

## Frequently Asked



## Questions

### 1. Will tuition increase passed?

Tuition will increase PASSHE's current

condition. However, universities that are eligible for state-related status are in better financial shape than those currently struggling within the PASSHE system. Tuition at state-related schools will be controlled by individual universities, not by state budget realities. State-related schools have more autonomy in setting tuition rates and increases than state schools under PASSHE. It is incumbent upon state-related schools to make sure that their tuition is competitive.

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regardless given financial

### 2. What will happen to PASSHE?

Transitioning eligible schools out of PASSHE will bring millions of dollars back to PASSHE, ultimately providing this struggling system with an infusion of much needed funds. It should come as no surprise that most PASSHE schools are struggling financially – and transitioning schools out of the system will free up more money for struggling schools. State-related affiliation and transitioning schools' payments to the state mean an increase in funds available for scholarships.

### 3. Will transferring universities give up their mission to offer a high quality education at the most affordable price?

No. Attempts are being made to scare Pennsylvanians that departing universities will raise their tuition to the levels of other state-related schools. This is false. Most state-related institutions have higher tuition because of mission-related factors such as an emphasis on research, doctoral preparation, and Division I athletic programs, not because they are state-related. Departing schools will retain their missions as regional comprehensive institutions focused on quality and affordability.

### 4. What about the faculty, staff and coaches employed by state-system institutions?

Eligible state-system universities seeking to transition to state-related universities care about their employees and respect their lawful right to choose union representation. The legislation honors current union agreements and will allow for local negotiations of union contracts in the future. Local unions are supportive of the legislation, as it will bring negotiations back to the university level. There are benefits to bringing the negotiations back to the university level, which include removing statewide salary caps and providing for more flexibility for part-time faculty.

### 5. What will happen to retirees?

The legislation specifically requires that transfer institutions must be responsible for their retirement obligations of their former employees.

### 6. What will happen to sports?

The legislation and the transition to state-related status will not affect sports in any way. The conference, division and sports-related student opportunities will remain the unchanged. The transition to state-related will not affect schools' NCAA Division and therefore sport scholarships will not be affected.

### 7. Will local communities feel the impact of this legislation?

Transitioning to a state-related institution will provide for greater flexibility to respond to local community, business and workforce needs – while providing more funds for remaining PASSHE schools. State-related schools have greater flexibility in creating new majors and studies in reaction to the economic development of their region.

### 8. Why now?

Given the budgetary implications of the legislation, now is the time to consider this proposal. The current funding structure for PASSHE is unsustainable – and now is the time to address this issue.

PASSHE is unable to administratively bring about the changes that are needed, which is why legislation is the only option.