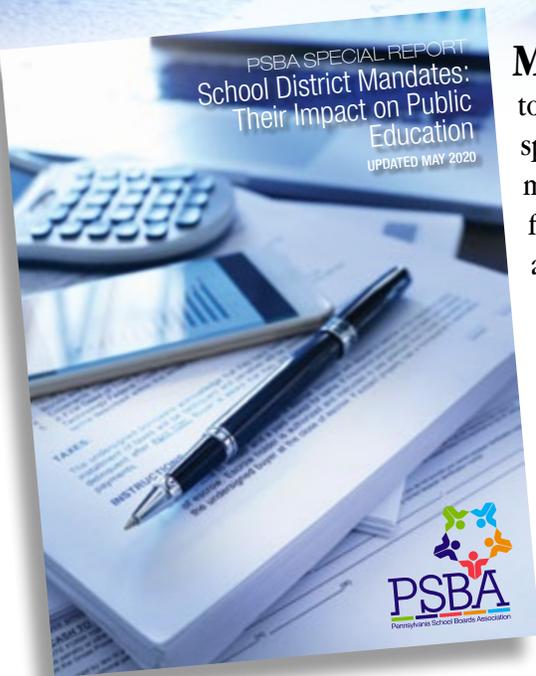




# UPDATED PSBA REPORT ON SCHOOL DISTRICT MANDATES



**Mandates**, put simply, tell public schools what they are required to do, how they must do it and ultimately, dictate how much they will spend in order to get it done. Mandates come from several sources. Some mandates come from the federal government, but most mandates come from state laws, regulations and other types of guidance from state agencies such as the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).

Pennsylvania's 500 public school districts are required to comply with hundreds of individual mandates. Considered separately, many mandates can be defended as implementing important policy objectives or as sincere efforts to enhance the quality of education, student achievement, health, safety and wellness, accountability, transparency and the efficient expenditure of taxpayer money.

Taken as a whole, however, mandates can create unwieldy and burdensome requirements, drain money away from classrooms, result in higher property taxes, and negatively impact local decision-making because they either dictate in considerable detail the actions to be

taken or severely limit available options.

The report is not intended to be a complete and detailed listing of all mandates applicable to Pennsylvania school districts. Rather, the report is intended to:

- Highlight some of the costliest mandates and the impact those mandates have on school districts;
- Illustrate the cumulative effect of the mandates placed on school districts;
- Help provide a better understanding of the wide range of requirements with which school districts must comply;
- Elicit thought and diligence among policymakers in limiting future unfunded mandates; and
- Demonstrate the need for mandate relief.

PSBA believes that mandate relief is an integral part of reforming public education. Relief from burdensome mandates can save school districts and taxpayers money and result in more efficient operation.

**To view and download the complete report, visit  
[www.psba.org/2020-Mandate-Report](http://www.psba.org/2020-Mandate-Report)**