Lawmakers Eyeing Short-Term Budget With Education Funding Protection.

This article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette outlines the unique and daunting budget challenges faced by our state legislature as a result of COVID-19. Of particular interest to teachers is the effort—even in the short term—to preserve existing levels of education funding despite an expected significant state budget shortfall.

It’s a promise kept for now .... on a challenge that continues to evolve. Read the entire article here.

Friday Announcement Expected for Some PA Counties to Move to Green.

This just in from Governor Wolf’s Office:

On Friday, the first Pennsylvania counties move into the green phase of COVID-19 reopening. So what does “green” mean?

Your county has done a good job at getting cases down and increasing ICU capacity, and has a lower risk when it comes to population density and travel patterns.

COVID-19 is still out there and is highly contagious, so continue to take safety precautions:

- Wear a mask around others
- Practice social distancing
- Avoid large gatherings

- Practice good health habits
• Continue teleworking where feasible
• Visits to prisons and hospitals can resume
• Nursing home visits remain restricted to protect residents
• Businesses open in the yellow phase can increase to 75% occupancy
• Businesses with closed physical locations can open to 50% capacity
• Construction can ramp back up to full capacity with safety measures in place
• Businesses should consider special accommodations for vulnerable personnel
• All businesses and individuals must follow CDC and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines

For more information: governor.pa.gov/plan-for-pennsylvania.

Update from World Educational Support Personnel Day on May 15, 2020

AFT made sure to make a memorable point at the third-annual conference hosted by Education International (EI), by helping to bring attention to an all-too-often overlooked segment of the education workforce. AFT supports EI’s resolution fully—seen below

Education International’s declaration on the rights of educational support personnel is a beginning-to-end demand for living wages and decent working conditions for PSRPs worldwide.

For example, the declaration states that support staff must benefit from high-quality, recognized professional training; be valued and respected for their contributions to education; and be protected from outsourcing.

Read the entire AFT article here.

Information Links That Bear Repeating:

Below please find additional links providing helpful information you can bookmark and count on as the COVID-19 situation changes and evolves.

** PFT Coronavirus Updates Now Every Wednesday. **
Missed an update or message? View our archive of COVID-19 Updates here.

AFT/AFTPA Coronavirus Resources & Updates for Members
AFT/PFT Employee Assistance Program (EAP) A Negotiated, Free Benefit to Members
Click for EAP Information Flyer
Click for Life Skills Solutions Website (login upper right)
National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Coronavirus Resources
PPS Coronavirus Resources and Links
PA Department of Health Coronavirus Resources
PA-Specific Resources from Senator Casey
Student Debt Relief Resources
Coronavirus Self-Checker
A guide to help you make decisions and seek appropriate medical care

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Rumor Control
Allegheny County Health Department Rumor Control

Please keep in touch—keep sharing your ideas, your questions and your concerns.

In solidarity—
Nina Esposito-Visgitis

Sent via ActionNetwork.org. To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, please click here.