

Promoting equal opportunity for quality education for all students in Pennsylvania

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No News Is No News on the State Budget;

Federal Government Shutdown Adds Salt to the Financial Wounds

The current budget stalemate continues, but Harrisburg insiders in and out of the General Assembly and Governor's Office are speculating that a resolution of the impasse is imminent. When you start to hear specific dates in predicting when an agreement will be reached, you can assume that the sides are horse trading budget priorities, and an agreement is in sight—hopefully.

With the major obstacle of mass transit funding now off the table (at least temporarily) there are several other issues yet to be resolved including overall funding level to local education agencies, a revamping of how these funds are distributed, and cyber charter funding levels. You can get more background information on the remaining budget issue by clicking here.

So where does that leave schools? Hopefully, the growing level of financial pain created by the budget stalemate will create a sense of urgency by all sides to reach an agreement this month.

And now the federal government shutdown, which began yesterday, is piling more bad budget news on schools. Fortunately, the federal funds to schools approved earlier this year will continue to flow according to Ed Week. "Grantees will continue to be able to draw down funds from these awards, and therefore, the impacts on schools and students should be minimal." Those funds should start flowing this week. You can read the U.S. Department of Education's shut down plan by clicking here.