

Brandywine Heights Area School District

200 West Weis Street, Tipton, PA 19562



Superintendent Report

November 6, 2017

Curriculum/Instruction:

- 1. Berks Early Learning Coalition Data Team**
 - November 17 - Tom Voelker was asked to join the BELC data collection team. In partnership with the BCIU, the team is tasked with developing a strategy to evaluate current practices and determine next steps.
- 2. Penn State Berks Presentation**
 - December 4 - Tom Voelker was asked to present to a class of student teachers regarding best practices of technology integration in the classroom
- 3. BHASD Educational Showcase Day**
 - The BHASD will hold our 3rd Annual Educational Showcase Day at our Elementary School during National Education Week
 - November 15th: 9 am - 11am in the ES Library
 - Please refer to the ESD Flyer for additional information
- 4. Brandywine Heights Virtual Academy**
 - The VA has 168 students enrolled to date

Technology:

- 1. New Student Devices**
 - New devices by HP, Dell, Lenovo, & Acer are being evaluated at this time by a team
- 2. Network/Server Project**
 - All content (including virtual servers) that are transferring to the new server during this school year have been transferred
 - Additional work will be needed in June to completely consolidate to one physical server
- 3. Viruses & Phishing Attacks**
 - The BHASD was infected with a virus on October 3rd
 - Webroot worked great to remove the virus from all servers and devices
 - Webroot is currently installed on all devices and servers

- BHASD (and surrounding districts) are getting hit with a lot of phishing attacks recently
 - We are working to block as much of these attacks as possible; however, they are spoofing names to bypass our filters
 - We have sent out notification to our families regarding the situation

Athletics:

1. Character Education

- N/A

2. Student/Community Involvement

- Sign-ups for HS and MS winter sports was completed and physicals were held on Wednesday, November 1st in the HS gym.
 - HS Girls' Basketball – 16
 - HS Boys' Basketball – 21
 - HS Wrestling – 18
 - HS Cheerleading – 19
 - HS Swimming – 6
 - HS Bowling (Coop with Oley) – 1
 - MS Girls/ Basketball – 19
 - MS Boys' Basketball – 21
 - MS Wrestling – 20
 - MS Cheerleading - 4
- Based on the above numbers we will have a HS (and probably a MS) cheerleading squad for our winter sports teams
 - Interviews to fill those coaching positions will take place shortly
- A meeting with SAAC will be scheduled in early November so the Council can meet Mr. Geist and learn about his vision for our school district.

3. Athletic Excellence

- Girls Soccer – qualified for the District III tournament. Beat Oley in round I and will face Boiling Springs HS in round II on 10/28.
- Girls Tennis – team qualified for the BCIAA team tournament. Brianna Seese qualified for the District III Singles tournament and Brianna and Jess Davidheiser qualified for the District III Doubles tournament.
- Girls Volleyball – BCIAA Division champions. Finished second to Exeter HS in the finals for the BCIAA Championship. Qualified for the District III tournament and will play against Spring Grove at Lower Dauphin HS on 10/28
- Boys Golf – District III team tournament champions. Competed in the PIAA State team tournament on 10/25.

- Ethan Rothermel will compete in the District III Cross-Country meet on 10/28.

Brandywine Heights Community Task Force:

1. Red Ribbon Run

- October 21 - 123 runners participated
- 20 students from the SADD club volunteered

2. Red Ribbon Week (10/23 - 10/27)

- *ES Sticker Contest* - "Healthy Choices" winning stickers were printed for all students to wear
- *IS/MS Video Contest* - "Healthy Decisions/Drug & Alcohol Awareness" winning homerooms will receive a grant from the Task Force to purchase something for school
- *Red Sign Initiative* - Over 60 red signs were hung in Topton "Supporting a Drug-Free Community"
 - This is 20 more than last year

3. Stress Less - Coffee & Conversation Night

- November 14 - A presentation for parents/community members and students in grades 6-12 by a speaker
 - Jamie Rimby, MA, LPC, NCC
Therapist / Children in the Middle Program Coordinator
Family Guidance Center
1235 Penn Ave, Ste 306
Wyomissing, PA 19610

Brandywine Heights Area School District
 District Enrollment Board Report
 November 2017

Grade	Total Enrollment	Staff 2017-18	Average Class Size	Students with Academic IEPs (with possible related services)		Free/Reduced Lunch students		Virtual Academy	Virtual Academy
								Full Time	Part Time/Blended
Kindergarten	85	5	17.00	4	4.71%	18	21.18%	1	0
First Grade	102	5	20.40	18	17.65%	26	25.49%	1	0
Second Grade	105	5	21.00	25	23.81%	39	37.14%	1	0
Third Grade	103	5	20.60	20	19.42%	25	24.27%	0	0
Elementary	395								
Fourth Grade	82	4	20.50	24	29.27%	22	26.83%	0	1
Fifth Grade	113	5	22.60	32	28.32%	32	28.32%	1	1
Intermediate	195								
Sixth Grade	107	5	21.40	24	22.43%	26	24.30%	1	1
Seventh Grade	118			22	18.64%	31	26.27%	2	0
Eighth Grade	125			35	28.00%	32	25.60%	1	1
Middle School	350								
Ninth Grade	100			16	16.00%	31	31.00%	3	20
Tenth Grade	119			17	14.29%	42	35.29%	3	36
Eleventh Grade	121			29	23.97%	23	19.01%	4	40
Twelfth Grade	114			21	18.42%	21	18.42%	7	45
High School	454							15	141
Out of District Placements				7					
Totals	1394			294	20.38%	368	26.39%	22	145

BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT HOUSE BILL 1285 INFORMATION SHEET

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AMENDING THE HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT EXCLUSION

- Primary Sponsor: Representative David Maloney (R-Berks)
- Currently the exclusion is capped at 50% of the median assessed value of all homestead properties
- Proposed exclusion would be up to 100% of the assessed value of an individual property
- Referendum question on November 7 ballot
- If passed it provides a future mechanism to allow further reduction or elimination of residential property taxes
- Must have significant additional revenue to actually fund the increased homestead/farmstead exclusion, if not no impact
- Would maintain the current homestead/farmstead program
- Homeowners would be the sole priority of reduced/eliminated property taxes
- Difference-Senate Bill 76 would give businesses a tax break at expense of everyone who would be paying increased PIT and SUT
- Maintains local control in the establishment of millage rates

BALLOT QUESTION

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?



School Code Bill, House Bill 178 Summary

11/6/2017

Keystone Exam Delay-Delays implementation of Keystone exams as a graduation requirement and as a benchmark for participation in a project-based assessment until the 2019-20 school year.

ESSA State Plan-Requires any state plan developed under ESSA to include meaningful consultation with the education committee chairmen. Future submissions to the US Department of Education shall only occur after the House and Senate Education Committees have had 15 days to review and comment on the proposed submission. All submissions to the US Department of Education shall include the comments submitted by the education committee chairmen. PDE shall give the education committees quarterly progress reports on plan implementation.

School Board Training-Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, requires school board members and charter school trustees to receive 4 hours of training upon election and 2 hours of training upon reelection (or during the 5th year of service for a trustee). The training will cover instruction and academic programs, personnel, fiscal management, operations, governance and ethics. PDE will provide the training free of charge and can approve alternative training programs provided by others. PDE must consult with PSBA and PASBO as it develops the training.

Education Access Funds-A school district that receives at least \$4 million of Educational Access Program funds beginning in the 2017-18 school year will be notified that it has been identified for financial watch status. This does not apply to a school district that is placed under the supervision of a financial administrator.

Financial Administrator-Requires appointment of a financial administrator for a school district in financial watch status that receives at least \$4 million in Education Access Program funding beginning in the 2017-18 fiscal year. Requires the financial administrator to create a financial improvement plan for the district that must be approved by the Secretary. The plan can recommend changes to staffing levels, school district policy, accounting procedures, performance goals for administrative staff, sale, lease or conveyance of school district assets, consolidation of buildings and greater use of IU programs. The plan must include performance goals, benchmarks and timetables to ensure financial solvency, a cash flow analysis, 5 year revenue and expenditure projections, 10 hours of annual school board training and facility maintenance and improvement proposals. If the school board does not implement the approved plan, the financial administrator will assume authority of the school board and continue to implement the plan.

PlanCon Moratorium Extension-Prohibits PDE from accepting or approving new PlanCon applications for new projects through the 2017-18 fiscal year (NOTE: the effective date of this section of the bill makes this provision retroactive to July 1, 2017).

Superintendent Reporting-Removes language that requires superintendents to furnish PDE with reports on or before the first Monday of August each year that include suggested improvements or changes to the public school system. Maintains language requiring submission of reports at PDE's request.

Superintendent Contract-Changes the date of the required board action on a superintendent or assistant superintendent's contract from 150 days prior to expiration of the contract to 90 days prior to expiration of the contract. Extends an existing contract by one year for failure to take action, but limits extension of a contract under this section to one time.

Economic Furloughs-Allows school entities to furlough professional employees for economic reasons. School districts must also furlough an equal percentage of administrative staff; however, 5 administrative positions in each school district are exempt from this requirement (1 of the 5 must be the business manager or employee responsible for managing the business operations of the district), and a school district can apply for a waiver from PDE and the State Board to furlough fewer administrative positions if the district's operations are already streamlined or additional furloughing would cause harm to school stability and programs.

- A school board may suspend professional employees if the district adopted a resolution at least 60 days prior to adoption of a final budget that states the reasons the furloughs are necessary, the total cost savings of the furloughs, other cost saving measures being taken, projected expenditures for the following year with and without the furloughs, projected revenues for the next fiscal year, the number and percentage of employees to be suspended who are professional employees and who are administrative staff, the educational impact of the furloughs and how it will be mitigated.
- Professional employees to be furloughed will be furloughed based on their most recent 2 years of evaluations in their area of certification in which they currently teach. Employees receiving 2 consecutive unsatisfactory ratings will be furloughed first, followed by employees receiving 1 unsatisfactory and 1 satisfactory rating on their 2 most recent evaluations.
- Employees receiving 2 consecutive years of proficient ratings or 1 proficient or 1 distinguished rating and 1 needs improvement rating in the most recent 2 years will be furloughed next, followed by employees receiving 2 distinguished ratings or 1 proficient and 1 distinguished rating in the most recent 2 years of evaluations.
- Within each group, employees will be furloughed based on seniority. Employees are reinstated in reverse order of furloughing and based on seniority.

Appeals to PDE-Reduces the time for filing with the Secretary an appeal by a professional employee who considers him or herself aggrieved by an action of the school board from 30 days from receipt of the written notice of the decision of the board to 15 days from receipt of the written notice of the decision of the board.

Provisional College Certificates-PDE shall process applications for provisional college certifications submitted by individuals who are members of the US armed forces, veterans or the spouse of a veteran within 14 days of receipt of a completed application.

Teacher Preparation Programs-Teacher prep programs cannot require a student to obtain a passing score on the PRAXIS to graduate or include the student's score as a component of a course grade.

Prohibition on Lunch Shaming-Requires school boards to establish a requirement that a school food program meal is provided to every student who requests one regardless of whether they can pay or owes money (unless a student's parents have provided directive to the school to withhold a meal).

When a student owes money for five or more school meals, a school board shall require schools under its jurisdiction to make at least 2 attempts to reach the student's parent to have them apply for participation in the free/reduced lunch program and may offer assistance in helping them apply.

School boards must require schools to direct all communications regarding money owed by a student to the student's parent/guardian and not to the student. Additionally, school boards must allow schools to contact the student's parent via a letter addressed to the parent but delivered by the student.

Finally, school boards must prohibit schools under their jurisdiction from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay or who owes money for school meals, requiring a student who cannot pay to perform chores or requiring a student to discard a school meal after it was served if the student can't pay or owes money (NOTE: this new provision takes effect in 30 days).

Drug and Alcohol Recovery High School Pilot Program-Delays implementation of the pilot program to the 2017-18 school year.

School Security Drills-Permits public schools to replace one of their fire drills each year with a school security drill, completed in coordination with local law enforcement and local emergency management associations and with prior parent notification. A school security drill is a drill designed to practice procedures to respond to an emergency situation that may include, but is not limited to, an act of terrorism, armed intruder situation or other violent threat.

Alcohol, Chemical and Tobacco Abuse Program-Requires schools to include information about opioid and prescription drug abuse and prevention in their drug abuse programming education for students in grades 6-12, beginning with the 2018-19 school year. PDE and the Department of Health will develop a model curriculum for schools and shall develop in service training on the instruction requirements and curriculum for those with teaching relevant teaching responsibilities.

Agricultural Education-Creates a Commission for Agricultural Education Excellence to assist in developing a plan for agricultural education and coordinate the implementation of agricultural education programming with the Department of Agriculture and PDE (NOTE: This section takes effect in 60 days).

Basic Education Funding-Makes technical changes to the calculation of the basic education funding formula (NOTE: these changes are retroactive to July 1, 2017):

- Codifies the fix to lock data elements in place, fixing the data as of June 1 of the preceding school year. Allows modification of data elements only when an error or inaccuracy exists.
- Modifies the definition of “current expenditures” in the formula to exclude revenue received for tuition from patrons. This impacts the calculation of the local effort index to more accurately reflect a school district’s local effort, instead of artificially inflating expenditures without the corresponding ADMs.
- Includes Philadelphia’s sales and use tax and cigarette tax in the definition of “local tax-related revenue” beginning in 2017-18.
- Clarifies that for the fiscal year that began on July 1, 2017, a school district’s market value cannot exceed \$47 billion, and in each subsequent year, the maximum market value will increase by the percentage increase in market value for all school districts.

IU Funding-Funds IUs at 5.5% of the special education funding appropriation for the 2017-18 fiscal year, the same percentage as provided from 2016-17 (NOTE: this change is retroactive to July 1, 2017).

Undistributed Funds-Allows PDE to use up to \$5 million in undistributed funds in 2017-18 for districts in financial distress or financial watch status.

Ready-to-Learn Block Grants-Distributes Ready-to-Learn Block Grants to each school entity in the same amount as in fiscal year 2016-17 (NOTE: this change is retroactive to July 1, 2017).

EITC/OSTC -Increases the tax credits available to business firms for their donations under the EITC/OSTC programs.