

**Pennsylvania Association of Vocational Administrators
Legislative Priorities for 2005**

1. Support the proposed 2.5 % increase in vocational education subsidy proposed by the Governor and request an additional 2.5%.

The subsidy increase would provide much needed additional funding for career and technical education. State funding has not kept pace with enrollment increases in recent years resulting in a reduction in per student allocation. Costs over which schools have no control such as retirement payments and insurance continue to increase. The proposed increase in subsidy would help to meet those costs and to reduce the need for local property tax increases.

2. Support the funding for equipment and curriculum upgrades for career and technical education contained the Governor's budget.

In order to prepare students to meet the occupational and academic skill requirements of the workplace they must be prepared in programs that meet industry standards. Funding to update curriculum and equipment is essential if we are to prepare students for the careers of the future.

3. Oppose the creation of a Board of Community Colleges as proposed in H.B. 8.

The creation of a Board of Community Colleges would serve to disadvantage other providers of workforce development and education programs in the Commonwealth. It would hinder coordination of workforce development efforts across the state by needlessly creating another policymaking body. Efforts to create a seamless K-16 education system would be undermined by the creation of the Board.

4. Provide an exemption or waiver for payments by school districts for the operation of area vocational-technical schools.

Area vocational-technical schools are operated by a consortium of school districts. Cost of the operation of the area school is shared by the local districts based on a mutually agreed upon formula which in the majority of cases includes number of students enrolled. Act 72 may cause school districts to restrict the number of students allowed to attend the area school. In order not to deny students the opportunity to participate in career and technical education, Act 72 should be amended to provide an exemption for payments for the operation of area vocational-technical schools.

5. Provide increased funding for adult career and technical education programs to better meet the needs of Pennsylvania's employers.

Career and Technical Schools play a critical role in training and re-training Pennsylvania's adult workforce. The adult program reimbursement provides funding for these efforts at the rate of 80% of \$8.60 per instructional hour. This rate has not changed in 17 years although the latest PDE data should the average instructional hour cost to be almost \$26. The cost to increase the adult program reimbursement to reflect current cost would require an increase in state funding of approximately \$3 million.