PASA Daily Briefing
March 18, 2020

1. Daily Briefings Overview

2. Legislative School Code Bill in Process (Tentative – Sketchy Information)
   - Eliminate 180-day requirement
   - Secretary of Ed can close schools
   - Increase flexible instructional days
   - Waive CTE hours
   - Waive Teacher/Principal Evals
   - 12 Week Student Teacher Waiver
   - No salary increases
   - PSERS credits remain
   - Same charter payments
   - $40 million less for online charter
   - Schools may apply for any waiver from Secretary of Ed
   - Charter package in senate possible

3. Joint Associations letter sent to the General Assembly Today asking for relief and waivers
   - Waive the 180-day school year requirement;
   - Increase the number of flexible instructional days permissible during this pandemic closure to a number determined by the secretary
   - Require PDE to apply for a federal waiver from PSSA and Keystone Exam testing
   - Authorize the secretary to waive NOCTI and NIMS exams for Career and Technical Education students
   - Ensure all employees, particularly education support professionals, receive no more or no less compensation than they otherwise would have received;
   - Ensure no employee receives more or less credit or contributes more or less than they otherwise would have pursuant to the Public-School Employees’ Retirement System under 24 Pa.C.S. Pt. IV;
   - Ensure that school entities provide proper protective gear for custodians who provide deep cleaning of potentially infected school buildings
   - Waive the twelve-week student teacher requirement.
4. Latest PDE Update Released at 10:30 today – PDE website
5. Joint Association FAQ coming soon
6. 180 Day School Year Clarification
   a. Local decision to go up to June 30. It is not required.
   b. Must report a school year less than 180 days
   c. The simplified PDE form will be approved when completed
7. Continuation of education vs. review and enrichment
   a. No instruction required during shutdown
   b. Must meet FAPE, IEP’s, ESL if continuing education services
8. Special Education Timelines and Issues
   a. Must provide sp. ed. and 504 services to the “greatest extent possible:
   b. Must consider compensatory education when school resumes
   c. Important to reach out to parents
9. Subsidies expected to continue (Transportation shortfall)
10. PASA has requested a moratorium on new Cyber Charter School Enrollments during the closure
11. Paying staff during the shutdown – CBA’s and bargained work year
12. Districts furloughing staff
13. Board Meetings – PSBA Guidance
14. PSERS Issues
15. School Lunch Issues – Must report number of meals served
16. PSSA and Keystone Waivers – AASA working with Congress and USDE
17. Reimbursement for miscellaneous district closure expenses – not likely
18. Free education resources from Edmentum, Newsela, and Curriculum Assoc.
19. Possible extension of school closures – Kansas, Maybe California and Florida