



Dear PARSS Member:

We hope that you are staying safe and healthy as you do your best to deliver remote learning to your students this spring. All of us at PARSS are proud of the good work that is taking place in our school districts across the commonwealth in spite of school closures during this unprecedented health crisis

We are delighted that your school district is a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS). Your membership and partnership with us remain extraordinarily valuable.

We know that this spring's budgeting process will be a real challenge for our PARSS school districts. Due to the financial challenges that you are facing, **we are reducing annual dues for the 2020-21 school year by nearly 25% -- a savings of \$240.** This savings is our gesture of support and goodwill to all of you as you grapple to deliver a final budget during these difficult economic times.

Why is it important for your school district to maintain its membership with PARSS? A few reminders....

- On September 28 ,2018, The State Supreme court ruled that (after objections from members of the Legislation and the Governor) we may continue the new equity suit against the State. **PARSS is the**

only district organizational litigant relating to the current lawsuit

– William Penn School District v. Pennsylvania Department of Education. When we win, your district, along with all rural and/or small-town districts, will be the beneficiaries. Your ongoing district membership helps us to sustain our efforts in this vital effort.

- Since the 1980s, PARSS has been a true advocate for rural and small-town school districts. This advocacy and service to all eligible school districts. We are working hard to provide incentives that will help us grow our membership.
- PARSS has contracted with a part-time Director of Advocacy Services, Hannah Barrick. Our member districts will receive regular legislative updates while the General Assembly is in session. Additionally, Hannah will assist with scheduling ongoing meetings with legislators about legislative proposals that we need to fully support or voice our opposition. Finally, PARSS will provide legislative alerts to you when the need arises for you to promptly contact your legislator via email or phone call about a particular legislative proposal.
- Our spring conference is one of the best around! Although we had to cancel the 2020 conference, we are already gearing up for a 2021 conference that will be amazing! As you'll recall Gov. Wolf attended the 2019 conference and spent several hours with individual members of PARSS. The 2021 conference looks to be even more exciting. We hope you plan to join us in the State College area on April 28-30, 2021. Mark your calendars!

An invoice is attached to this message. You will need to download the invoice and send a copy, along with your remittance, to our Financial Officer who is listed on the invoice.

Your thoughtful consideration and anticipated positive response are appreciated. We remain yours in educational service and dedicated to our mission to **“Promote equal opportunity for quality education for ALL students in every school in Pennsylvania”**.

If you have comments or questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Clapper, D.Ed.

Assistant Executive Director of PARSS

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