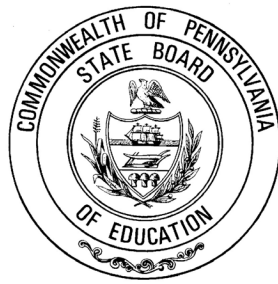


PENNSYLVANIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

January 2024

Dear Governor Shapiro and Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the State Board of Education, it is my pleasure to present you with our Annual Report that summarizes the Board's work and actions during the 2023 calendar year.

The Board believes educational policy is best made in an open, public process where all perspectives are considered. The transitions that have occurred on the Board this year present opportunities to consider critical policy issues with fresh perspectives and a renewed sense of purpose. In 2023, we welcomed six new appointed members to the Board, and I look forward to working collaboratively with our new colleagues Dr. Monica Taylor, Amanda Hetrick, Katherine Christiano, Ernest Hadrick, Robert Mitchell, and Dr. Benjamin Wilson.

We also welcomed new members of the General Assembly as voting members of the Board due to leadership transitions on the House Education Committee and on the Senate Education Committee. Rep. Peter Schweyer, Majority Chairman, and Rep. Jesse Topper, Minority Chairman, were named as new leaders of the House Education Committee for the 2023-24 legislative session, and Sen. David Argall was named as the new Majority Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. By virtue of the leadership positions they now hold on each Committee, these elected officials joined their college Sen. Lindsey Williams, who continues as Minority Chair of the Senate Education Committee, as voting members of the Board.

The transition to the Shapiro Administration at the start of the year brought new leadership to the Department of Education with the appointment of Dr. Khalid Mumin as Secretary of Education. In that capacity, Dr. Mumin also now serves as the new CEO of the State Board of Education. Dr. Mumin brings a wealth of knowledge to this role as a former superintendent, principal, and classroom teacher, and I look forward to learning from his experiences as an outstanding educational leader.

I would like to thank Governor Shapiro for continuing to entrust me with the responsibility to serve in this statewide leadership role. It is an honor to serve the Commonwealth, and I intend to work collaboratively with the new administration and with the General Assembly to advance access to high-quality, equitable education for all learners across Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Farmer White".

Karen Farmer White, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

The State Board of Education consists of 21 voting members, ten of whom serve on the Board's Council of Basic Education and ten of whom serve on the Board's Council of Higher Education. Seventeen members are appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for overlapping terms of six years, or until their successors are appointed and confirmed. Four members of the Board are members of the General Assembly who serve as long as they hold the position of majority and minority chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees. The Chairperson of the Board and its Councils are designated by the Governor and serve at his pleasure. The 21 voting members of the board also serve as the State Board for Career and Technical Education.

The Board meets at least six times per year. Additional Council or Board meetings are held at the call of the chairpersons or at the request of a majority of members. The chairperson of the Board and any of the members are entitled to attend the meetings of the Councils. Board committees are appointed by the chairperson of the Board to formulate policy proposals in those areas which fall within the purview of the Board. Council committees are appointed by the chairperson of each respective Council to formulate policy proposals in those areas which fall within the purview of either Council.

The Secretary of Education is the head of the Department of Education and the chief executive officer of the State Board of Education. The Secretary is a member of the executive department of the Commonwealth and is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Secretary of Education, or the Secretary's designated representative, is entitled to attend all meetings of the Board and Councils and has the right to speak on all matters before the Board and the Councils, but not to vote.

The chairperson of the Professional Standards and Practices Commission (PSPC), or a PSPC member designated by the chairperson, serves as an ex officio, non-voting member of the Board. Likewise, a member of the State Board serves in the same capacity on the PSPC.

Four student representatives serve as non-voting, advisory members of the Board – two high school students who sit on the Council of Basic Education and two postsecondary students who sit on the Council of Higher Education. Annually, two new students are selected to serve a two-year term on each respective Council. High school students are selected through an application process managed by the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils. Postsecondary students are selected to represent the various sectors of higher education in the Commonwealth on a rotating basis. Student members were added by the Board in 2008, and their participation is supported through grant funds made available by Highmark.

The following are listings of the State Board of Education’s membership, reflecting transitions throughout the 2023 calendar year.

State Board of Education

January 2023

Ms. Karen Farmer White (Pittsburgh)
Chair, State Board of Education

Mr. Eric Hagarty
Acting Secretary of Education & Chief
Executive Officer of the Board

Council of Basic Education

Dr. A Lee Williams (Slippery Rock)
Chair, Council of Basic Education

Honorable Carol Aichele (Malvern)

Senator David Argall
Majority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Mr. Nathan Barrett (Scranton)

Ms. Claire Chi
Junior Student Member

Ms. Reva Gandhi
Senior Student Member

Dr. Jeffrey Keeling (Hadley)

Honorable Maureen Lally-Green (Mars)

Representative Peter Schweyer
Chair, House Education Committee

Dr. Monica Taylor (Drexel Hill)

Council of Higher Education

Honorable Pedro Rivera (Lancaster)
Chairman, Council of Higher Education

Mr. James R. Agras (Pittsburgh)

Dr. Nicole Carnicella (Bellefonte)

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn (Philadelphia)

Dr. Pamela J. Gunter-Smith (York)

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick (Titusville)

Ms. Natalie Imhoof
Junior Student Member

Ms. Sarah Jordan
Senior Student Member

Representative Jesse Topper
Minority Chair, House Education Committee

Senator Lindsey Williams
Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Dr. Nicole Hill
PSPC Ex-officio Member

Ms. Karen Molchanow
Executive Director

Ms. Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant

State Board of Education

March 2023

Ms. Karen Farmer White (Pittsburgh)
Chair, State Board of Education

Dr. Khalid Mumin
Acting Secretary of Education & Chief
Executive Officer of the Board

Council of Basic Education

Dr. A Lee Williams (Slippery Rock)
Chair, Council of Basic Education

Honorable Carol Aichele (Malvern)

Senator David Argall
Majority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Mr. Nathan Barrett (Scranton)

Ms. Claire Chi
Junior Student Member

Ms. Reva Gandhi
Senior Student Member

Dr. Jeffrey Keeling (Hadley)

Honorable Maureen Lally-Green (Mars)

Representative Peter Schweyer
Majority Chair, House Education Committee

Dr. Monica Taylor (Drexel Hill)

Council of Higher Education

Honorable Pedro Rivera (Lancaster)
Chairman, Council of Higher Education

Mr. James R. Agras (Pittsburgh)

Dr. Nicole Carnicella (Bellefonte)

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn (Philadelphia)

Dr. Pamela J. Gunter-Smith (York)

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick (Titusville)

Ms. Natalie Imhoof
Junior Student Member

Ms. Sarah Jordan
Senior Student Member

Representative Jesse Topper
Minority Chair, House Education Committee

Senator Lindsey Williams
Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Dr. Nicole Hill
PSPC Ex-officio Member

Ms. Karen Molchanow
Executive Director

Ms. Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant

State Board of Education

July 2023

Ms. Karen Farmer White (Pittsburgh)
Chair, State Board of Education

Dr. Khalid Mumin
Secretary of Education & Chief
Executive Officer of the Board

Council of Basic Education

Dr. A Lee Williams (Slippery Rock)
Chair, Council of Basic Education

Honorable Carol Aichele (Malvern)

Senator David Argall
Majority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Mr. Nathan Barrett (Scranton)

Ms. Claire Chi
Senior Student Member

Ms. Katherine Christiano (Devon)

Ms. Aarushi Dedhiya
Junior Student Member

Mr. Ernest Hadrick, III (Norristown)

Dr. Jeffrey Keeling (Hadley)

Honorable Maureen Lally-Green (Mars)

Representative Peter Schweyer
Majority Chair, House Education Committee

Dr. Monica Taylor (Drexel Hill)

Council of Higher Education

Honorable Pedro Rivera (Lancaster)
Chairman, Council of Higher Education

Mr. James R. Agras (Pittsburgh)

Dr. Nicole Carnicella (Bellefonte)

Ms. Brenna Chernich
Junior Student Member

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn (Philadelphia)

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick (Titusville)

Ms. Natalie Imhoof
Senior Student Member

Mr. Robert L. Mitchell (Jefferson)

Representative Jesse Topper
Minority Chair, House Education Committee

Senator Lindsey Williams
Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Dr. Benajmin Wilson (Erie)

Dr. Nicole Hill
PSPC Ex-officio Member

Ms. Karen Molchanow
Executive Director

Ms. Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant

There is currently one vacancy on the State Board of Education.

State Board of Education
December 2023

Ms. Karen Farmer White (Pittsburgh)
Chair, State Board of Education

Dr. Khalid Mumin
Secretary of Education & Chief
Executive Officer of the Board

Council of Basic Education

Council of Higher Education

Dr. A Lee Williams (Slippery Rock)
Chair, Council of Basic Education

Honorable Pedro Rivera (Lancaster)
Chairman, Council of Higher Education

Honorable Carol Aichele (Malvern)

Dr. Nicole Carnicella (Bellefonte)

Senator David Argall
Majority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Ms. Brenna Chernich
Junior Student Member

Mr. Nathan Barrett (Scranton)

Ms. Sandra Dungee Glenn (Philadelphia)

Ms. Claire Chi
Senior Student Member

Mrs. Amanda Hetrick (Titusville)

Ms. Katherine Christiano (Devon)

Ms. Natalie Imhoof
Senior Student Member

Ms. Aarushi Dedhiya
Junior Student Member

Mr. Robert L. Mithcell (Jefferson)

Mr. Ernest Hadrick, III (Norristown)

Representative Jesse Topper
Minority Chair, House Education Committee

Dr. Jeffrey Keeling (Hadley)

Senator Lindsey Williams
Minority Chair, Senate Education Committee

Honorable Maureen Lally-Green (Mars)

Dr. Benjamin Wilson (Erie)

Representative Peter Schweyer
Majority Chair, House Education Committee

Dr. Monica Taylor (Drexel Hill)

Dr. Nicole Hill
PSPC Ex-officio Member

Ms. Karen Molchanow
Executive Director

Ms. Stephanie Jones
Administrative Assistant

There are currently two vacancies on the State Board of Education.

INTRODUCTION

The Pennsylvania State Board of Education was created by the General Assembly in 1963 and reestablished in 1988. It is the principal administrative regulatory body for both elementary and secondary education and higher education in the Commonwealth. It has the power and duty to review and adopt regulations that govern educational policies and principles and establish standards governing the educational programs of the Commonwealth, upon recommendation of its Councils. The Board also has the authority and duty to approve or disapprove an application for the creation of a new school district, or change in the boundaries of an existing school district; establish committees of professional and technical advisors to assist the councils in performing research studies undertaken by them; manage and have custody of the State School Fund; apply for, receive and administer Federal grants, appropriations, allocations and programs within its purview; adopt policies with regard to institutions of higher education; and, adopt master plans for basic and higher education.

The State Board of Education engages in constant review and appraisal of education in the Commonwealth. The Board's evaluation takes into account such matters as educational objectives, alternative organizational patterns, alternative programs of study, and the operating efficiency of the education system. The chairperson of the State Board refers all studies and investigations to one of its Councils, and receives and places on the agenda the findings and recommendations of the Council for appropriate action by the Board.

For purposes of studying issues and developing policy proposals, the Board is divided into two councils – the Council of Basic Education and the Council of Higher Education. The Council of Basic Education has the power and duty to develop a master plan for basic education in the Commonwealth for adoption by the Board; investigate programs, conduct research studies and formulate policy programs in all educational areas not within the purview of higher education; encourage and promote such agricultural, industrial, career and technical education programs as the needs of this Commonwealth may require; and investigate and make recommendations pertaining to the work of any schools of design, schools of industrial arts or industrial schools to which the General Assembly may make an appropriation.

The Council of Higher Education has the power and duty to develop a master plan for higher education in the Commonwealth for adoption by the Board; develop standards for the approval of colleges and universities for granting of certification and degrees; develop standards for all higher education building projects involving the use of state funds or the funds of any Commonwealth instrumentality; and, investigate programs, conduct research studies and formulate policy proposals in all areas pertaining to higher education in the Commonwealth, including a system of community colleges and technical institutions as provide by law.

The Board also serves as the State Board of Career and Technical Education and, in this capacity, sets policy and promulgates regulations regarding career and technical education in Pennsylvania at both the secondary and postsecondary levels. The Board met for the first time as the State Board of Career and Technical Education in January 2020 following the passage of Act 76 of 2019 that updated terminology throughout the Public School Code of 1949 by replacing references to “vocational-technical education” with “career and technical education”. Prior to January 2020, the Board was referred to as the State Board for Vocational-Technical Education.

Much of the Board’s work occurs in meetings of its standing committees, including the Committees on Academic Standards/Chapter 4; Teacher and School Leader Effectiveness; and Career and Technical Education. Ad Hoc and Special Committees also are established from time to time to oversee special projects.

Board committees are the bodies that conduct public meetings to solicit comments, concerns and questions from members of the general public, as well as those involved in the education enterprise on a particular education regulation or issue. When the Board decides to review a current regulation or develop a new one, it typically begins the process with roundtable discussions or public hearings conducted in several locations throughout the state. The committee takes the information it learns during this exercise and develops recommendations that can take the form of a report or revised regulations.

Proposed regulations are published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Additional public comments on a proposed regulation, as well as comments received from the House and Senate Education Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission, are considered and, based on this stakeholder input, the Board may make further refinements to the regulation that it deems necessary in crafting a final regulation.

State Board of Education Activity: 2023

Pursuant to Section 2603-B of the Public School Code of 1949, 24 P.S. § 26-2603-B, the State Board of Education (Board) is pleased to provide a report on its activities for the 2023 calendar year.

Chapter 4 (Academic Standards and Assessment)

The Board's Committee on Academic Standards/Chapter 4 (Committee) initiated a periodic review of the academic standards for Career Education and Work, Economics, and Family and Consumer Sciences in the fall of 2022 and policy deliberations pertaining to this review were central to the Board's work throughout the 2023 calendar year. The standards were opened for a comprehensive review, with a focus on whether concepts within the existing standards adequately address skills and competencies for students related to financial literacy.

To support the initial phase of the review process and to provide guidance to the Board in this work, the Committee directed the Department of Education to convene teams of educators and other content experts to conduct a preliminary review of the existing standards and to develop recommendations on whether the standards should be revised. Applications from individuals interested in serving on external standards review content committees were accepted in late 2022, and nominees to serve on these external review teams were approved by the Committee in early 2023. The standards review content committees met throughout the first half of the calendar year, and recommendations developed by the external standards review teams were presented at a public meeting of the Committee in July.

The standards review content committees recommended that the Board establish a new standalone set of academic standards for Personal Finance organized under the following six strands: 1) Personal Finance Fundamentals, 2) Income, 3) Spending, 4) Saving and Investing, 5) Risk and Insurance, and 6) Credit. The external review committees also recommended that the Board update the current academic standards for Career Education and Work, Economics, and Family and Consumer Sciences to better align with more recent voluntary national standards in those areas and, in the case of Career Education and Work, to incorporate a focus employability skills outcomes. The content committees further recommend revising the strands under which

these current standards are organized, as well as reorganizing the current standards into grade bands covering grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

A report containing the standards review content committees' detailed recommendations was posted on the Board's website, and the Committee determined that it would use these recommendations as a starting point for its deliberations on potential amendments to Chapter 4. The report identified the action recommended for each existing standard – whether it should be reorganized under a different strand or within a new grade band, whether the language of the standards required a technical or clarifying edit, or whether the standard should be amended substantively or removed. The report also presented graphics depicting the strands under which the current standards are organized and the new proposed strands for each set of standards in the report. Finally, the report presented new draft standards for Personal Finance for consideration by the Board.

The Committee announced that, at the same time it considers updates to the state's academic standards, it also will consider amendments to other provisions within Chapter 4. An Annex of other draft amendments to Chapter 4 was made publicly accessible on the Board's website. These draft amendments propose to shift the administration of the state's elementary-level science assessment from grade 4 to grade 5, require school entities to make various strategic plans publicly accessible on their websites, and make numerous technical and clarifying updates throughout the Chapter.

To gain perspectives on this work from additional stakeholders, the Committee scheduled three public hearings on the academic standards recommendations before it for consideration and on its other draft amendments to Chapter 4. Hearings were scheduled during the fall of 2023 in Allegheny County on September 25, in Montgomery County on September 14, and at the Department of Education in Harrisburg on September 13. The hearing scheduled for Montgomery County was canceled due to lack of registrations for the event. The Committee also invited interested stakeholders to submit written testimony in lieu of attending one of its public hearings.

The external standards review content committees reconvened at the end of October to review the additional stakeholder feedback collected through this process and to reexamine their recommendations on academic standards relative to this additional feedback. The Committee met in November to discuss this additional stakeholder input and to receive a presentation from the Department on the sense of the standards review content committees about specific stakeholder suggestions to further refine the recommended standards updates. The Committee deliberated on what content should be reflected in a draft proposed regulation and discussed a timeframe for implementation of updates to the academic standards. The Committee's work on Chapter 4 and the academic standards pertaining to Career Education and Work, Economics, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Personal Finance will continue into next year, and the Committee anticipates adopting a proposed rulemaking early in 2024.

Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs)

The Board approved final-omitted amendments to 22 Pa. Code Chapter 14 (Special Education Services and Programs) that updated terminology used throughout the Chapter. The technical amendments replaced references to the term "mental retardation" and to the term "mentally retarded" with the term "intellectual disability." The final-omitted amendments took effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on December 2, 2023, and bring the terminology used in the Board's regulations in line with terminology updates previously made in federal law and in other state regulations.

Chapter 16 (Special Education for Gifted Students)

In the fall of 2022, the Board's Committee on Special and Gifted Education opened a periodic review of the regulations that govern gifted education in 22 Pa. Code Chapter 16. That fall, the Special and Gifted Education Committee invited interested stakeholders to attend roundtable discussions to present their thoughts and concerns on gifted education in Pennsylvania and on the administration of Chapter 16. Roundtables were conducted in Harrisburg on October 20, in Pittsburgh on October 25, and in Malvern on October 27 using a hybrid virtual and in-person format. Additional stakeholder comments on Chapter 16 were shared with the Special and Gifted Education Committee in writing. The Committee then

reviewed the input provided by parents, gifted teachers, school administrators, and higher education faculty members that addressed issues surrounding gifted evaluation and identification, universal screening, services for children identified as twice exceptional, educator training in supporting the needs of gifted students, funding for gifted education, and more.

In response to this stakeholder input, in July of 2023 the Committee adopted a series of recommended actions to improve the delivery of gifted education services, to ensure compliance with existing requirements set forth in regulation, and to provide clarity surrounding certain practices. Among the recommendations, the Special and Gifted Education Committee endorsed requiring instruction and training in gifted education for individuals preparing to enter the education profession, for current teachers, and for administrators with supervisory responsibility for gifted education. The Committee also recommended that the Department of Education create and strengthen guidance to the field related to the implementation of Chapter 16 and the delivery of gifted education services as they pertain to the development of local acceleration policies for gifted education, best practices for the education of twice exceptional students, the administration of universal screening, and how the multidisciplinary criteria for evaluation referenced in the regulation should be applied in practice as permitted under the existing provisions of Chapter 16.

The Special and Gifted Education Committee further endorsed the formation of an external committee of school psychologists to provide input on whether the current criteria used for gifted evaluation should be amended to lower the established I.Q. score for gifted identification and to include other measures suggested by stakeholders. The Committee also recommended that the Department use its existing supervisory authority of gifted education services and programs to regularly monitor whether school districts are in compliance with gifted education caseloads as established in Chapter 16. Finally, the Committee recommended that the Department seek support from the General Assembly to increase its staff complement with responsibility for gifted education in order to build capacity to conduct more frequent monitoring of school districts' compliance with the requirements of Chapter 16. A copy of the Committee's full recommendations is available on the Board's website.

Pennsylvania Public Postsecondary Career and Technical Education Accreditation

The State Board of Career and Technical Education (SBCTE) holds the authority to accredit public postsecondary career and technical education programs in Pennsylvania through approval granted by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The SBCTE's scope of authority is limited to accrediting career and technical centers that offer non-degree granting career and technical programs for adults approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department) that are 300 hours or longer in duration. The SBCTE evaluates institutions that seek voluntary accreditation under this authority through a partnership with the Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE) within the Department. The SBCTE, through the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education, authorizes BCTE to manage the state's accreditation program.

During 2023, the SBCTE considered applications for accreditation from two public postsecondary career and technical centers. The Board considered findings from a review of each application by BCTE, considered a recommendation developed on each application from an external advisory body (the Institutional Accreditation Advisory Group), and deliberated on whether each application met the established accreditation guidelines. An application for accreditation of Schuylkill Technology Center (STC) was found to be favorable and, in November, the Board granted re-accreditation to STC for a five-year period. An application for accreditation of Lebanon County Career and Technology Center (LCCTC) was found to have two areas of non-compliance with the guidelines for accreditation and, in September, the Board granted LCCTC probationary accreditation for one year with stipulations. During the probationary period, LCCTC will have the opportunity to correct the identified areas of non-compliance and the Board may consider granting the institution accreditation status next year if it finds the actions taken by LCCTC have satisfied the areas of non-compliance.

Finally, in September, the SBCTE approved clarifying updates to the accreditation guidelines for public postsecondary career and technical education in Pennsylvania. These clarifications were made in response to feedback from ED in the course of its review of a petition previously filed with ED seeking to extend recognition of the SBCTE as an approved accreditor.

Petition of the Springfield School District to Withdraw as a Member of the Local Sponsor of Delaware County Community College

The Springfield School District filed a petition with the Board seeking to withdraw as a member of the local sponsor of Delaware County Community College. Per section 1910-A of the Public School Code, no school district that is part of the local sponsor of a community college may withdraw its sponsorship without the Board's approval. The Board accepted the petition as a matter of new business in September and, at that time, addressed procedural next steps pertaining to the petition. The Board determined that it would designate a presiding officer under the relevant provisions of the General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure to hold hearings and resolve procedural matters as may be necessary to develop and submit a proposed report to the Board in order for the Board to rule on the petition. The Board further acted to publish a notice in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* inviting interested parties to file a petition to intervene, notice of intervention or protest, and request for a public hearing.

The Delaware County Community College was the only party to file a petition to intervene and request for a public hearing in this matter. In November, the Board considered and acted to approve the petition filed by the community college, granting Delaware County Community College intervenor status. A presiding officer has been appointed to conduct a public hearing in this matter and consideration of this petition will continue into 2024.

College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee

In January 2011, the Board formed the College Textbook Policies Advisory Committee, a Standing Committee of the Board established by Act 104 of 2010. The Committee is comprised of higher education faculty, textbook publishers, college booksellers, postsecondary students, members of the General Assembly, and the Deputy Secretary for Postsecondary and Higher Education. The Advisory Committee is tasked with issuing a report to the Governor and the General Assembly with recommendations to improve college textbook affordability and accessibility. With the support of the Department of Education, the Advisory Committee has continued to meet quarterly since its inception to consider these issues and, per statute, to update its report every three years. An updated report from the Advisory Committee was presented in

November of 2021 and transmitted to the Governor and the General Assembly. The updated report also is posted on the Board's website.

Student Representation on the State Board of Education

In an effort to broaden the perspective and experience of the Board, the Board changed its by-laws in 2008 to incorporate student representatives on the Board in a non-voting capacity. At present, this includes four student members – two senior student members and two junior student members who serve as advisory members on the Council of Basic Education and the Council of Higher Education. Two new student members are named to serve on the Board annually for two-year terms that begin each year in July.

Since the inception of the Board's Student Leadership Program, support for the Board's student members has been funded through private grants. The Board extends its deep appreciation to Highmark for extending its financial support of the Student Leadership Program in 2023, which will sustain this opportunity for Pennsylvania students to continue having a direct voice in issues that affect youth across the Commonwealth. Highmark has been a vital program partner, and the Board appreciates their continued generosity in supporting the Student Leadership Program. The Board also recognizes the invaluable contributions of the Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils (PASC) to the success of the Student Leadership Program. Since 2008, PASC has provided in-kind support for the Student Leadership Program by facilitating the application process for high school student member candidates and by providing mentoring support and peer networking opportunities for the high school students selected to serve as advisory members of the Board. The Board is grateful for PASC's continued partnership in supporting this program.