

Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators

Summer 2009 Newsletter

2009-2010 State Budget

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania still does not have an operating budget for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. While negotiations are still taking place, it is doubtful that the state will have a budget within the next three weeks. The Senate and House of Representatives have both passed their versions of a budget but the two bodies are approximately \$2 billion apart in expenditures. Currently, a specially appointed committee of three senators and three representatives are engaged in further debates in public to arrive at a compromise on the disparities between the house and Senate versions. What does this mean for career and technical education? The 2008-2009 budget allocation for career and technical education was approximately \$64 million. In their proposal for 2009-2010, the House keeps career and technical education level funded at that amount while the senate budget would cut career and technical education by almost ten percent. At this point, our best option is clearly the House budget. Should the state fund career and technical education at a level less than the 2008-2009 fiscal year, the state stands to forfeit some or all of the federal Perkins funding due to the maintenance of effort requirement. The federal maintenance of effort requires states that receive federal dollars for certain programs not reduce the level of state funding for that same program on a year to year basis. If that happens, the maintenance of effort requirement activates and may result in a loss of Perkins funding for Pennsylvania. PACTA is working through many channels to make the members of the conference committee aware of the maintenance of effort requirements and to apprise them of the potential loss of Perkins funds should the state reduce its funding allocation to career and technical education.

Special Education PIL Program

This year, PACTA is offering a 45 hour Special Education PIL program entitled *Improving the Achievement of Special Education Students in Career and Technical Education*. The program includes a two day initial session, embedded job assignments, online discussions, and a follow-up session next summer. Members may elect to attend one of the initial two day sessions. The first two day session is being held at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College on Monday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 11. The second two day session is being held at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College on Tuesday, September 15 and Wednesday, September 16. Each two day session of the Special Education PIL will be identical so attendance at one two day session will be sufficient to participate in the program. The first day of the PIL will focus on the legal issues and requirements of special education services in Pennsylvania and the second day will target strategies towards improving student achievement through effective IEP design and the use of specially designed instruction. The presenters include an attorney with extensive expertise in career and technical education and special education along with two supervisors of special education. The attorney has been a solicitor for a CTC (career and technology center) and both special education supervisors have worked at CTCs. For more information including the registration form, visit <http://pacareertech.org/calendar/> and look under August 2009.

PSSA PIL Program for 2009-2010 – October 5

PACTA will also be offering the PSSA PIL program for 2009-2010 in a similar manner as it was offered during the 2008-2009 school year. As with the NOCTI/OCA PIL, the PSSA PIL is designed for individuals to enroll each year with a focus on using the information and techniques learned to implement a continuous improvement process. The initial session of the PSSA PIL will take place on October 5 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Additionally, there will be job embedded work and a final session in a manner similar to last year's PSSA PIL. The PSSA PIL will be data intensive and participants will be asked to bring any PSSA data with them for entry and analysis during the October 5 PIL session. While PSSA data is not always readily available to career and technical centers, participants will be able to bring other benchmarking data such as 4-Sight or other relevant assessment data. For more information, visit <http://pacareertech.org/calendar/> and scroll down to October.

NOCTI/OCA PIL Program for 2009-2010 – October 6

PACTA will be offering the NOCTI/OCA PIL program for 2009-2010 in a similar manner as it was offered during the 2008-2009 school year. The PILs are designed for individuals to take them each year with a focus on using the information and techniques to implement a continuous improvement process. The initial session of the NOCTI/OCA PIL will take place on October 6 at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College. Additionally, there will be job embedded work and a final session in a manner similar to last year's NOCTI/OCA PIL. The NOCTI/OCA PIL will be data intensive and participants will be asked to bring NOCTI data with them for entry and analysis during the October 6 PIL session. For more information, visit <http://pacareertech.org/calendar/> and scroll down to October.

Other PACTA Professional Development Opportunities

The following professional development opportunities are being offered by PACTA in September at the Nittany Lion Inn in State College:

Workshop on Technology in Career and Technical Education – September 29-30

Workshop for CTE Business Administrators – September 29-30

Workshop for CTE Guidance Counselors – September 29-30

Workshop for Adult CTE Coordinators – September 29-30

For more information, visit <http://pacareertech.org/calendar/> and scroll down to September.

PACTA Strategic Plan

In May, the Executive Committee met to discuss the 2009-2012 PACTA Strategic Plan. The officers also discussed the strategic plan prior to the annual conference in July.

Technical Assistance Program (TAP)

PACTA and PDE are teaming together to offer a program of technical assistance to career and technical centers for the second consecutive year. A total of thirty-six career and technical centers will be involved in the TAP project this year. The purpose of TAP is to significantly raise the academic and technical achievement of all students at CTCs. Through TAP, PDE will assist CTCs and sending school districts with raising student performance on the PSSA and occupational end-of-program assessments. All participating CTCs will develop an improvement plan for increasing student achievement, work with a Career and Technical Distinguished School Leader (CTDSL) and participate in all professional development activities provided by BCTE and PACTA. For more information on the Technical Assistance Program please contact, Dr. Lee Burket, State Director, BCTE at lburket@state.pa.us or Ms. Jackie Cullen, Executive Director, PACTA at jackie@pacareertech.org.

Career and Technical School Distinguished School Leaders (CTDSL)

The very successful CTDSL program will be continued this year for CTCs in the TAP project. The CTDSLs are acquiring significant expertise in data analysis, assessment, instructional strategies, and special education among many other areas. This year, the CTDSLs will be involved in a three day intensive training program during August to update their knowledge in all aspects of the technical assistance being provided through the TAP project. CTDSLs will be assigned to technical centers in the TAP project and will be working with them throughout the year in an effort to provide technical assistance in improving student achievement.

School Counselors as CTE Stakeholders

This report discusses the importance of school counselors in helping students make one of the biggest decisions they will ever make in choosing a career. While school counselors and faculty work together in many respect, counselors play a vital role in guiding students though the many aspects of selecting a career and/or attending a post-secondary institution. For more information and a pdf file of the report, visit http://www.careertech.org/uploaded_files/Counselors_as_CTE_Stakeholders.pdf

National STEM Report

A notable amount of students who earned a degree in a science, technology, engineering or math field did so through a certificate or associate program according to a recent National Center for Education Statistics report. The statistics presented in the [*Students Who Study Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics in Postsecondary Education*](#) report could help underscore the role secondary and postsecondary CTE programs play in national efforts to strengthen the STEM education pipeline. The study focuses on undergraduate students' entrance into STEM studies and examines longitudinal data from the *1995-96 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study*, which includes a

nationally representative sample of about 12,000 first-time students who enroll in postsecondary education.

State Government/PDE Information

[Senate Bill 1007](#) prohibits lame duck school boards from renewing or rescinding (except for cause) a superintendent's contract. Such action must wait until the new school board has taken office. Senate Bill 1007 would apply to districts where three or more incumbent school directors were defeated in the primary election and there are 11 or more months remaining on the superintendent's contract.

More Students Perform on Grade Level in Pennsylvania

More Pennsylvania students than ever before are performing at grade level in reading and math with increases seen across the board in all grades and subjects tested according to statewide PSSA results for each grade level released this week by PDE. Pennsylvania Education Secretary Gerald Zahorchak said the results clearly show that Pennsylvania's investments in public education are working to increase student achievement. The statewide assessments in reading and math are administered in grades 3-8 and in grade 11. [Click here](#) for details on the 2009 PSSA results.

Independent Regulatory Review Commission

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) recently approved two final [regulations](#) (6-317, 6-320) relating to special education services and programs. The purpose of these regulations is to align [Chapter 14](#) (Special Education Services and Programs) and [Chapter 711](#) (Charter School and Cyber Charter School Services and Programs for Children with Disabilities) with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) regulations which were amended in December 2008 to address consent, parental consent and hearing rights issues. These regulatory changes are necessary to allow the state to be eligible for more than \$500 million in federal funding. These final-omit regulations will become effective upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Pennsylvania Ranks 46th in State Support for Education

Pennsylvania ranks 46th in the nation in state support for public education according to the annual report on [Public Education Finances](#) from the U.S. Census Bureau. According to the report, Pennsylvania provided 35.5% of public education revenues in 2007, with 57.0% coming from local sources and 7.5% from the federal government. While the state exceeds the national average in spending per pupil (\$11,098 compared to \$9,666), Pennsylvania lags in the share of education funding provided by the state, with the national average for distribution of revenue at 47.6% state, 44.1% local, and 8.3% federal. This low state share in Pennsylvania places a disproportionate burden on local property taxes as a source of school district revenue.

Upcoming Events

August 10-11	Special Education PIL – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
September 15-16	Special Education PIL – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
September 29-30	Technology, Business Administrators, Guidance Counselors and Adult CTE Coordinators Workshops – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
October 5	PSSA PIL – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
October 6	OCA/NOCTI PIL – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
October 6	PACTA Executive Committee Meeting – Nittany Lion Inn, State College
October 7	PACTA General Membership Meeting – Nittany Lion Inn, State College