



Work Session/Regular Meeting
Dr. Thomas J. Duffy, Superintendent
September 12, 2022

Thomas J. Duffy 9/12/22

Policy Updates

PSBA's Policy service has recommended the following policies be updated as described. The current and recommended revised policies will be posted for 30 days of review prior to recommended board action to vote on the revised policies

Policy 236.1 - Threat Assessment Revisions to School Code section 1302-E now require some actions related to threat assessment to be completed annually--the threat assessment team now needs to be provided with individual or group training annually on the required elements that were already outlined in the law and Board policy. The school entity must annually notify students, employees and parents/guardians about the existence and purpose of the threat assessment team, including posting information on the school entity's publicly accessible website. There is also a new annual requirement added to the school safety and security training for all school employees on identification or recognition of student behavior that may indicate a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, other individuals, school facilities or the community, and how to report concerns to the threat assessment team

Policy 805 - Emergency Preparedness and Response Act 55 of 2022 established a new requirement for the state's School Safety and Security Committee, in coordination with PCCD, to establish minimum standards for training of school employees on the topics outlined in School Code for school safety and security training. Those standards must be approved by September 30, 2022, and PSBA is participating in that process. Once the final standards are approved, additional revisions to the policy or additional administrative regulations language may be required--any additional revisions or information will be included in a future PNN+. The standards approved by the School Safety and Security Committee must be made available to school entities and PCCD is also tasked with providing geographically disbursed training to school employees at no cost that meets the standards adopted by the Committee.

Policy 808 - Food Services - Act 55 of 2022 also made additional revisions to section [1337](#) of the School Code (the third set of revisions for this School Code section in the past few years). School entities who operate nonprofit school food programs are now required to offer assistance to parents/guardians with applying for free/reduced-price school meal benefits. This language was included in Policy 808 previously with a "may" statement--that language has now been revised to a "shall" statement. Language was also added to the School Code and the policy guide to clarify that neither a student nor school staff may be required to discard a school food program meal after it was served to the student, even if the student is unable to pay for the meal or has a negative school meal account balance.

Additionally and unrelated to Policy 808, On September 9, 2022, PDE announced that Pennsylvania will make it possible for all schools participating in the School Breakfast Program (SBP) to provide free breakfasts for all enrolled students during the 2022-23 school year, beginning with breakfast meals served October 1, 2022. Principals will collaborate with our Food Service Manager, Melissa Bellas to review the breakfast program and encourage all students to participate.

Education Updates

With the legislation regarding Next Generation Science Standards, professional development related to the PA Integrated Science Standards will begin during the first semester. The LIU 18 will facilitate the roll out and the District, under Mr. Traver's direction has formed a team to lead the transition. PA Integrated Science Standards are built upon the National Research Council's (NRC's) A Framework for K12 Science Education (The Framework) and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

PDE has released its new Skills-Based Standards For PE and Health. Our wellness department, under the direction of Chairperson, Ruthie Skammer, will participate in training facilitated by the LIU 18 in October and December to begin to unpack and evaluate the standards and formulate a plan to analyze the extent to which we are addressing them currently and a plan to address them as needed.

We are continuing to research and explore the *Structured Literacy Approach* to teaching Reading - an approach that emphasizes the science of teaching reading and is moderately different from our current approach to reading via Balanced Literacy. Though this shift will not be dramatic if realized, it will continue to increase our effectiveness in teaching early literacy.

Our pilot of the Zearn Math Program, K-5 continues and we'll utilize this school year to collect data and evaluate the program. A successful pilot could result in the recommendation for an expansive implementation plan for 2022-2023.