



Pennsylvania Department of the

AUDITOR GENERAL

Facebook: Pennsylvania Auditor General

Twitter: @PaAuditorGen

News for Immediate Release

Aug. 9, 2018

Auditor General DePasquale Commends Vista School for Voluntarily Sharing Education Funding with Public Schools in 8 Counties

Schools received share of \$210,461 in reimbursements for services to students with special needs

HERSHEY, Pa. – Auditor General Eugene DePasquale today commended The Vista School leadership for voluntarily sharing more than \$210,000 in education funding with schools in eight counties.

“In my work as auditor general I am focused on ensuring that every available dollar of school funding gets into classrooms across the state to help students learn,” DePasquale said.

“I commend The Vista School staff for their hard work pursuing federal funding earmarked to help students with special needs. That hard work paid off and The Vista School chose to share \$210,461 with the 32 schools and one Intermediate Unit that sends students here.”

The funding comes from the School-Based Access Program (SBAP) — a Medicaid program that provides federal monies to school districts, intermediate units, and approved private schools to reimburse them for the costs of providing occupational therapy, speech therapy, nursing, and other services to students on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Federal and state changes to the program between 2012 and 2015 resulted in some schools not receiving the federal reimbursements in a timely manner. The Vista School pursued the reimbursement in court and then chose to share approximately 80 percent of the settlement proceeds to off-set tuition increases districts paid for students attending The Vista School during the 2014-15 school year. Most districts received the reimbursement via tuition credit.

“It is important for schools to remember that federal funds are available to help cover these specialized services,” DePasquale said. “I want to ensure that the state is doing everything possible so that schools obtain the eligible dollars to help special education students and to ensure that school districts receive all the federal funds to which they are entitled.”

###

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Following a break-down by county of how the funds were distributed.*

**Distribution of School-Based Access Program
Funding Settlement from The Vista School**

County	School District	Students Attending The Vista School (2014/15)	ACCESS Rebate
Berks	Conrad Weiser	4	\$ 6,311.48
	Daniel Boone	3	\$ 4,232.56
	Reading	1	\$ 2,868.86
Berks Totals		8	\$ 13,412.90
Cumberland	Big Spring	1	\$ 1,147.54
	Camp Hill	1	\$ 1,147.54
	Carlisle	2	\$ 2,295.08
	Cumberland Valley	4	\$ 8,032.80
	East Pennsboro	0.3	\$ 884.23
	Shippensburg Area	1	\$ 2,868.86
	South Middleton	1	\$ 1,147.54
Cumberland Totals		10.3	\$ 17,523.59
Dauphin	Capital Area Intermediate Unit	3	\$ 10,728.72
	Central Dauphin	7	\$ 21,313.98
	Derry Township	6	\$ 13,770.51
	Halifax Area	1	\$ 2,868.86
	Harrisburg	1	\$ 2,868.86
	Lower Dauphin	9	\$ 22,377.07
	Middletown Area	7	\$ 13,986.67
	Susquehanna Township	5	\$ 12,622.96
Dauphin Totals		39	\$ 100,537.63
Franklin	Chambersburg Area	1	\$ 1,147.54
	Franklin Totals	1	\$ 1,147.54
Lancaster	Hempfield	1	\$ 2,868.86
	Manheim Township	2	\$ 2,295.08
	School District of Lancaster	1	\$ 2,868.86
	Warwick	3	\$ 4,232.56
Lancaster Totals		7	\$ 12,265.36
Lebanon	Anville-Cleona	1	\$ 3,870.98
	Cornwall-Lebanon	4	\$ 11,475.42
	Lebanon	4	\$ 11,095.19
	Northern Lebanon	3	\$ 8,606.57
	Palmyra Area	6	\$ 18,981.59
Lebanon Totals		11	\$ 54,029.75
Perry	Susquenita	2	\$ 5,737.71
	West Perry	1	\$ 1,147.54
Perry Totals		3	\$ 6,885.25
York	Northern York	1	\$ 1,147.54
	West Shore	1	\$ 3,296.23
	York Suburban	1	\$ 216.17
York Totals		3	\$ 4,659.94
	*Total	82.3	\$ 210,461.96

**Approximately 20 percent of the total settlement was spent on litigation costs.*