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### Call For Action!

PenSPRA is proud to help spread the word about a Statewide Call-to-Action for Public Education on May 23<sup>rd</sup> that is being organized by Education Voters PA.

Education Voters PA describes the plan this way, “Thousands of people will make the commitment to set aside 5 minutes to call their local State Representatives and Senators and the Governor with a short message about education being a high priority for taxpayers and voters. As the budget process starts to get underway, it’s important that our legislators know that we want them to invest in our future by investing in public education.”

Education Voters PA suggests the following simple bullet points as the caller’s message:

#### Why We Must Invest in Public Education:

- Every child must have an opportunity to learn; education is a human right.
- Good schools make stronger communities and strong communities make a strong state.
- Stop these drastic budget cuts which are forcing the elimination of programs and an increase in property taxes; we need a better budget for 2012.
- I am concerned about rising class sizes, loss of support programs and kindergarten (arts, sports, science, teaching aids, etc.).
- Education is my top priority issue as a taxpayer and voter.
- We need to address special education issues.
- We oppose vouchers; we must take the steps necessary to support struggling schools for all the students in them.
- I support a good funding formula that is fair and provides appropriate resources for all students to get a solid foundation for the future.

You can find out more details about the call to action at this website, as well as a flier you can print, share and post:

[http://www.educationvoterspa.org/images/uploads/Call-to-Action\\_Guide\\_4-23-12.pdf](http://www.educationvoterspa.org/images/uploads/Call-to-Action_Guide_4-23-12.pdf)

It may be a step outside of your comfort zone or someone else on your administrative team’s comfort zone to take a stand like this in your district. Public schools, however, need to stand up and advocate for themselves. This campaign is simple and non-political. It just asks for citizens to contact their representatives and voice their support for school funding. We encourage you to post this information on your district websites, e-mail parents and teachers the information, and share on Facebook/twitter.

And schedule 5 minutes on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to make the call yourself!

Congrats to Our Scholarship Winners

Each year PenSPRA selects six high school seniors from around the state as our yearly scholarship winners. We believe it is important to support students heading into the communications field; before we know it one of these students could be a colleague! We are proud to announce this year's scholarship winners:

#### Eastern region

Ashley Henry, New Hope Solebury High School  
Dylan Almeida, North Penn High School

#### Central region

Haley Kerstetter, Selinsgrove High School  
Amanda Bogetti, Selinsgrove High School

#### Western region

Kelsie Gestrach, Plum High School  
Kaisha Jantsch, Seneca Valley High School

#### Foundation Superstar

A bit of positive news for your Monday. The Foundation at Great Valley, which supports the Great Valley School District, recently raised a quarter of a million dollars in just over two weeks to offset significant budget cuts. This is a relatively new Foundation. It is reassuring to hear that communities are coming together and being so successful.

<http://www.thefoundationatgreatvalley.org/index.html>

#### News From Around the State and Nation

A surplus in legislator accounts could be used for schools.

[http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/index.ssf/2012/05/cash\\_on\\_hand\\_why\\_do\\_legislator.html](http://www.pennlive.com/editorials/index.ssf/2012/05/cash_on_hand_why_do_legislator.html)

The state board agrees on 5 keystone exams; students must be proficient in 3.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/state/state-board-favors-reducing-grad-tests-635407/?p=0>

American students improve slightly in testing in science – (national scores)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/education/8th-grade-students-make-gains-in-testing-on-science.html?\\_r=2&ref=education](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/education/8th-grade-students-make-gains-in-testing-on-science.html?_r=2&ref=education)

Best High School List....did you make the list?

<http://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/pennsylvania>

Nonpartisan school board election bill

[http://www.dailylocal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120507/NEWS01/120509661&template=print\\_art](http://www.dailylocal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120507/NEWS01/120509661&template=print_art)

It's AP season...

[http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2012/05/05/ap\\_surges\\_as\\_tool\\_for\\_schools\\_raising\\_standards/?page=4](http://www.boston.com/news/education/higher/articles/2012/05/05/ap_surges_as_tool_for_schools_raising_standards/?page=4)