

**PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS**  
**14th STUDENT SUMMIT IN HARRISBURG**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2012**

Dear Student Council Advisors and Student Leaders:

The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils will hold its 14<sup>th</sup> annual Student Summit in the State Capitol in Harrisburg on February 23, 2012. PASC brings together approximately 100-150 student leaders in Pennsylvania for a discussion of critical education issues facing the youth of our state. The future of education of 1.8 million students in the Commonwealth is one of the most important issues facing lawmakers and government leaders in Pennsylvania. Our state government's continuing goal is to provide the highest quality of education for the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the most affordable price. Many adults in and outside of government have many and varied opinions on how best to achieve the goal. The students of Pennsylvania are the recipients of this education and also the greatest stakeholders in the success in achieving the highest standard of education in our nation. The 2012 PASC Student Summit is designed to give the students of Pennsylvania a voice in this most important topic. PASC is inviting high schools to send four students to Harrisburg for this Student Summit on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Education. The Summit is design around six aspects:

- Research and Preparation by student participations prior to the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with focus on four specific educational issues.
- Development of Proposals by students in advance of the Summit and the refinement of those proposals through working with other students during morning work sessions utilizing House committee and Caucus rooms.
- Presentation and Debate on proposals recommended by student committees during an afternoon general session following lunch utilizing the Chamber of the House of Representatives.
- Refinement of proposals by the "working committees" to incorporate ideas generated through the general session debates and discussion.
- The nomination of up to six students who will be tasked with the responsibility of working with PASC to present students' ideas generated at the Summit to The State Board of Education, the Secretary of Education, and Education Committee Chairs of the Pennsylvania House and Senate.
- Student participants would also be encouraged to make presentations to their local School Boards.

This one-day in Harrisburg activity has been extremely well received by the student participants who, in past years, have joined us from all corners of the Commonwealth. Positive evaluations of past "Summits" has caused PASC to sponsor a similar program in 2012 with total education issues focus as a major civic engagement initiative of the association. There is no cost to the students or to the faculty sponsor or parent who accompany students to Harrisburg other than the cost of lunch which they obtain on their own.

A copy of the schedule is included with this mailing. The education topic areas include:

- Academic Accountability
- Equitable Funding
- Teacher Certification and Training
- Role of Co-Curricular Activities in the Educational Process

An application form and details for essay topics are also included in this packet. Student delegates are asked to submit proposals for resolutions at the time of application. We look forward to bringing approximately 100-150 senior high school students together on **Thursday, February 23, 2012** for this program with a snowdate of Thursday, March 8, 2012. We have also invited the school nominees of the 2012 United States Senate Youth Scholarship Program. Additionally, we would encourage you, as a PASC member school advisor, to select up to four **high school students**. These students should be interested in the political process and particularly interested in the four topics that have been selected for debate this year. **As advisors we ask that you not limit the selection to Student Council leaders, but to also recruit interested students from National Honor Society, class government, and through direct contact with your school's Social Studies department.** We hope that students in your school will be interested in attending this challenging and unique educational opportunity in one of the most impressive settings in America, the Pennsylvania Capitol. Transportation can be provided by you, another faculty member or a parent.

If you have any questions about this opportunity for your high school students, please do not hesitate to email us at **PASCInfo@aol.com** or call me at 215-280-9299. Please have your school's applications postmarked by **FRIDAY, January 20, 2012. Mail to PASC STUDENT SUMMIT 224 Oak Park Road Hatfield, PA 19440**

**HARRISBURG, PA**  
**February 23, 2012**  
**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

- 8:15-8:45 Registration at the East Wing of the State Capitol Building
- 9:00-9:15 Opening Session- House of Representative's Chamber
- 9:30-10:30 General Work Session
- Students will be divided into groups based on their interest in the four major educational topic issues facing Pennsylvania.
  - A facilitator will lead a group of 30-35 students in a discussion of their topic. Students will be asked to present their proposals to the group.
- 10:30-11:45 Resolution Writing
- Each of the four groups will select up to three student resolutions and divide into that number of sub-groups. Each committee will prepare one or more resolutions to be presented to all delegates during the afternoon General Session.
  - The committee will select two or more spokespersons to make General Session presentations.
- 11:45- 12:45 Lunch on your own/ Free Time at the State Capitol Complex
- 1:00- 3:30 General Session on the Floor of the House of Representatives
- Each committee will present resolutions to the general body. Delegates and committee spokespersons will engage in a comment period and debate on the resolutions during a 30 minute block of time.
  - At the end of 30 minutes the delegates will vote to support or to reject each resolution presented on that topic. The same process above will be used to reach student opinion on each of the four educational topic areas. Delegates from other committees may submit written recommendations for the committee to consider following the general session.
- 3:45-4:45 Committees will reconvene to revise their resolutions based on the vote of student delegates in the general session and on written opinions provided to the committee from other delegates.
- Each committee will select a representative to work with PASC on the final draft of the Summit resolutions and presentations of resolutions to Pennsylvania educational leaders. Following the Summit participants will be emailed resolutions that they may use to present to their local School Boards.

APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ AGE \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ (print carefully and clearly)

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL TELEPHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY ADVISOR \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY ADVISOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need information on hotel arrangements in the Harrisburg area.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Accompanying adult would be interested in serving as one of two facilitators for a small group session. If YES, what would be your preferred topic:

\_\_\_\_\_.

By signing below, we give permission for the student listed above to attend the PASC STUDENT SUMMIT in Harrisburg on February 23, 2012.

Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Postmark Due Date: Friday, January 20, 2012. A letter confirming acceptance from PASC will be sent by e-mail to the student and to the faculty advisor by no later than Friday, January 27, 2012. There is a limit of four student applicants per school.

Travel information, housing information, and final itinerary and locations for sessions will be forwarded in the confirmation mailing.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CALLS OF INQUIRY TO THE PASC OFFICE AT 215-280-9299  
or E-mail Jim Finnemeyer at PASCInfo@aol.com.

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TOPICS FOR RESOLUTIONS AND DEBATE

Below are potential topics designed to give student delegates IDEAS OF ISSUES they may want to see addressed by Pennsylvania government and for which they would want to write resolutions to be considered by committees on February 23rd. You will be writing a resolution related to each topic. Please note that only one student per school will be assigned to each of the four topic areas.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Academic Accountability**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Equitable Funding**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher Certification and Training**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Role of Co-Curricular Activities in the Educational Process**

**Academic Accountability:**

- Revisions to high school graduation requirements
- PSSA/Keystone Exams
- Cyber Schools
- Dual Enrollment with Community Colleges or Local Colleges
- AP Courses and International Baccalaureate

**Equitable Funding:**

- State versus Local Funding
- Alternatives to the use of Property taxes for school funding
- Unfunded Mandates
- Vouchers
- Charter Schools

**Teacher Certification and Training:**

- Requirements for Certification
- Alternative Paths to Certification
- Continuing Education Requirements
- Merit Pay

**Role of Co-Curricular Activities in the Educational Process:**

- Pay to Play (Personal Funding for Participation)
- Impact of Budget Cuts on Activities and Athletics
- Value of Activities and Athletics in a school setting
- Leadership Development Courses

Select one of the topics areas above. Write a resolution and the rationale for your proposed resolution. Limit each of your essay to 200 words each, expressing specific actions which the Pennsylvania state government should take to solve problems associated with the selected topics. Students will be assigned to the topic of their choice. Students from the same school will not be placed in the same topic group to ensure a variety of points of view and background. Please make your choices accordingly. Submit these essays on separate pieces of paper with a heading containing your name, school, along with the topic. Be sure to attach the completed application.

Return this application and your essays to: PASC Student Summit,  
224 Oak Park Road, Hatfield, Pa. 19440 215-280-9299  
POSTMARK DEADLINE FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2012