

PDK/Gallup poll

Membership

You only keep your e-mails for 5 days?

Member Notes

News from around the state and nation

Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup poll

(We apologize for the inconvenience, but due to a news source error, the last issue of e-comm included information on the 2013 poll, and not the 2014 poll as indicated.)

Here is a summary of the 2014 poll.

Over half of Americans (56%) say local school boards should have the greatest influence in deciding what is taught in the public schools.

Most Americans (60%) now oppose the Common Core State Standards and 80% have now heard of the Common Core. These are substantial changes; last year 62% said they had never even heard of the common core

Most Americans (54%) don't believe standardized tests help teachers

Americans continue to assign higher grades to their local schools (50% giving an A or a B) but far lower grades to the nation's schools in general (80% giving a C or less)

Support for President Obama's record on education is at its lowest point

There is widespread confusion about charter schools, with nearly half of Americans responding that a charter school is not a public school, can teach religion and can charge tuition. Alarming, though, even with this confusion, 68% believe charter schools are performing better than public schools overall. (This is not accurate; public schools are performing better.)

You can read all the information gathered in the poll here

http://pdkintl.org/noindex/PDK_Poll_46.pdf

Membership renewal time

It's time to renew your PenSPRA membership! You can renew online through this link, or you can download the application from the website here and mail the application back in to us. You should also have received a paper copy in the mail and that can be mailed back to us.

You only keep your e-mails for 5 days?

Did you know state employees in the executive branch only have to save their emails for 5 days before they are deleted by the state servers? Unless the employee chooses to archive the e-mails, they are deleted and then unavailable for open record requests. As we all well know, school districts and other government agencies are required to archive the emails for much longer periods. Recent news stories about former Ed Secretary Tomalis' lack of e-mail have brought national attention to this issue.

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/state/2014/08/24/Email-purges-by-state-employees-limit-documents-to-public-view/stories/201408240106#ixzz3BLVO5IKj>

Member notes

Are you studying for your APR this year? If so, member Shannon Zimmerman is interested in forming an APR study group. You can reach Shannon here shannon_zimmerman@hempfieldsd.org

Member and Superintendent Paul Brennan got out of his office, visited a fun attraction in his area and shot an amusing back-to-school video using the trendy ice bucket challenge! Have a look here <http://t.co/1RGIjxSTYk>

News from around the state and nation

There is a Twitter Chat tonight, Tue 8/26 8pm, on the PA Basic Education Funding Commission's work! Use [#PAEdFunding](#)
Records indicate PA Ed Secretary Tomalis was in office 126 days this year, debunking claims he was a ghost employee

<http://www.delcotimes.com/general-news/20140822/records-show-how-often-corbett-education-adviser-tomalis-was-in-office>

Federal Ed Secretary Duncan says there is too much emphasis on testing, and offers a one year delay to states evaluating teachers based on testing and here

<http://www.post-gazette.com/news/education/2014/08/22/U-S-Education-Secretary-Duncan-joins-critics-of-standardized-tests/stories/201408220071#ixzz3B7ElqFA9>

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/curriculum/2014/08/us_ed_sec_duncan_slams_excessi.html

Pennsylvania won't take Duncan up on the offer to delay evaluating teachers based on testing, however

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-pa-teacher-evaluations-test-scores-20140822,0,1080823.story#ixzz3BCx0fFej>

Vouchers have been ruled unconstitutional in NC

<http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2014/08/21/nc-school-vouchers-ruled-unconstitutional-state-must-retrieve-distributed-funds/#sthash.RA4NSjqg.dpuf&%238221>

School Performance profile roll-out uncertain at this time

<http://triblive.com/news/education/6659900-74/state-schools-students#ixzz3BCvaPZot>

Smart snack rules go into effect this fall and the restrictions on food fundraisers in schools

<http://www.mcall.com/news/local/mc-lehigh-valley-new-school-snack-rules-20140824,0,5859149.story?page=2>

This article has some valid points about the need for a unified, planned PR campaign on the strengths of the public school

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/answer-sheet/wp/2014/08/20/the-strategic-campaign-public-education-supporters-need-in-nine-steps/>