



Senate Education Committee

Senator Lloyd Smucker
Chairman

Kelly Phenicie
Executive Director/Counsel
kphenicie@pasen.gov

Tabitha Hummer
Deputy Executive Director
thummer@pasen.gov

Diane M. McNaughton
Communications Specialist
dmmcnaughton@pasen.gov

Room 351, Main Capitol Building • Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-3013 • 717-787-6535

HOUSE BILL 224-REPRESENTATIVE CHRISTIANA

SYNOPSIS:

Provides for the posting of annual financial information for public school entities.

SUMMARY:

Creates the Public School Web Accountability and Transparency (School WATCH) Act.

Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to post all of the following information for each area vocational-technical school, school district or charter school entity, hereinafter referred to as a public school entity, to the extent it is available to the department:

- The following financial information for the public school entity for the most recent fiscal year for which that information was reported to PDE:
 - Total expenditures in the following categories:
 - Instructional (defined as all activities dealing directly with the interaction between teachers and students and related costs, which can be directly attributed to a program of instruction)
 - Support services (defined as those services that provide administrative support; technical support, including, but not limited to, guidance and health; and logistical support to facilitate and enhance instruction)
 - Non-instructional (defined as activities concerned with providing non-instructional services to students, staff or the community)
 - Facilities acquisition and construction (defined as the purchase and improvement of land, buildings, service systems and built-in equipment)
 - Other financing uses (defined as current debt service expenditures and other expenses, such as refunding debt and transfers of money from one fund to another)
 - The public school entity's per-student expenditures based on both instructional and total expenditures
 - The public school entity's per-student charter tuition rates for both regular and special education students
 - The public school entity's average daily membership
 - The public school entity's market value/personal income aid ratio (defined as the combined market value and personal income wealth per pupil relative to the State average)
 - The average teacher salary in the public school entity
 - Total revenues from each of the following sources:

- Federal
- State
- Local
- Other
- The public school entity's general fund balance.
- A link to the public school entity's publicly accessible internet website, where available.
- A statement instructing the public to contact the public school entity for access to any union contract

It also requires PDE to post all information as a "View Fiscal Information" icon located on the School Performance Profile in a manner that is accessible, includes definitions, and uses existing databases whenever possible.

Beginning with the information pertaining to the 2012-2013 fiscal year, post the required information for at least the most recent three fiscal years for which the information is available to PDE, including a graph displaying the change in the amount reported from year to year.

Requires each public school entity to provide PDE with any additional information that is not already required to be provided.

Effective immediately

HISTORY: Passed House 2/11/15 (195-0)