



Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators
Proud Leadership for Pennsylvania Schools

March 21, 2011

To whom it may concern:

The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) represents school district superintendents and other chief school leaders throughout the state. Our mission is to promote high quality public education for all learners through the support and development of professional leaderships.

PASA and its members support efforts to provide mandate relief to school boards and administrators to provide them the flexibility they need to make efficient use of limited taxpayer dollars and maximize educational programming and opportunities that improve student achievement.

PASA supports efforts by members of the General Assembly to enact a new mandate waiver program. PASA also supports efforts to provide permanent relief to school districts, intermediate units and career and technical education centers from state mandates that rob resources that could otherwise be directed towards improving student achievement. Longstanding personnel rules such as those that prohibit schools from furloughing professional staff for economic reasons, requiring staff to be furloughed solely on the basis of seniority and overly restrictive state certification requirements that require schools to employ more teachers than is necessary each adds to the cost of operating the school entity.

PASA supports efforts to allow school entities to bid construction projects utilizing single prime contractors. Waivers of prevailing wage requirements should also be permitted when districts can clearly demonstrate that a school construction project can be completed at documented levels that exceed construction standards at lower cost. School entities should be permitted to invite bids for purchases through electronic media instead of being required to spend tens of thousands of dollars each year on placing legal ads in newspapers.

Finally, school districts, intermediate units and career and technical education centers should be provided the option to request waivers of broad sections of the Public School Code when a clear plan describes how the entity will improve educational opportunities and student achievement at decreased costs to state and local taxpayers. Schools should be permitted to use their creativity to design effective and efficient educational programming similar to that used by successful charter schools which are already exempted from many state mandates.

For more information, please contact PASA at (717) 540-4448 or pasa@pasa-net.org