



Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials

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PASBO APPLAUDS DECISION TO RELEASE STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

HARRISBURG (3/23/2016): The PA Association of School Business Officials (PASBO) supports Governor Wolf's decision to release the \$3 billion in state basic education funding. This funding is critical to ensure that school district doors will remain open across the state.

The governor's decision not to veto the budget is welcome and timely, as many PASBO members participated in a press conference this morning in which they articulated the ongoing financial chaos and consequences to their school districts, students and taxpayers resulting from the prolonged budget impasse.

Just as the impasse was being felt in districts of every shape, size and demographic, the release of state basic education funds will provide a welcome relief to all of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts.

School districts will no longer be on the brink of disaster. School districts will not need to close their doors in 2015-16, ensuring that they can continue to provide the education their students deserve. School districts will be able to repay their loans by June 30 without fear of default, and those on the brink of borrowing can avoid unnecessary additional costs altogether. School districts can pay their vendors, make necessary purchases and begin to recover from the financial instability that has plagued them for the past nine months.

"We are very appreciative of Governor Wolf's decision to release state basic education funding to school districts," said Jay Himes, PASBO executive director. "We also recognize that much more needs to be done to finalize the 2015-16 budget, including the implementation of the new basic education funding formula and distribution of PlanCon dollars to districts owed reimbursement in 2015-16."

"PASBO understands the enormity of the financial challenges facing the state in 2016-17, and PASBO stands ready to work to overcome those challenges and to increase education funding for next year," said Himes. "Today, however, we are pleased that an absolute disaster was averted in districts across the state, allowing districts to breathe a little easier as they prepare for discussions on their 2016-17 budgets."