



Member Associations:
Agudath Israel-Mid-Atlantic Region
American Montessori Society Schools of PA
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Friends Council on Education
PA Association of Independent Schools
PA Catholic Conference
Teach PA - A Project of the Orthodox Union

2022 Pennsylvania State Cape Report

Summary

PACAPE represents about 85% of the private school community in PA, and as such is primarily a supportive, networking organization driven by Private School Associations. It is very positively recognized in the public policy community in PA as representing the diverse communities within the private school community. With a small budget, but highly committed participants, it accomplishes a lot that individual Associations cannot do. We are in the process of incorporating and creating a 501(c)(3) to be able to expand the organization. With the COVID Crisis, we have been able to expand the collaborative membership and work of PACAPE to include the major state organizations in PA. PA has a very supportive General Assembly, but a Governor who is hostile to private education.

Legislative Initiatives and Responses

- PA continues to work on **increasing the limits on the Educational Improvement Tax Credit** which saw expansion at its largest one year increase last year of 40 million dollars. Our goals for increasing the tax credit continue as our major school choice initiative. This year, we have \$280 million tax credits available for schools with \$252.5 million of the tax credits for private schools.
- Along with adding an increase to the EITC program, we are working toward establishing and **annual demand based escalator** which would avoid us requiring to expend all of our political capital on getting annual increases each year.
- We are advocating for an **Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) bill** that would allow special populations to attend a school that best fits their needs. It is an exciting year in PA, we currently have 21 school or course choice bills introduced. In a regular legislative cycle we might have 5 school choice bills.
- We continue to support increasing **state budget line items, school nursing increases**, and access to the COVID Funding.
- We continue to support increasing both safe school and religious facility safety grants.
- We continue to host multiple **legislative meetings** with leaders of the school associations and key legislators.
- We are also actively involved in a major effort for legislative reform to build in **protections for early education programs**.
- We continue to seek **religious liberty protections** in all our schools.

Current Activities

1. We put our School Choice Champion Award and Teacher-Administrator Appreciation programs on hold due to COVID.
2. We are in the process of providing statewide coalition programs together with the EANS II program.

Dr. D. Merle Skinner, PA CAPE Executive Director 724.593.9200 ext-103 merle_skinner@champion.org
Sean McAleer, PA CAPE Co-Coordinator, 717.514.1882 smcaleer@pacatholic.org

Mailing: 1076 King's Way Donegal, PA 15628
Phone: 724.593.9200x103 **Fax:** 724.593.9210