



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2015

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Joe Bard, PARSS, 717-503-9252

Jim Buckheit, PASA, 717-540-4448

Paul Healey, PAESSP, 717-732-4999

Jay Himes, PASBO, 717-540-9551

Nathan Mains, PSBA, 717-506-2450

JOINT STATEMENT: EDUCATION LEADERS BELIEVE SELECTION OF RIVERA SIGNALS FAIRNESS, EQUITY

Pennsylvania's major education leadership organizations released the following statement today on news that Governor-elect Tom Wolf named Pedro A. Rivera to serve as Secretary of Education:

"We believe the selection of Pedro Rivera as Secretary of Education indicates Governor-elect Wolf is committed to ensuring equity in education throughout the state, and adequate support for all public school students and the educators who help them reach their potential. Every child deserves a chance to succeed regardless of where they live in the Commonwealth. We look forward to working with Secretary Rivera as he leads a transformation in the way the state supports its schools. Pennsylvania's top priority must be to re-establish a fair, sustainable and predictable process for funding all public schools that recognizes our shared responsibility.

"Rivera has the experience teaching and leading in large and small school districts here in Pennsylvania, and he understands that a high quality education benefits every community. A recent Associated Press analysis of school spending documented the current inequities, driven by Pennsylvania's antiquated property tax system and lack of a fair funding formula. We strongly encourage Governor-elect Wolf and Mr. Rivera to consider the Basic Education Funding Commission's recommendations this spring and take swift action to improve the way the state supports its schools. Educating every child is a collective imperative that has positive social and economic benefits for all of Pennsylvania."

Jim Buckheit
Executive Director
PA Association of School Administrators

Nathan Mains
Executive Director
PA School Boards Association

Jay Himes
Executive Director
PA Association of School Business Officials

Paul Healey
Executive Director
PA Association of Elementary and Secondary
School Principals

Joseph Bard
Executive Director
PA Association of Rural and Small Schools