



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

July 25, 2023

Dear partner in education,

Since you work for a school district, organization, or entity that receives state funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), I am writing to update you on the status of this year's Commonwealth budget.

As you may know, the state Senate passed HB 611, the General Appropriations bill for FY 2023-2024, on June 30, 2023, and the state House concurred on July 5, 2023. Now that the budget has passed both the House and the Senate, Governor Josh Shapiro will sign this bipartisan budget as soon as it reaches his desk.

In order for the Governor to sign this budget bill, the Senate President Pro Tempore must first complete the simple administrative step of delivering a signed physical copy of the bill to him. Unfortunately, the Pro Tempore — who is the only person with the power to call the Senate into session to complete this procedural step — has adjourned the Senate until September 18, 2023. If she does not reconvene sooner, or until she does, we do not have the ability to disburse critical state and federal funding at this time.

While recognizing the inner workings of Harrisburg are often complex, in this case, the situation is relatively straightforward. This is unlike previous years when our Commonwealth faced budget impasses where the two chambers of the legislature could not agree — they have already agreed and passed a bipartisan budget. It is now awaiting the necessary, procedural step that only the Senate Pro Tempore can complete.

If the Senate does not return before September 18, 2023, the Commonwealth will be unable to disburse an estimated \$5.9 billion in planned state and federal funding, including some funding you would normally expect to receive.

Please know that Governor Shapiro finds the failure of our full-time state legislature to reconvene and deliver a signed copy of an already-passed budget bill unacceptable and has repeatedly urged the Senate to return to the Capitol immediately, so that he can sign this bill and provide the critical funding needed to support your work.

In the short term, it's important to know how this situation will impact your school district, organization, or entity and its fiscal responsibilities. To that end, information regarding some of the payments from the Department of Education that will be delayed until the Senate reconvenes and the budget can be signed into law is as follows.



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School Districts will not receive:

- \$1.1 billion in Basic Education Funding, starting in August.
- \$190 million in Special Education Funding, starting in July.
- State subsidies including Social Security and Pupil Transportation, starting in August.
- Federal subgrant payments, including approximately \$40 million under Title Programs.

Career and Technical Centers will not receive:

- \$10 million in the Secondary Career and Technical Education Subsidy, starting in August.
- \$5 million in Federal Perkins grants.

State-Related Universities, Community Colleges, and PASSHE will not receive:

- \$49 million monthly for state-related universities, starting in August.
- \$96 million monthly for PASSHE, starting in July.
- \$65.4 million in operating payments for community colleges in July and \$24 million in capital payments in August.

Afterschool and Adult Basic Education Programs will not receive:

- \$10 million to Community Based Organizations that run afterschool and Adult Basic Education Programs in August.

Pre-K Counts (PKC) providers will not receive:

- \$28 million in state funding for pre-K programs between July and August.

Head Start recipients will not receive:

- \$14.7 million in payments, starting in July.

Libraries will not receive:

- \$10.5 million in subsidy payments, starting in August.
- Funding to pay grantees and vendors in a timely manner.

I recognize this information is concerning, and it is to the Governor and me as well. Our Administration continues to urge the Senate to reconvene immediately, and we will work to support you and your organization as you manage the current situation.



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As soon as the Senate reconvenes and delivers the bill to the Governor's desk for his signature, PDE will work expeditiously to put these investments to work for our students and our school communities once the FY 2023-2024 budget is enacted.

As always, thank you for your leadership and everything you do in support of our Commonwealth's learners, educators, schools, libraries, and communities. I look forward to continuing to work together, and to the infinite possibilities of success this budget's historic investments and critical priorities will deliver for the more than 1.8 million learners in our Commonwealth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Mumin", followed by a large, stylized flourish.

Khalid N. Mumin, Ed.D.
Secretary of Education