



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

Pennsylvania State CAPE Report Spring 2021

Summary

PACAPE represents a significant amount 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. 2020 has provided our Association several challenges and opportunities that are highlighted below:

2020 Initiatives and Responses

- We had identified pre-COVID that our primary organizational goal was to move toward incorporation and to continue to expand the organization with additional associations. Both of those goals saw significant progress last year.
- Three additional associations joined PACAPE during the last year
- We were able to develop specific by-laws and are in the incorporation process currently.
- During COVID, we developed a regular call that was sustained through much of the crisis. Our meetings remain more frequent and regular than before.
- We are advocating for an Educational Savings Accounts (ESA) bill that would allow special needs students to attend a school that best fits their needs, public or private.
- We continue to work to develop our successful Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program providing scholarship funds to private schools through business and SPE tax credits, and are focused on an additional increase this year, and are lobbying for an automatic escalator.
- We were also level funded in our education line items in the budget.
- We have also been successful in increasing private school security funds that up until this point have mostly been directed at the Public Schools.
- Our schools have had mixed experiences with some school communities' enrollments up, some down, but all experiencing the tension of dealing with COVID. 90% of private schools were successful in offering in-person instruction this year.
- We were successful in passing transportation legislation during COVID that would mandate public school districts to provide transportation to nonpublic school students even if public schools were only offering virtual instruction.
- We were successful in passing COVID Emergency Targeted School Health and Safety Grants for Nonpublic Schools. Allowed each nonpublic school to apply for \$10,000.

Current Activities

1. We continue to develop our School Choice Champion Award given to a legislative champion, and this year we are adding another award to a legislator who has passed suddenly who has been a champion.
2. Continued advocacy for private schools in the Commonwealth on a variety of levels.
3. We are putting on hold this year, but continuing to build very successful 8-year-old teacher- administrator appreciation program in the state with additional applications coming in each year. This year we honored all teachers.

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