

May 14, 2009 Legislative Report

On April 28th, Sen. John Wozniak, D – Cambria, introduced proposed legislation that is a next step pushing towards school district consolidation. His proposal follows Rendell's lead regarding the establishment of a 15 member commission to recommend no more than two plans for the reorganization of PA school districts. These plans are to be submitted to the General Assembly, and if it does not gain approval, than the reorganization tasks fall to the State Board of Education. Looking at Wozniak's website, he relates that his plan will have an outcome of saving PA taxpayers money.

However, neither financial savings nor improved student achievement has been found to be the case when it comes to mandated school district consolidation. PSBA has recently published a white paper on this topic. Working in concert with the Pennsylvania Economy League and looking at data from PA as well as other states, researchers at PSBA have found that there are no documented cases of financial savings and that it has had a negative impact on student achievement.

For more information, please view the information video found at this link:
<http://www.youtube.com/psbavideo>

To read PSBA's white paper on mergers and consolidation (April 2009), please click on this link:
<http://psba.org/issues-advocacy/issues-research/school-mergers/>

The white paper and video further validate the KASD Legislative Report from February. A side goal of effective advocacy may be that we push for policy driven by research and best practice, as opposed to policy driven my politics.

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