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## Western Workshop

The western region will be having a workshop on June 20th at 1pm at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette education reporter Mary Niederberger will discuss what to expect from the media during a school crisis. Please RSVP to Sarah McCluan at [Sarah.McCluan@aiu3.net](mailto:Sarah.McCluan@aiu3.net).

## Why do we have summer vacation?

As your schools embark on their summer vacations, do you ever wonder why we don't go to school in the summer? This is a fun little article about the history of the school year calendar, which actually does not revolve around the agrarian calendar as is commonly thought.

<http://www.better-ed.org/blog/summer-vacation-and-agrarian-calendar>

## Member Request

Here's a question from member Lisa Smith - How do you handle student photos on your web site? For instance, would you post a pic of a student who took top honors at a state competition and identify him as Johnny Student; as J Student; or not run the pic at all? We currently do not have allowance to run the pic at all and we are looking at making a change. I wanted to get a feel for how that works in other districts. Is this a matter of board policy or administrative procedure? Could you please drop me a brief note in response as to how such situations are handled in your district? Any info you can share would be very helpful. Please respond to Lisa at [Smithl@sgasd.org](mailto:Smithl@sgasd.org)

## PSBA comparison piece

This PDF created by PSBA on the differences between public schools and charter schools is well done and might be helpful in your work.

## PAESSP Seeking Articles for September 2014 Pennsylvania Administrator Magazine

Here's something to try over the summer... the PAESSP is seeking principals and educators to write for the September 2014 edition of its award-winning Pennsylvania Administrator magazine. This issue does not have a specific theme, so any education topics will be accepted for

review by the Editorial Review Board. The deadline for submitting articles is July 7, 2014. Articles should be no longer than 1,500 words. Articles must be submitted via e-mail as a Microsoft Word document. A biographical sketch and a photograph of the author(s) (saved as a JPEG or a TIFF file) must accompany all articles. E-mail articles to [sherit@paessp.org](mailto:sherit@paessp.org)

Photos for PenSPRA site

It's time to share some new photos on the PenSPRA website! Do you have some great pictures of your students happily engaged in learning in one of our wonderful public schools? We'd love it if you feel like sharing. Just e-mail photos to Karen.

News from around the state and nation

New funding law is signed by Corbett

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/panel\\_to\\_review\\_state\\_basic\\_ed.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/panel_to_review_state_basic_ed.html)

This video explains the proposed law that seeks to equalize special education funding between public and charter schools

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WRw5oO02KpA>

Charter school supporters oppose the proposed special ed funding bill

[http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/supporters\\_of\\_charter\\_schools.html](http://www.pennlive.com/midstate/index.ssf/2014/06/supporters_of_charter_schools.html)

Substitute teacher shortage reflects a couple of issues

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-allentown-substitute-teacher-shortage-20140607,0,881925.story?page=2>

Several national papers covered the issue of Bill Gates' financial influence on the development of the Common Core standards

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-bill-gates-pulled-off-the-swift-common-core-revolution/2014/06/07/a830e32e-ec34-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/how-bill-gates-pulled-off-the-swift-common-core-revolution/2014/06/07/a830e32e-ec34-11e3-9f5c-9075d5508f0a_story.html)

Diane Ravitch responded to the Gates story

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/06/09/ravitch-time-for-congress-to-investigate-bill-gates-role-in-common-core/>

National survey of superintendents on common core

[http://schoolboardnews.nsba.org/2014/06/common\\_core\\_concerns/](http://schoolboardnews.nsba.org/2014/06/common_core_concerns/)

Series of articles from NPR on common core

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/06/03/318228023/the-common-core-curriculum-void>

<http://www.npr.org/blogs/ed/2014/06/03/318246129/teachers-hit-the-common-core-wall>