



www.psea.org/dispatch

# Dispatch

P E N N S Y L V A N I A   S T A T E   E D U C A T I O N   A S S O C I A T I O N - E S P

Fall 2024

A publication for education support professionals of PSEA

## Message from your president

### Our Collective Voice

I hope you all had an amazing summer and got to relax and recharge! It's crazy to think that summer has already come to an end, but I'm really excited for fall. There's something refreshing about the changing leaves, cooler temps, and high school football games. And you know what they say - when one season ends, another begins!

This autumn is the perfect time to start fresh, try new things, and take advantage of all the exciting PSEA training opportunities that come our way, especially the Collective Bargaining Conference and Local Treasurer's Workshop.

As we strive to create a brighter future for our students, it's imperative that our state legislators prioritize the well-being of the dedicated support staff who work tirelessly in schools across the state.

PSEA members continue advocating for a minimum wage of at least \$20 per hour for education support professionals, a move that would have a

profound impact on the lives of 34,167 support staff across the state.

I don't have to tell you the difference it would make if our education support professionals could finally enjoy a sense of financial security, knowing that they can provide for their families without sacrificing their own well-being.

***"As we strive to create a brighter future for our students, it's imperative that our state legislators prioritize the well-being of the dedicated support staff who work tirelessly in schools across the state."***

A minimum wage of at least \$20 per hour would be a game-changer, allowing many support professionals to put more food on the table, pay their bills on time, and enjoy a better work-life balance.

So, what can we continue to



**Rudy Burruss**  
ESP Region President

do to help make this vision a reality?

Share our legislative priority with your community networks and urge your legislators to act.

Together, we can bring about meaningful change for the workers who deserve it the most. We will use our collective voice to advance a minimum wage of at least \$20 per hour for support staff.

May you have a fantastic school year. I hope to see some of you at this year's Collective Bargaining Conference/Local Treasurer's Workshop at the Hershey Lodge on October 18-19 and many of you throughout the school year.

Remember you can always email me: [RBurruss@psea.org](mailto:RBurruss@psea.org).

## Your Opinion Matters!

**O**n October 3, PSEA emailed the brief annual ESP wage survey to all support staff members. If you already completed it, thank you! If not, it will only take about six minutes to complete. We use the

annual survey results to advocate for increased member wages in the Legislature and at the bargaining table for support staff. Please check your email and your spam folder for a message from PSEA ESP President

Rudy Burruss with a link to the survey. Although you may have completed this survey last year, it is critical that you complete it again this year to provide us with the most recent data.

## American Education Week - ESP Day

**A**merican Education Week (AEW) is just around the corner, taking place from November 18-22, 2024. This special week is a time to shine the spotlight on the incredible work of public school educators and support staff who make a real difference in the lives of students every day. You work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure students are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged to reach their full potential. Your dedication and hard work are the keys to ensuring student success.

Mark your calendars for Nov. 20, as we celebrate National ESP Day, a special day to recognize the vital role you play in shaping the minds of tomorrow. So, take this

opportunity to share your stories, showcase your achievements, and celebrate the impact you're making in your community.

- **Monday, Nov. 18:** Kickoff Day
- **Tuesday, Nov. 19:** Family Day

#WeLoveOurESPs

**HAPPY  
EDUCATION SUPPORT  
PROFESSIONALS DAY!**



- **Wednesday, Nov. 20:** ESP Day
- **Thursday, Nov. 21:** Educator for a Day
- **Friday, Nov. 22:** Substitute Educators Day

## Reminder – Update Membership Information

**T**he 2024-25 membership year commenced on Sept. 1. Local presidents and membership chairs should audit the local roster and make sure those who retired or resigned

are removed from the roster and new members are added. Most of these changes may be made by the local president or membership chair in the Local Leader Tools section of the PSEA web-

site. All members should log in to their accounts on [www.psea.org](http://www.psea.org), and check their personal information. Make sure your mailing address, phone number, and email are correct.

## Member ID Cards Change

**P**SEA will not be mailing out ID cards to members. Digital ID cards will be available online after the president or membership chair completes the roster renewal process. To access your digital card, go to [www.psea.org](http://www.psea.org) and

click on “My PSEA Login.” Your digital card will be available on your dashboard to print or save. On a mobile device, take a screenshot of the digital ID card to save a copy.

If you get a message stating your ID card has not been

issued, contact your local president.

Digital ID cards will not be available until local officers complete the membership renewal online or mail their renewed rosters to PSEA.



*Members of the 2024 ESP Core School during PSEA’s Summer Leadership Conference at Gettysburg College. The members had a great week networking and developing new friendships.*

**Fall 2024**

*Dispatch is a publication for  
education support professionals of the  
Pennsylvania State Education Association  
400 North Third Street, P.O. Box 1724  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-1724*

**Aaron F. Chapin** - PSEA President  
**Jeffrey D. Ney** - PSEA Vice President  
**Rachael M. West** - PSEA Treasurer  
**James G. Vaughan** - PSEA Executive Director

**Rudy Burruss** - PSEA ESP Region President  
**Marc Howshall** - PSEA ESP Region Vice President  
**Deneen Dry** - PSEA ESP Region Secretary  
**Adam Lanza** - PSEA ESP Region Treasurer  
**Peg Rockwell** - PSEA ESP Region Officer-at-Large



## Dates to Remember

### **PSEA Local Presidents/Collective Bargaining Conference**

- Oct. 18-19
- Hershey Lodge & Convention Center

### **Election Day**

- Nov. 5

### **American Education Week**

- Nov. 18-22

### **Education Support Professional's Day**

- Nov. 20

### **PSEA House of Delegates**

- Dec. 13-14
- Philadelphia