



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DUANE D. MILNE, PH.D.

Working for our quality of life

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG, PA
PERMIT NO. 432

Dear Friend,

As we start the fall session of the state Legislature, I would like to update you on some of the issues on which I have been working in Harrisburg, and to highlight some upcoming constituent opportunities I have organized for you locally. In addition, given the continuing focus on education policy, I have devoted the inside sections of this newsletter to education matters.

As always, please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with me. Your counsel is critical in my decision making as your representative in Harrisburg. We will not all agree on everything, but I am doing my best to represent fairly the different, and often conflicting, opinions of the citizens of the 167th Legislative District. At any time, please call my district office, pay a personal visit, or check out my website at DuaneMilne.com. Best wishes for a pleasant and productive fall!

My Resolution Marking 10th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 Tragedy

On Sept. 11, 2001, the United States suffered the most devastating terrorist attack in our nation's history. More than 3,000 of our fellow citizens perished that fateful day, and thousands more suffered injuries. In acknowledgement of the losses, we would do well to recall our societal pledge to remain ever vigilant so as to prevent comparable tragedies in the future, and to honor the lives lost in New York, Washington, D.C. and here in Pennsylvania.

To that end, this September I introduced House Resolution 375 "*recognizing Sept. 11, 2011, as a day for solemn commemoration of the 10th year since the events of Sept. 11, 2001, and offering the Commonwealth's deepest condolences to the loved ones of the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks.*"

Despite the tragic events of that fateful day, Sept. 11 also marks a day of American determination and national unity. I hope that my legislative resolution will re-energize our patriotism, remind us of our resolve to win the war on terror, and most of all, to recognize the individuals, military and first responders alike, who have served to protect us in the intervening decade.

★★ *God Bless the United States of America!* ★★



Emergency Arrows Point the Way to Safety

Have you noticed all the color-coded detour signs posted on roadways throughout the area? Ever wondered their purpose?

These signs are part of a traffic contingency plan designed by PennDOT to handle incidents (crashes, weather problems, crises and so forth) and close sections of highways in the area. The detour signs come in four colors: blue, red, green and orange, and are being placed along roads throughout the general Philadelphia area.

The signs will enable detour routes to be implemented at a moment's notice to direct traffic around an incident and then return vehicles safely onto their original route. In the event of a qualifying incident, motorists will be advised to follow a particular colored detour sign. PennDOT message boards, media broadcasts and other means will inform motorists of which color detour to take.

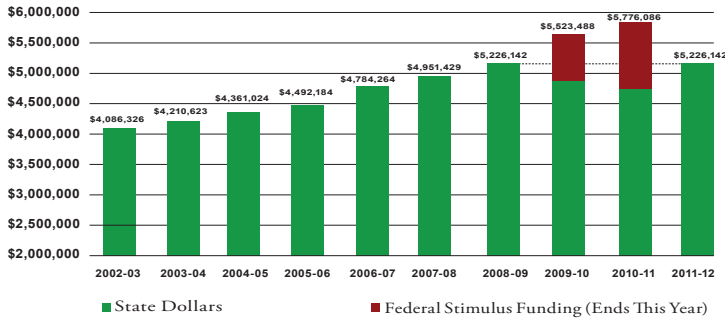
PennDOT's Traffic Management Center has installed 64 overhead message boards, 25 ground-mounted boards, and 220 closed-circuit TV cameras. These signage upgrades and investments in technology are part of PennDOT's long-term strategic plan to improve traffic management in the five-county Philadelphia region. Information from the television cameras and incident detectors will better track road conditions, enabling PennDOT to monitor critical developments on these key arteries and respond appropriately. This initiative represents one more tool in enhancing public safety for all of us.



The Future of Pennsylvania Spotlight on Education

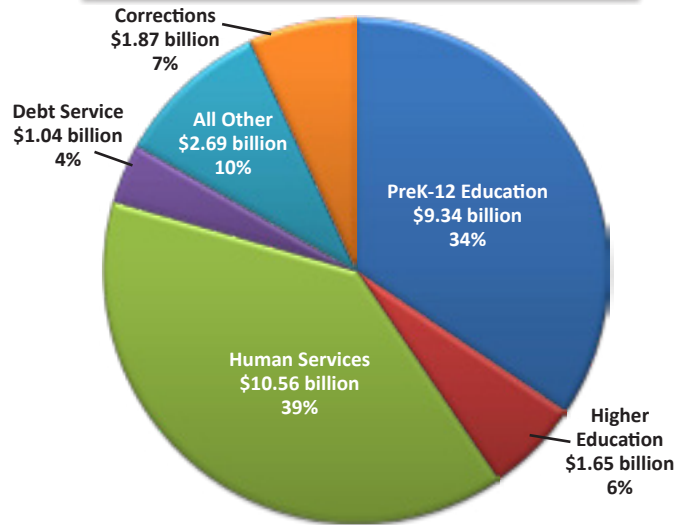
EDUCATION FUNDING The Stimulus Fund Illusion

(Dollar Amounts in Thousands)



So-called state “cuts” to education actually are reflecting the loss of federal stimulus funds, and not actions by the state Legislature to cut education. State education funding for primary and secondary education actually was maintained in the 2011-12 state budget.

PA State Spending: \$27.15 Billion



Education remains, at 40 percent, the largest expenditure in the state budget.

Education remains a top priority in the 2011-12 Pennsylvania budget. Pre-K through 12th grade education received an appropriation in this year’s state budget of \$9.34 billion, representing 34 percent of the entire budget. This represents the largest investment ever of Pennsylvania state dollars into education funding and the future of our state.

At the higher education level, I helped push for more balanced funding cuts to state-supported universities than the originally proposed across-the-board cuts of 50 percent for academic year 2011-12. As a result, state-supported institutions of higher education will see funding scaled back in the range of 18 percent to 20 percent. Community college funding will be lowered by 10 percent. While these levels obviously are not as welcomed news as zero cuts, they reflect the challenging financial circumstances facing our state and nation, as well as the need to control costs.



“Dr. Milne” speaking on the steps of the Capitol, extolling the virtues of education in sustaining a society politically-based on freedom and economically-based on free enterprise.

✂ **Clip out and send to my district office.**

POP QUIZ

Name (optional) _____

What do you think the legislature should “pass” or “fail”?

1. Vouchers for education should be created in Pennsylvania.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

2. Public school districts should be able to furlough teachers for economic reasons.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

3. Prevailing wage requirements should not be applied to public school districts.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

4. Charter schools should be held more accountable to the state and to taxpayers for their academic performance and financial transactions.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

5. Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) should be expanded to include middle income households.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

6. The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams are effective for improving children’s education.

- Strongly agree Somewhat agree
 Somewhat disagree Strongly disagree

ESSAY QUESTION: What are your observations about education and/or education policy? Attach paper as desired.

**Contact Rep. Milne: 18 East Lancaster Avenue
Toll Free: 1-800-280-8002 (610) 251-1070 E-mail:**

in Action: ion

Fall Legislative Agenda

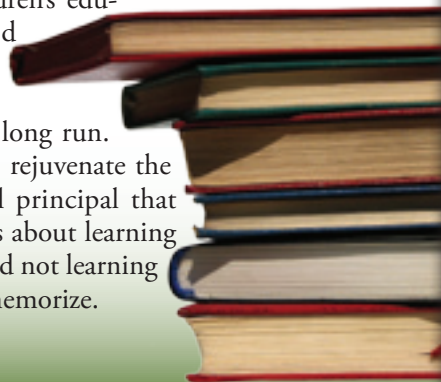
As we look toward the education funding challenges facing Pennsylvania for at least the next three school years, I wanted to provide you with some perspective about the agenda in Harrisburg this fall with regard to education. In short, everything is on the table. Among the issues slated for debate: (1) school vouchers, (2) charter school accountability, (3) furloughing teachers for economic reasons, (4) expanding education tax credits and (5) removing state mandates from local school districts.

For more information about these initiatives, including summaries and current status, visit my website at DuaneMilne.com or call my office at (610) 251-1070.

Editorial: Mandate Relief for Schools

One policy avenue on which I have particularly focused is that of passing mandate relief legislation that would help bolster our local school districts financially by eliminating excessive and potentially expensive state mandates. Not only can some of these mandates undermine the principle of local control, but also, as a practical matter, some mandates hamper innovation in the curricula and unnecessarily add to the cost of funding education. This drains precious and limited dollars away from being able to fund education systems more effectively and with better cost controls.

A major objective of mine is to reform the mandated testing requirements that in my view have become overemphasized at the primary and secondary levels. In a laudable effort to boost standards in underperforming schools in certain parts of the state, mandated testing has become institutionalized in all parts of the state. Testing mandates can exert such a disproportionate impact on any number of school districts that their (understandable) need to respond ends up constraining talented teachers and program innovations in the schools. A ramification of these testing mandates is the evolution of a status quo in which too much teaching to the tests results to the detriment of our children's education and life and career readiness in the long run. We need to rejuvenate the pedagogical principal that education is about learning to think, and not learning simply to memorize.



Honor Roll: Accomplishments of Our Local High Schools

Our area is very fortunate to host and boast some of the finest high schools in the state, both public and private. What follows is an honor roll of just a few of the many accomplishments of some local high schools during the recently completed 2010-2011 school year. Space limitations preclude listing all of the accolades for every school. This reflects a sampling of achievements:

Conestoga High School

- ✓ Three students named as finalists in the 2011 Penn State Writing Contest.
- ✓ Three students placed second in state competition for National History Day.
- ✓ Eight drama students nominated for Cappie Awards for "Alice in Wonderland."
- ✓ Class of 2014 raised \$1,000 for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- ✓ Pennsylvania State Baseball Champions for 2011.
- ✓ Pennsylvania State Boys Lacrosse Champions for 2011.

Episcopal Academy

- ✓ Sophomores placed in top 10 nationally (out of 129 schools) in the Word Masters Challenge of Poetry and Prose.
- ✓ A senior received Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship.
- ✓ Vocal Ensemble and Chamber Ensemble performed in Bratislava and Vienna, Austria, by invitation of American Ambassador to Austria.
- ✓ Boys Squash team won third consecutive national title.
- ✓ PAISAA State Girls Track Champions for 2011.

Great Valley High School

- ✓ A junior scored perfect 2400 on SAT test.
- ✓ German Studies team earned first place in Delaware Valley Deutschfest Competition.
- ✓ Animal Protection Club named national "Humane Youth Club of the Year" for 2010.
- ✓ High school FEED club raised \$8,000 for hunger relief.
- ✓ Seniors sang at Kimmel Center as part of Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts.
- ✓ Two students qualified for PIAA State Track and Field meet championships.

Malvern Preparatory School

- ✓ Senior earned appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy.
- ✓ Robotics Team achieved a team best at the 20th Annual FIRST® Robotics Competition, highlighting math and science skills.
- ✓ Students raised \$22,000 for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.
- ✓ Track and Field State Pennsylvania Independent School Athletic Association Champions for 2011.
- ✓ Crew quad team won the High School Event at the Reading Town Regatta in England.

Phoenixville Area High School

- ✓ Three seniors awarded college scholarships by Phoenixville Community Education Foundation for leadership displayed during time at PAHS.
- ✓ Science Club students received first-place awards at the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science competition.
- ✓ A student received first place at the Chester County Regional Computer Fair.
- ✓ German Studies program earned top prizes at Delaware Valley Deutschfest.
- ✓ Cheerleading squad finished in first place at Garnet Valley Cheer Challenge and the Chi Crusaders Cheer Classic.

Villa Maria Academy

- ✓ Tri-M Music Honor Society named first runner-up in the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Year and the International Chapter of the Year competitions.
- ✓ Mock Trial team honored as District Champions at Law Day luncheon.
- ✓ Five students honored as Champions of Caring for outstanding levels of leadership, character and community service.
- ✓ A teacher received Citadel Heart of Learning Award for Chester County.
- ✓ PIAA State Swim Champions for 2011.
- ✓ District Soccer Champions for 2011.

West Chester Henderson High School

- ✓ First-place finish at the PA State Academic Competition.
- ✓ Ten students won Spellman Humanitarian Award.
- ✓ Student received Literacy Hero Award.
- ✓ Three students selected for All-State Band.
- ✓ Girls Track Team broke state record in 4 x 800 relay.

My heartiest congratulations and a grade of "A+" to these outstanding schools and the excellent students and teachers that comprise them! I look forward to more great achievements on the 2011-12 honor roll.

CONSTITUENTS' COUPONS: CLIP AND SAVE

I am hosting a number of exciting and informative events this fall for you. Clip out one (or more) of the coupons below and "cash in" for events that interest you. In order to continue to save taxpayer dollars, this is our only mailing, so please save these coupons.

Career Transitions Conference Friday, Sept. 16, 2011 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Penn State Great Valley, Swedesford Road, Malvern

I am pleased to join the Chester County Workforce Investment Board, Penn State Great Valley and Chester County Economic Development Council in sponsoring this important conference for unemployed and underemployed residents of Chester County.

TOPICS:

- The current job situation in Pennsylvania and programs that are available through the Department of Labor and Industry to assist job seekers find employment.
- Overview of unemployment compensation benefits and update on recent changes to unemployment compensation law.
- Insight on job interviewing and what employers look for in employees.
- Career transition services, follow-up job assessment workshops and one-on-one coaching sessions offered to those who register.

The Honorable Julia Hearthway,
Secretary of Labor and Industry

The Honorable Patrick Beatty,
Deputy Secretary,
Unemployment Compensation,
Labor and Industry

David Greineder,
Director of Legislative Affairs,
Department of Labor and
Industry

Local career service providers and HR professionals will assist participants with resume building, interview techniques, and one-on-one career consulting.

**For more information and to register for this event, please visit my website at DuaneMilne.com.*

Walk/Run/Bike Travel the Trails to a Healthy Lifestyle

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Check-in between 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.
at Wegmans in Malvern (Timber Room),
Swedesford Road.

Rep. Milne and ACTIVATE of Chester County will sponsor a Walk/Run/Bike to promote healthy living and support the Chester County Food Bank. Families and individuals are invited to walk, run or bike the beautiful and newly opened Chester Valley Trails in East Whiteland.

ACTIVITIES:

- Scavenger Hunt at Wegmans
- Face painting
- Kids' crafts and balloons
- Appearance by Smokey the Bear and more!

NOTE: Pre-registration is required. Please call my office at 610-251-1070 to register and/or visit my website at DuaneMilne.com for more information.

You are welcome to bring a canned good to benefit Chester County Food Bank.

Event is FREE! • Healthy Snacks and Bottled Water Provided
Rain or Shine

You're invited to...



STATE REPRESENTATIVE DUANE MILNE'S

55 & Up Expo

Friday, October 7, 2011

10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

"THE GREAT HALL"
Immaculata University

1145 King Road, Immaculata, PA (Malvern)

Light refreshments

For additional information

please see my website at DuaneMilne.com

or call my district office at 610-251-1070.

THE FORTY NINERS CHORUS

11:30 AM TO 12:00 PM

CHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGING "APPRISE"

12:15 PM – GREEN ROOM

DISCUSSION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (MEDICARE);
NEW PREVENTATIVE BENEFITS; CHANGES IN INSURANCE OPTIONS FOR 2012;
PRESCRIPTION DRUG DONUT HOLE

VACCINES FOR SENIORS

CHESTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

INFLUENZA, HIGH DOSE IS \$35 & REGULAR DOSE IS \$20

PNEUMOCOCCAL FREE FOR 65 & OLDER

TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, PERTUSSIS FREE FOR ONE TIME DOSE

PERSONS WITH MEDICARE PART B, WITH NO HMO SECONDARY COVERAGE IS FREE
PLEASE BRING YOUR IMMUNIZATION RECORD

SEPTA TRANSIT CARDS – PLEASE BRING PHOTO ID

STATE & COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

ALZHEIMER TESTING

SMITH AUCTION – LIMIT 3 ITEMS PLEASE

