



Frank Burns

State Representative

72nd Legislative District

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FIGHTING FOR EDUCATION

Burns delivers \$1.4 million in education-related funding in past eight months

Rep. Frank Burns knows that good schools equal a great life, so he's worked tirelessly to bring nearly **\$1.4 million since January**.

Students across the 72nd Legislative District will benefit from Rep. Burns' efforts to obtain:

- **\$159,964 for Portage Area School District** to aid school safety and security efforts.
- **\$25,000 for Forest Hills School District** to purchase security-related equipment, such as metal detectors, special emergency communications equipment and theft-control devices.
- **\$24,380 for Conemaugh Valley Elementary School** to promote nutrition by expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables available.
- **\$5,000 each for St. Michael's School and Conemaugh Valley Junior/Senior High School** to improve breakfast offerings.
- **\$35,000 each for Central Cambria and Penn Cambria School Districts** to expand computer science classes and teacher training.
- **\$500,000 for St. Francis University** to add two floors to Sullivan Hall and provide digitally equipped classrooms for its health sciences program.
- **\$600,000 for these nine Cambria County schools** to fund afterschool program expansion:
 - Central Cambria Elementary School
 - Central Cambria Middle School
 - Cambria Heights Elementary School
 - Cambria Heights Middle School
 - Glendale Elementary School
 - Glendale Junior/Senior High School
 - Jackson Elementary School
 - Portage Elementary School
 - St. Michael Elementary School



Rep. Burns presented a certificate of recognition to Anthony Tomaselli upon his retirement from Penn Cambria High School.

Burns led effort to arm school security guards



As chairman of the Northwest Democratic Caucus, Rep. Burns was lead signatory of a letter asking state Education Secretary Pedro Rivera to meet to clear up confusion over whether school security guards could be armed.

"We strongly support legislation clarifying that qualified private security guards can be armed in schools," wrote Rep. Burns and other delegation members.

Because of such legislative activism and concern, Act 44 of 2018, which overhauled Pennsylvania's school safety policy, was updated to spell out that private security guards hired by a school CAN be armed.

Efforts such as that undertaken by Rep. Burns and the Northwest Democratic Caucus led to Gov. Tom Wolf signing the change into law as Act 67 of 2019.



Burns seeks parental accountability, Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

Building on his initial proposal to fine parents up to \$750 for their child's bullying behavior – which garnered state, national and worldwide attention – Rep. Burns recently introduced revised bills to hold parents accountable and create an Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights in Pennsylvania.

Both bills strengthen the definition of bullying, to differentiate between teasing or joking and true bullying.

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights:

- I Students in Pennsylvania have a right to learn in a safe space, free from bullying at school, during school activities or on the school bus, and to communicate electronically with classmates without harassment.
- II Students and parents have a right to report acts of bullying in a convenient, anonymous manner without fear of retaliation.
- III Parents have a right to know if their child is a victim of bullying, to receive regular updates about bullying investigations involving their child, to participate in the resolution of bullying and to expect school officials to take meaningful action until the bullying behavior stops.
- IV School entities have a right to develop strong anti-bullying policies, to use data to reduce and resolve bullying incidents and to require students and parents to play an active role in eliminating bullying within their school.

Burns, Penn Cambria team up for bully-busting pilot program

As another prong of his anti-bullying campaign, Rep. Burns announced at an Aug. 19 news conference that Penn Cambria School District will get a free year's use of bullying/incident tracking software from HIBster, a Johnstown company that participated in his House Democratic Policy Committee hearing in Upper Yoder Township last fall.

The company has worked with hundreds of out-of-state schools and has been able to identify bullying trends, providing information that schools can use to reduce incidents or prevent their escalation. Rep. Burns hopes this proves the merit of this legislation so it's adopted statewide.

Burns keeps schools in loop on special-purpose grants

Offering help through his office, Rep. Burns strives to make eligible entities in the 72nd Legislative District aware of grant opportunities – and programs to benefit schools and students are a big part of that outreach.

This year, Rep. Burns has issued reminders to apply for:

- ✓ **Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board alcohol education grants**, which promote responsible – and legal – alcohol consumption. School districts and institutions of higher education are among those eligible to apply for a maximum \$20,000 grant, the goal of which is reducing underage and dangerous drinking.
- ✓ **Community Violence and Prevention grants**, to implement violence-prevention initiatives. This funding is available to institutions of higher education, as well as municipalities and counties, with a goal of improving public safety by reducing community violence.
- ✓ **Federal funds to prevent opioid abuse and youth addiction**, through a partnership among school districts, counties and nonprofit service providers. This is a 5-year pilot program to reduce risk factors that lead to substance abuse.

Rep. Burns urges any schools interested in applying in the future to contact Brittany Blackham in his Portage office at (814) 736-7339.



Rep. Burns recognized the Central Cambria High School girls' cross-country track team as PIAA Class AA state and Division VI champions.



Cambria County Christian School was one of many Rep. Burns visited on his annual tree-planting and environmental education spring tour.



“As a fiscally conservative Democrat, I supported this no-tax increase budget that gets back to the basics by putting more money into education. It’s not just about spending more; it’s about spending smarter, so the dollars actually get into the classroom. Every child in every school deserves to feel safe and this budget increases funding for school safety.”

– Rep. Burns, in a statement regarding the 2019-20 state budget bill.