

Public Schools In Crisis

How Bad Can It Get?

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Millersville University

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION



HOURGLASS



How Bad Can It Get?



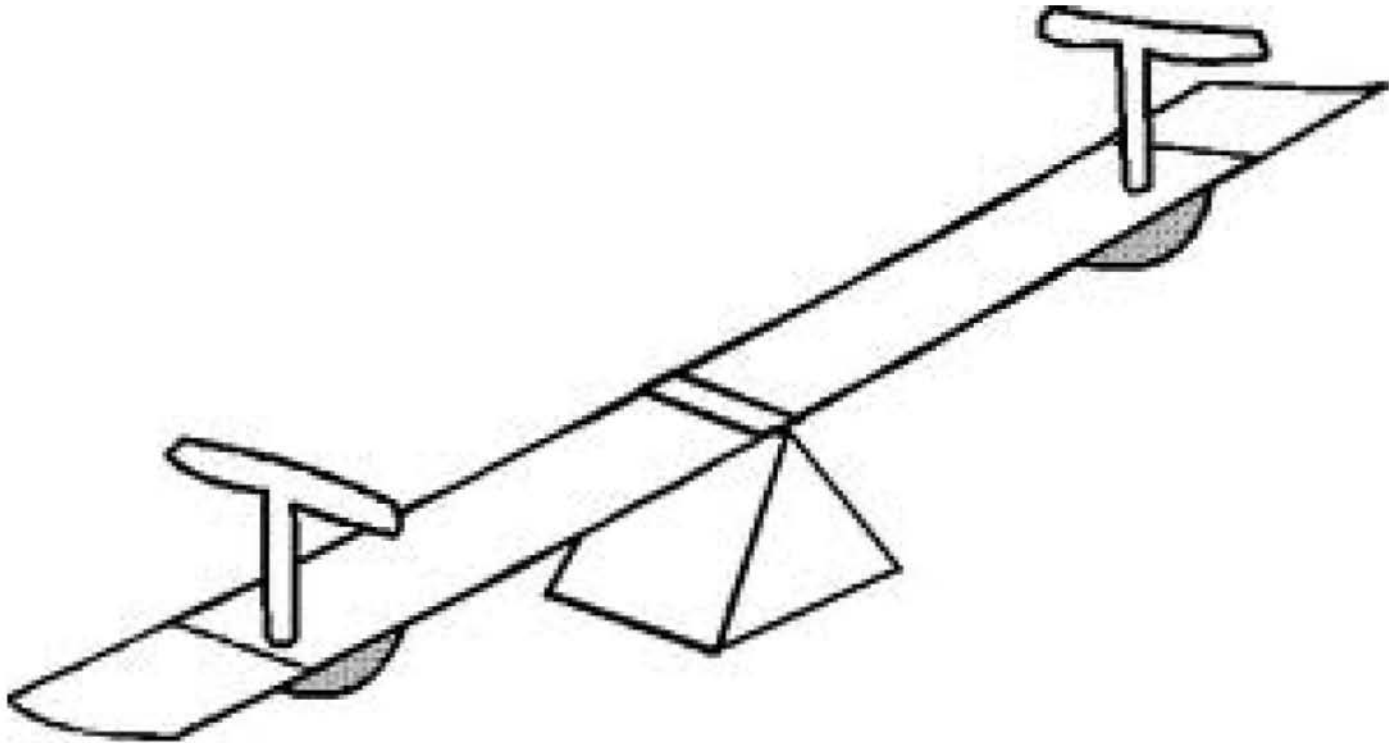
Committee	Rule Changes	Bill No.
	Priority	
Education	Establish statutory ability to eliminate positions and furlough employees for economic reasons.	SB612 &HB855
Finance	Begin funding education on a two-year basis. The State should establish an education budget by March to correspond with the State and school's fiscal years.	SB267
Education	Reduce school funding restrictions. All money transferred to school districts from the state to the maximum extent possible should be unrestricted. By bestowing trust in local schools they can stretch fewer dollars to the maximum. Rescind Act 1 requirement that new dollars above Act 1 must be spent on new programs or program expansion.	SB857*
Education	Eliminate tenure and seniority as a consideration during the reduction of employment	SB612 &HB855
Education	Establish a standard review process for all teachers and administrators (To greatly reduce lawsuits.) Allow schools to terminate any employee for unsatisfactory performance subject to appropriate due process rights as in most other organizations.	
	Restrict negotiations to wages only for all public employees.	
	* Need to address unrestricted basic education funding.	
	Important	
Finance	Allow the hiring of retired teachers per hour, no benefits.	
Finance	Remove part-time workers from retirement coverage.	SB953
Education	Allow grouping of multiple districts for special education. Somehow control the double digit increase in special education cost annually. Politically sensitive but very expensive.	
Education	Change state certification rules to allow school boards to approve one year certifications.	SB202
	Establish a moratorium for General Assembly (GA) mandates without full cost/benefit analysis and GA paying for the new mandate.	
Education	Eliminate prevailing wage from school construction or at least raise the \$ 25,000 threshold significantly. Streamline the current slow approval process of new construction.	SB293
Education	Reinstate the mandate waiver process which saves time and cost for school purchases and have it apply to all statutory provisions which affect public school districts.	SB814
Education	Rescind Keystone Exams, use Federal only.	
Education	Define a teacher's day and salary based upon professional responsibility, not blue-collar factory model.	
Education	Some form of consolidation of Pennsylvania's 499 school districts.	SB793
Banking & Insurance	Statewide health plan for teachers.	
Education	Regional teacher contracts.	

18 Proposed Mandate Relief Changes



\$0.00

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~~\$0.00~~





PENSIIONS





WELCOME

TO *Fabulous*

LANCASTER COUNTY

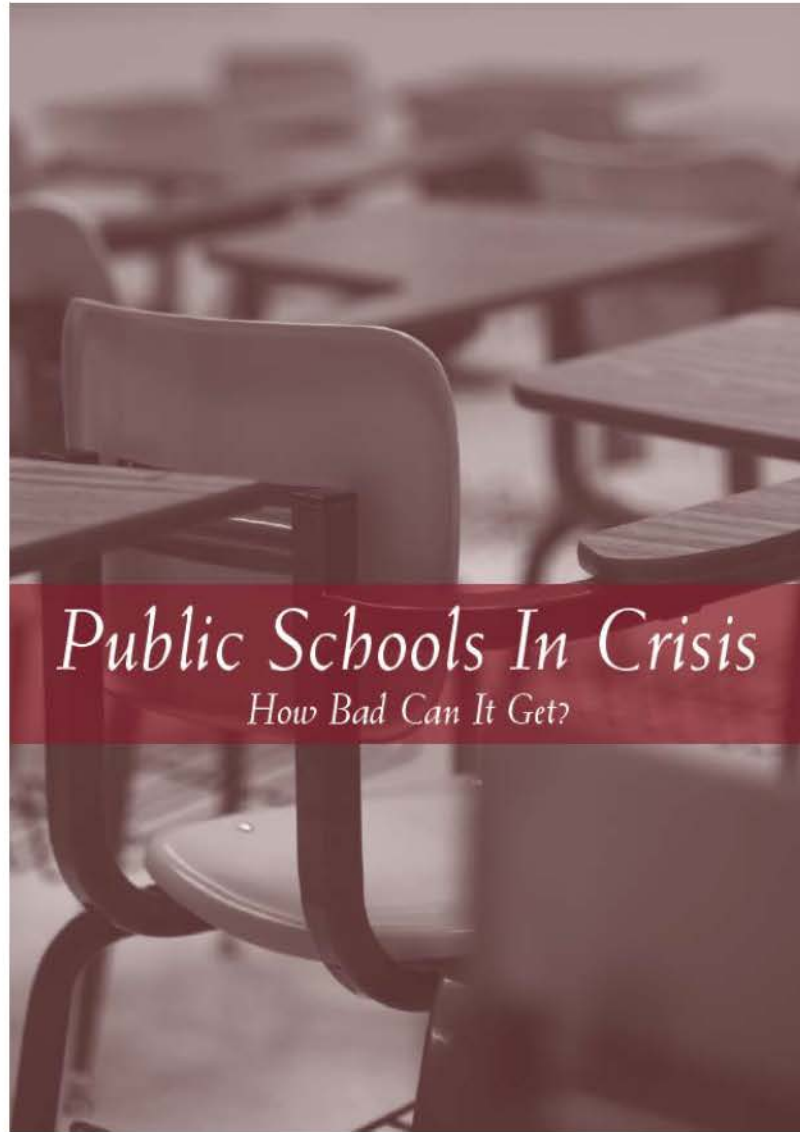
PENNSYLVANIA



Mandate Relief

**What's
Needed**

**DO
MORE
WITH LESS**



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Budget Questions for MU Education Summit Tuesday, September 27, 2011

Tomalis

1. What significant new revenue resources do you anticipate for PA over the next three years that will benefit education?

Tomalis

2. Do you foresee any increases or decreases in revenue from the Federal government for education? How will it affect your actions?

Smucker

3. Recognizing that the State has three major expense categories: Medicaid/welfare, education, and prisons. And in the real world Medicaid and prison costs go up every year -- using simple arithmetic is it safe to assume that education will receive less money every year from the State?

Tomalis

4. Over the years, in response largely to pressure from special interest groups, the Legislature has enacted mandates with significant economic impact, restricting what schools and school districts can do to manage the cost and quality of education. With costs rising dramatically, reduced funding, and voters declaring 'no new taxes', why doesn't the legislature move decisively to eliminate these restrictive mandates and better enable school districts to control costs and be more innovative in response to the needs of their students? Be specific about the importance and status of mandate reforms that have been proposed. (If the GA is unwilling to pass the eighteen relief items we proposed, would the GA consider allowing mandate relief of these items for Lancaster Co. so the county could be a test case working with PSEA and others to provide better education at a lower cost?)

Smucker

5. It is critical for next year's budget, and future budgets, that schools are allowed to eliminate positions and furlough employees for economic reasons, without tenure restrictions. And yet SB612 and HB855 say that furloughs must be done based on seniority. Why is this happening? Will it impede the needed flexibility in economic relief and cause harm to the quality of education our children receive?

Boyd

6. Based on the alarming financial distress of Pennsylvania's education institutions, it seems obvious that in addition to passing much-needed mandate-relief legislation, the General Assembly must get tough on pension reforms. We know that taxpayers have no idea how serious the problem is, and that they won't fund new taxes to support pensions far in excess of what they have. Do you feel the General Assembly knows the magnitude of the problem, and its financial impact on the survival of public education?

Boyd

7. Have decreases in education funding, mandated restrictions imposed on school districts, the costs of negotiated salary increases, unsustainable pensions, benefits, and special-education mandates made public education as we know it today unaffordable? What is the answer?

Tomalis

8. When voters become aware of the severe financial impact public schools will face next year from the increased cost of pensions, salaries, benefits, and special education, they will demand legislative relief to protect taxpayers without sacrificing the quality of public education. Is the legislature really committed to enacting serious mandate relief now knowing the opposition it will face from unions and other lobbies or it simply posturing?

Smucker 9. There are loud and powerful voices coming from Harrisburg suggesting that charter schools, not public school schools, have the answers to our education problems. What do you think are the advantages charter schools have? Why shouldn't our public schools be given the ability to operate with the same freedoms charter schools enjoy?

Boyd 10. Beyond the immediate need to drastically reduce costs, it seems apparent that we need to re-think public education. Small changes won't solve big problems. Preparing students for success in a changing global economy is increasingly difficult. Where will the innovations that enable educators to do more with less come from? Can the academicians and legislators that got us here, provide the leadership and creativity necessary to reinvent how we teach, what we teach, and where we teach?

Tomalis 11. In some states with county-wide school districts, such as Montgomery County Maryland, high schools offer tremendous variety to students, who may elect to enroll in programs in different high schools rather than the one traditionally thought of as their "home school." What lessons are there for Pennsylvania in providing such variety? Are there more effective ways to pool resources?

Boyd 12. If the objective is to have the best contributing and most effective teachers working with students, are seniority and degree-based raises in K-12 education successful, or are seniority and course-completion raises just driving up costs without having a real impact on student performance? Why don't we change this outdated policy?

Bray 13. If student performance is directly related to the leadership of principals, the quality of teachers, and the effectiveness of teaching methods, are most Schools of Education recognizing the importance of improving teacher and administration education, increasing standards, and responding to the changing needs of students with the most appropriate curriculum and better technology, or are they behind the times? Who needs to lead the way to improve how and what our next generation of teachers learn to teach?

9/22/11