
PA CAPE letter to the PA Governor

1 message

Gary Niels <gniels@paispa.org>

Fri, Jan 15, 2021 at 11:16 AM

To: smallschoolheads@paispa.org, largeschoolheads@paispa.org

All,

This is to let you know that PAIS participated in this PA CAPE letter to the Governor of Pennsylvania. There will be funding available, especially for our schools with Title 1 students. I will do my best to continue to monitor the availability of this funding for our schools.

Gary

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Gary J. Niels
Executive Director
Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)
P.O. Box 590
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Office: 610.567.2960
Mobile: 412.491.9606



Member Associations:
Agudath Israel-Mid-Atlantic Region
American Montessori Society Schools of PA
Association of Christian Schools International
Association of Christian Teachers and Schools
Friends Council on Education
PA Association of Independent Schools
PA Catholic Conference
Teach PA - A Project of the Orthodox Union

January 13, 2021

The Honorable Tom Wolf
Office of the Governor
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

RE: Emergency Assistance to Non-public Schools (EANS) Program under the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

Dear Governor Wolf,

We are mindful of your efforts this academic year, particularly as our schools continue to persevere through the host of challenges our teachers, students, and families have faced during the coronavirus pandemic. We move forward with optimism, especially with the roll out of new vaccines this week.

We are also thankful for the forthcoming aid through the \$900 billion coronavirus relief package in the recent congressional Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA Act). Therein, a new appropriation has been made through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) for \$2.75 billion specifically set aside for nonpublic schools. The Program is entitled the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program. Pennsylvania's allocation is \$150,022,294.

This program was made available by the United States Department of Education (USDE) on January 8, 2021. It is our understanding that the governor of each state must opt-in to this funding through a request to USDE. We write today to formally request that you make that election for Pennsylvania's nonpublic schools and students.

When Pennsylvania does receive the funding set aside for nonpublic schools, The Pennsylvania Council for American Private Education would suggest the following:

- Identify a single fiscal agent (PDE's Division of Federal Programs (DFP) or one Intermediate Unit (IU) to maintain control of funds. This would relieve the burden on LEAs so they can focus on ESSERF.

- Have a simple application/petition to participate
- Distribute funds based on enrollment with a weighting for lower income. All schools have been impacted.
- Lower income counts should not be focused or not solely focused on Title I data since some schools may have lower income students but don't or can't participate in Title I (e.g. high schools when HS are not served through Title I by their LEAs)
- Allow schools to pool funds just like other federal and state programs (e.g. Title I, II, IV and Pennsylvania's Act 89 funds to nonpublic schools)
- Allow for all uses as permitted by the law

We are thankful that Congress recognized that the pandemic has greatly affected all students, both public and private. The funds set aside for nonpublic schools in the recent aid package is a historic concession toward the fact that nonpublic schools are an integral part of the educational landscape in every state. We thank you in advance for continuing that support for all Pennsylvania families and students.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PACAPE Leaders
pacape@champion.org



Dr. D. Merle Skinner
 Co-Coordinator PACAPE

Association of Christian Teachers & Schools



Marie Conti
 American Montessori Society



Gary J. Niels
 Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS)

Rabbi Ariel Sadwin
 Agudath Israel - Mid-Atlantic Region

Sean P. McAleer
 MGA, PA Catholic Conference

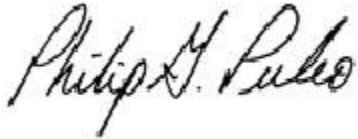


Steve Lindquist



Arielle Frankston-Morris

Teach PA, a Project of the Orthodox
Union

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip G. Puleo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Philip G. Puleo, MBA
Association of Christian School's
International

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Drew Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Drew Smith
Friends Council on Education

Mailing: 845 Silver Spring Plaza, Ste B, Lancaster, PA 17601-1183
Phone: 717.285.3022 **Fax:** 717.285.2128