

## Organizing and Mobilization

## Legislative Relations/Advocacy

## Training/Support

## State Budget Timeline

## School District Budget Timeline

DECEMBER 2018

- Invite your friends/networks to follow PA Schools Work on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Ask five people in your community to send congratulatory cards to House and Senate members.
- Ask five people to find and follow legislators on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)

- Send a handwritten card congratulating your House and Senate member on the individual's victory. Write a personal note in the card. Let them know you look forward to work
- Send a holiday card to the legislator's office(s)
- Find and follow your legislator on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Schedule a one-on-one meeting for January with your House and Senate members in their district offices.

- Congratulatory cards available from PA Schools Work (PSW).
- Watch [video](#) on basic ed formula courtesy of PSBA.
- Basics of Social Media for advocacy - See PSW toolkit.

- State agencies have submitted budget request to Governor's Budget Office.
- The Wolf Administration developing budget proposal for FY 2019-20.
- Wolf Administration provides mid-year budget briefing on current budget (FY 2018-19) before Christmas.
- Legislative leaders deliberate and assign committee chairmanships.

- School districts are developing their preliminary budgets and/or determining what kind of property tax increase is necessary for FY 2019-20.

JANUARY 2019

- Urge school boards, other organizations or professional associations to adopt a resolution in support of significant new school funding.

- Meet with your House and Senate members in the district. If you have a relationship - talk about budget expectations for 2019 and your

- PSW will share link to petition.
- PSW will share draft of school board and organization resolutions.

- The two year legislative session for calendar years 2019 and 2020 begins. Legislators seated on January 1.

- Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> School district deadline to release preliminary budget or adopt a resolution that it will not increase property taxes beyond its Act 1

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JANUARY 2019

- Share PSW petition calling on Gov. Wolf and the General Assembly to increase K - 12 education funding by \$510M per year for four years with the same 5 people.
- Share petition on social media. Identify local leader(s) of your district PTO or PTA and booster clubs. Request a meeting for February to talk about school funding.
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg - make your voice heard!
- Get 10 people to send postcards to their legislator asking for greater school funding.
- Submit an op -ed or LTE in support of greater school funding.

three education priorities. If you don't have a relationship, make it an introductory meeting, get to know the person (and their staff) and their legislative priorities. Share your top three education issues/priorities. Make it a conversation - not confrontational!

- Watch [PSEA video](#) on tips for meeting with a legislator.
- Info available - Legislator Fact Sheets by Ed Voters PA.
- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.

- Wolf Administration finalizing FY 2019 - 20 budget proposal.
- Strategic leaks to statewide media in the final week of January to set the stage for asks.
- General Assembly likely to return to session for business after MLK day.

index. Allows the public to view an early estimate of school district spending and mandated costs.

FEBRUARY 2019

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Feb. 5th/6th - Check out PSW Facebook and Twitter pages. Share information on FY 19-20 budget proposal. Make sure you're engaging the same 5 people again!

- Late-February: Participate in PSW recap on the proposed FY 19-20 education budget.
- Attend a school board meeting and report back to your network what you learned about the district's 2019-2020 budget. Share information on social media too!
- Identify two people who are not affiliated with public education but are strong business or civic leaders. Call or email them about your concerns and the need for more school funding.

PSW will share legislator to your school to read to students for Read Across America Day (March 2). Work together with everyone in the school district.

- Plan a meeting in the Legislator's district office following the Governor's Budget Address with other supporters of increased school funding.

PSW will share information on social media on Gov. Wolf's FY 19-20 budget proposal.

- PSW will arrange a webinar briefing to explain what the FY 19-20 budget means to schools.
- PSW can provide sample outreach letter/script for business and non-traditional allies.
- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.

Feb 5th - Gov. Wolf scheduled to give annual state budget address and propose the FY 2019-20 state budget.

- Legislative leaders respond to budget proposal.
- House and Senate Appropriations Committee hearings begin.

Feb. 14th - School district deadline to adopt preliminary budget (if not adopting a resolution)

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FEBRUARY 2019

- the need for more school funding.
- Get 10 people to send postcards to their legislator asking for greater school funding.
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg - make your voice heard!
- Submit an op -ed or LTE in support of greater school funding.

MARCH 2019

- Participate in PSW Twitter storm around PDE budget hearing to greater school funding.
- No later than March 15th - Schedule an April town hall on school funding in your community. Work with colleagues, school districts, and others

- March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Have House and Senators in schools for Read Across America day.
- Invite legislators to stay for lunch at the school. School administrators and principals should use their presence to engage the legislators on what students and educators need.

- PSW and its member organizations can share results of surveys on what school districts would do with significant new state investments in education.
- PSW and member organizations will kick-off a Twitter storm the day of

- The Department of Education's House and Senate Appropriations hearings always occur the first week of March.
- Appropriations Committee hearings conclude in early March. Legislators return to Harrisburg before the end of the month.

- School district budget development continues. School boards examine options presented by administrative teams.

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MARCH 2019

- to organize and identify speakers.
- Reach out to your school district or attend a school board meeting - What does the governor's budget mean for your district?
- Submit an op-ed or LTE in support of greater school funding.
- Get 10 people to send postcards to their legislator asking for greater school funding.
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg - make your voice heard!

Answer the question - What would you do with a significant increase of annual funding? What are the schools' needs?

- the PDE budget hearings.
- PSW can help you plan a local town hall. Point of contact: Sandra Miller - [smiller@circuitriderforpa.schools.org](mailto:smiller@circuitriderforpa.schools.org).
- PSW can help you put together an LTE or op-ed. Point of contact: Danielle Gross - [dgross@shelly-lyons.com](mailto:dgross@shelly-lyons.com); 717-724-1681.
- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.

- Legislators communicating to their leaders about budget priorities. Leaders make their preliminary lists for negotiations. State budget process continues.
- Watch for budget bill introduction. Likely to be introduced in the House.

APRIL 2019

- Reconnect with PTA and PTOs and school district booster clubs. Invite them to the town hall.

- Surprise breakfast! Drop off donuts, pastries and coffee for district office staff. Make them your friends!

- PSW can help make the media aware of your local town hall. Points of contact: Danielle Gross -

- Important month for State Budget Works - Tax returns at the end of the month are a

- School district budget development continues. School boards examine

APRIL 2019

## Organizing and Mobilization

- Reconnect with local business or civic leaders. Update them on what's happening on school funding.
- Recruit attendees and for town hall.
- By the end of the month, hold local town hall on school funding. Coordinate with PSW to generate press coverage.
- Get 10 people to send postcards to their legislator asking for greater school funding.
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg – make your voice heard!
- Submit an op -ed or LTE in support of greater school

## Legislative Relations/Advocacy

- Treat your House and Senate members to coffee or lunch. Continue building the relationship and plugging school funding.

## Training/Support

- [dgross@shelly-lyons.com](mailto:dgross@shelly-lyons.com) ; 717-724-1681 and Sandra Miller – [smiller@circuitriderforpaschools.org](mailto:smiller@circuitriderforpaschools.org) .
- Refer to the PSW toolkit for information on planning and conducting to wnhall events.
- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.

## State Budget Timeline

- huge indicator of how much money the state will have to spend on budget priorities.
- Legislators publicly position themselves on the state's needs.
- Watch for budget bill introduction. Likely to be introduced in the House.

## School District Budget Timeline

options presented by administrative teams.

MAY 2019

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- Host a postcard party with pizza! Invite people from your community for a complimentary pizza dinner and while they're there, ask to them to prep postcards to send to their legislators to support greater school funding.
- Share PSW budget updates on social media.
- Talk to your 5 people again. What are they doing to support greater school funding? Did they send postcards to their legislators?
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg - make your voice heard!
- Submit an op-ed or LTE in support of greater school funding.

- Conduct a PTO/PTA meeting with legislators on school funding.
- Schedule a meeting for June (in Harrisburg or district office) with your legislators.
- Send a personal email to your legislator in mid-May - Ask how the budget process is going and what the legislators think will be provided for education. Ask if they spoke to their leadership about their districts' needs and any feedback they received.

- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.
- Refer to your PSW toolkit to develop your "2 Minute Elevator Speech."

- Staff for legislative leaders and the governor begin talking about the FY 2019-20 budget (if they haven't before) to begin mapping out the process for consideration of the budget in May and June.
- Sometimes the House moves a budget in early-May to kick-off the budget process and show the public its priorities.
- **Watch for budget bill introduction. Likely to be introduced in the House.**

- Around May 1st School districts deciding if they will do economic furloughs.
- May 31<sup>st</sup>- Schools districts that decided to adopt a resolution indicating their property tax increase would not exceed the Act 1 index must approve proposed budgets. Allows the public to view district spending priorities and mandated costs.

JUNE 2019

## Organizing and Mobilization

- Early -June- Reach out to your school board or district administration. Understand how final FY 2019 -20 school district budget is shaping up.
- Participate in advocacy opportunities sponsored by PSW.
- Work with PSW or your membership associations to schedule a regional delegation trip to Harrisburg – make your voice heard!
- End-of-June - Attend the school board meeting for your district's final budget adoption. Offer public comment in support of the need for greater state funding.
- Get 20 people to send postcards to their legislators.
- Submit an op -ed or LTE in support of greater school funding.

## Legislative Relations/Advocacy

- Meet with your House and Senate members (in Harrisburg or district office) at the beginning of month. Ask them what's being talking about for school funding in the budget process. React. Ask how you can help them do more.
- Send your legislator personal emails every week to check -in on the progress of budget negotiations and specifically school funding.

## Training/Support

- PSW will communicate about events.
- PSW can help with facts and figures to use in any public comments.
- PSW can provide postcards to support greater school funding.

## State Budget Timeline

- Budget negotiations typically begin, in earnest, between the governor and the legislature.
- The House and Senate will position the budget bill for final adoption by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
- The legislature is in session all four weeks.
- Bills that implement the budget and/or are policy trades with the House and Senate move through the legislative process. To implement the education funding portion of a budget, two other bills must be passed that amend the Fiscal Code and the Public School Code.

## School District Budget Timeline

- Final adjustments are made to school district budgets by administrators with direction given by school boards.
- June 20<sup>th</sup>- Deadline for school districts offer public notice of their intent to adopt their final FY 2019-20 budget.
- June 30<sup>th</sup>- Deadline for school districts to adopt their final FY 2019-20 budget.