

From: Jackie Cullen, Executive Director, PAVA

Governor Rendell presented his budget to the legislature today. PAVA officers Robert Clark and Clyde Hornberger attended the budget address as invited guests of the administration. **For the first time in my memory, a governor spent part of his speech discussing career and technical education.** Below is a paragraph from the speech. Also below is an overview of the Education Budget from the PDE website. I have highlighted the section on Career and Technical Education. (In addition, the Governor has proposed a 2.5% increase in the vocational subsidy.)

“In announcing the new Task Force to Connect Education to the Workplace, Representative Sam Smith said: “Since 1995, we have made significant gains in improving the quality of education in Pennsylvania, yet there is still some type of disconnect with our schools and the workplace.” I concur. We must upgrade the training available for the estimated 90,000 students who will graduate from our vocational and technical education schools. For too long we have shortchanged the basic education of these students, and for too many we have offered training that is not in sync with real jobs. We will launch a five-year program to work with employers to re-tool our vocational and career training system. We will work with our schools to improve their curricula and make smarter equipment purchases and make sure that these students meet Pennsylvania’s proficiency standards for high school reading and math. By better directing existing resources, we can ensure that these students leave high school with the skills they need to secure good jobs or succeed in higher education.”-Governor Rendell

FAST FACTS 2005-2006 Pennsylvania Budget Impact on Education

Tutoring

- * Tutoring is a proven way to boost achievement for struggling students and a necessity in the Commonwealth. Last year, 43 percent of Pennsylvania students did not reach proficiency on the state math test, and 37 percent were below the standard on the state reading test.
- * In 2003-04, Governor Rendell signed into law the Educational Assistance Program for targeted tutoring. Almost 35,000 students in 82 academically challenged school districts received extra help in the first year.
- * This year, proposed funding for the program will double (from \$38 million to \$76 million), thereby increasing the number of students who receive tutoring and the number of districts where tutoring is available.
- * Expanding tutoring is more necessary now than ever before, as the NCLB reading and math targets will begin to increase sharply this school year.

High School Reform

- * Governor Rendell’s 2005-06 budget invests \$4.7 million to create high schools of the future through Project 720 – named for the number of days a student spends in high school. Forty-one school districts are already participating in the program, and this investment will enable the number of districts involved to double.
- * Project 720 schools will be models for the rest of the state:

- o All students will take challenging courses;
- o Schools will personalize learning;
- o Students will receive high-quality guidance and career counseling; and
- o Students will have more options transitioning from high school to postsecondary education and high-skill careers.

* Why is action needed?

- o More than half of 11th graders are not proficient in math on the state test; nearly two in five are below the standard in reading.
- o Only 44 percent of high school freshmen graduate on time with a college-ready transcript.
- o Less than half of Pennsylvania's school districts require students to take four years of math in order to graduate, and barely one in four require four years of science to graduate.

Basic & Special Education Subsidies

* Governor Rendell's 2005-06 budget includes:

- o A \$109 million (2.5 percent) increase in the Basic Education subsidy, and
- o A \$23.2 million (2.5 percent) increase in the Special Education subsidy.

* These subsidies, which will total \$5.2 billion next year, represent the vast majority of the state's funding for pre-K-12 education. These resources must be distributed in a way that benefits all school districts, while providing more support to schools and students that have the greatest need.

* According to the latest Education Week "State of the States Report," Pennsylvania received a "C-" in School Funding Equity. Pennsylvania ranks 43rd out of the 50 states for being able to afford a quality education in all communities because "wealthier districts tend to receive significantly more state and local revenue than property-poor ones do."

* The Basic Education subsidy includes:

- o \$58 million in the Base Supplement that is shared by all school districts;
- o \$23 million in the first-ever Foundation Supplement for the 22 school districts that spend less than \$8,500 per student;
- o \$17 million in the Poverty Supplement for 167 school districts with the greatest economic challenges;
- o \$2 million to support Limited English Proficiency programs in 35 school districts; and
- o More than \$9 million to guarantee that every school district receives at least a 1.5 percent increase from last year, and that the poorer districts receive at least a 2 percent increase.

Early Childhood Education

* Governor Rendell's 2005-06 budget increases Head Start funding by \$15 million, doubling the investment to \$30 million. This increase will enable an additional 2,500 four-year-olds to get the early skills they need.

* The Governor's 2005-06 budget also continues the Accountability Block Grant at \$200 million. Thanks to the 2004-05 investment in the Accountability Block Grant, more than 53,000 children received pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten.

Dual Enrollment

* Pennsylvanians need an education that prepares them for college and the high-skills workforce. Governor Rendell's 2005-06 budget invests \$5 million in Dual Enrollment so students who take challenging courses in high school can earn college credit.

* Dual Enrollment will allow school districts to partner with community colleges and four-year colleges and universities to offer high school juniors and seniors who can show they are ready the chance to earn college credit while completing their high school requirements.

* In addition, Governor Rendell proposes that Pennsylvania join the nation's leading states in encouraging special Dual Enrollment programs for at-risk students...

- o Early College programs starting in 9th grade that last five or six years and lead to both a high school diploma and an associate's degree or enough credits to enter college as a junior
- o Middle College programs starting in 10th grade that take place on a college campus and lead to both a high school diploma and college credit
- o Gateway to College programs for 16 to 20-year-olds who have dropped out of high school, leading to both a high school diploma and college credit

Career & Technical Education (CTE)

* Nearly 100,000 Pennsylvania students are enrolled in CTE programs, and we must ensure that they receive strong academic skills and training in the careers of the future.

* To help CTE programs improve, the state will redirect \$40 million over the next five years towards competitive grants for equipment and curriculum upgrades. Grants will require a dollar-for-dollar local match, with extra credit for industry participation.

* Based on recommendations from Jobs for the Future and with the \$80 million incentive fund, the Rendell Administration will improve CTE in four key areas:

1. Academic Rigor * Insist on high academic standards for all CTE programs * Provide tutoring to students who are below proficient in reading and math
2. Industry Relevance * Ensure that programs are based on labor market needs * Eliminate outdated programs * Use industry-recognized standards and encourage programs to award industry-based certifications
3. Postsecondary Connections * Strengthen links between CTE and colleges * Encourage dual enrollment programs so students can earn high school and college credit at the same time
4. State Leadership * Expand PDE program review and demand results from all CTE programs * Provide technical assistance and quality training

Community Colleges

* Pennsylvania's 14 community colleges are a vital part of our state's workforce development and education systems. Governor Rendell's 2005-06 budget increases funding for community colleges by \$22.8 million—representing the largest community college funding increase in nearly 15 years.

* Governor Rendell's proposal uses a two-year average of community college enrollment in the funding formula, increasing funding predictability for the schools and the Commonwealth. It also addresses the community colleges' capital funding needs.

* The proposal increases state payments for credit-bearing classes and courses that provide training in fields that are linked to workforce development—creating incentives to offer courses in well-paying, high-demand occupations.

* The Governor's proposal also ensures that all students will be able to transfer all of their credits across community colleges, State System of Higher Education and state-related universities.

Accountability Block Grant

* Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvania's children are increasing their reading and math skills thanks to the Commonwealth's Accountability Block Grant. Governor Rendell's 2005-06 budget continues this successful investment with \$200 million in funding.

* School districts are spending more than \$2 out of every \$3 in Block Grants on early childhood education programs: quality pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, and class-size reduction in the early elementary grades.

* As a result of the first year of Accountability Block Grant funding:

- o 2,995 children are enrolled in pre-kindergarten programs; o 50,849 children are receiving full-day kindergarten; o 18,700 children are benefiting from reduced class sizes in kindergarten through 3rd grade; o 18,632 students are receiving tutoring so they can catch up with their peers;

- o 508,257 students will make greater learning gains because their teachers are engaging in more professional education and receiving help from teacher coaches; and o 369,999 students are benefiting from social and health services, science and applied knowledge programs, initiatives aimed at improving the performance of student subgroups, and other educational investments that are proven to help increase achievement levels.