



## Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

Mailing Address:  
P.O. Box 6993  
Harrisburg, PA 17112-0993

Office Location:  
2608 Market Place  
Harrisburg, PA 17110

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Telephone 717-540-9551

[www.pasbo.org](http://www.pasbo.org)

FAX 717-540-1796

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Contact: Jay Himes, Executive Director, (717) 350-8593 (cell); [jhimes@pasbo.org](mailto:jhimes@pasbo.org)  
Hannah Barrick, Director of Advocacy, (717) 979-0426 (cell); [hbarrick@pasbo.org](mailto:hbarrick@pasbo.org)

### **SCHOOLS NEED FUNDING NOW: PASBO URGES IMMEDIATE RESOLUTION OF 2015-16 BUDGET**

HARRISBURG (3/23/2016): The PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) organized a Capitol Rotunda press conference this morning urging Governor Wolf to sign the budget bill on his desk to allow schools to remain open and avoid increased costs and financial chaos.

The impact of the 2015-16 budget impasse is being felt in each and every school district regardless of size, wealth or demographics. The \$3 billion dollars in state education funding currently being withheld from schools—more than 50% of the state basic education funding line item—is throwing all districts into financial upheaval and is threatening to close the doors of some of the state's poorest districts.

To survive to this point—266 days past the due date for the 2015-16 state budget, many districts have already borrowed, some multiple times. Districts have exhausted all options to conserve resources and minimize expenditures. Without immediate resolution of the budget, the need to borrow will escalate in districts across the state, forcing districts to spend money they don't have and risk default of their loans just to keep their doors open. Some districts won't be lucky enough to even do that and are put in the real and imminent situation of having to close their doors completely within weeks.

Signing the 2015-16 budget bill and related fiscal code bill will provide immediate relief to the school districts that are struggling now. School districts will not incur additional borrowing costs. They will not default on their loans. Doors will not close. Students will emerge from the political crossfire without additional disruption to their education.

"It is time to conclude what has become an interminable and hopeless process for 2015-16. By signing the budget, Governor Wolf, the legislature and school districts can shift their focus to real and serious resolution of the 2016-17 state budget," said Jay Himes, PASBO executive director. "With school districts currently building 2016-17 budgets with zero certainty about the fiscal year that is nearly complete, delaying 2015-16 even further does nothing but set an all-time low for putting the perceived needs of adults above the real educational needs of students."