

## Elections

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## PenSPRA Elections

It's time for PenSPRA to elect officers! You will receive a separate e-mail with a link for our annual elections. Please take a moment to vote by Monday, April 20th.

## Eastern Workshop

The eastern region will be having a workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 9 am to 12 p.m. at Parkland School District. The first presentation will be "Crisis Communication Can Make or Break a District during an Extended Police Operation" by Wendy Frable, Director, Public Relations & Compliance Services, Pocono Mountain School District. Next, Chris Stanley, Community Relations Coordinator for Neshaminy School District will discuss "Jumping the Fence; the state of the local newspaper business." . Chris will be followed by Nicole McGalla of Parkland School District who will share the secrets of her successful gala fundraiser. Finally, we will wrap up with a roundtable discussion. Further details are here.

## Symposium Survey

Last week we sent out a survey about our 2015 Symposium, for both attendees and non-attendees. We appreciate your feedback on this survey as it helps us plan a program each year that best meets your professional development needs. Here is the link, and it will be available until April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## PRSA program

The northwestern chapter of PRSA is offering a one-day course "Meeting Today's PR Challenges," on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> in Erie. Perhaps a good opportunity for those of you in our northwestern corner to enjoy staff development close to home! Details are here.

## Budget Video

It is budget season, and this three minute video by PASBO about "Basic Education Funding" could be useful in your communities.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiUDVJZfasQ&feature=youtu.be>

## News from around the state and nation

The Philadelphia School District will be outsourcing substitute teachers next year

[http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/school\\_files/Philly-to-outsource-substitute-teaching-jobs.html#tsZRTC0eiC29zCMs.99](http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/school_files/Philly-to-outsource-substitute-teaching-jobs.html#tsZRTC0eiC29zCMs.99)

Civil rights groups are now saying standardized testing is a civil right

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/is-it-a-students-civil-right-to-take-a-federally-mandated-standardized-test/2015/04/10/7f1b731c-d3e4-11e4-a62f-ee745911a4ff\\_story.html?wpisrc=nl\\_headlines&wpmm=1](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/is-it-a-students-civil-right-to-take-a-federally-mandated-standardized-test/2015/04/10/7f1b731c-d3e4-11e4-a62f-ee745911a4ff_story.html?wpisrc=nl_headlines&wpmm=1)

Auditor General raises questions about work at PDE

<http://www.theplsreporter.com/Home/TabId/56/ArtMID/472/ArticleID/650/Auditor-General-legislators-cast-light-on-troubling-PDE-conduct.aspx>

Philadelphia predicts 22% graduation rate by 2017 as a result of Keystones

<http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/local/item/80497-08lbgraduate/>

New Ed Secretary meets with Allegheny County Superintendents

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2015/04/08/Acting-state-Education-Secretary-meets-with-Allegheny-County-supreintendents/stories/201504080085>

What you don't know about Internet algorithms is probably hurting you

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-intersect/wp/2015/03/23/what-you-dont-know-about-internet-algorithms-is-hurting-you-and-you-probably-dont-know-very-much/?postshare=9731427200775080>

A play called "School Play" has been written about the impact of school funding issues

[http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/arts/20150408\\_School\\_Play\\_makes\\_funding\\_crisis\\_personal.html#yCRmvyK6ar35kVXG.99](http://www.philly.com/philly/entertainment/arts/20150408_School_Play_makes_funding_crisis_personal.html#yCRmvyK6ar35kVXG.99)

Senators have proposed a bipartisan bill to revise NCLB

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/08/us/senators-propose-bipartisan-bill-to-revise-no-child-left-behind-law.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/08/us/senators-propose-bipartisan-bill-to-revise-no-child-left-behind-law.html?_r=2)

Educators in Atlanta are convicted in cheating scandal

[http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/us/verdict-reached-in-atlanta-school-testing-trial.html?ref=education&\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/02/us/verdict-reached-in-atlanta-school-testing-trial.html?ref=education&_r=1)