

Senator Lisa M. Boscola Celebrates Key Provisions in the Finalized State Budget

By Office of Senator Lisa Boscola

HARRISBURG – Senator Lisa M. Boscola (D-Northampton) celebrated the recently finalized 2023-2024 state budget, that freed critical funding for education, child care, and mental health programs in the Lehigh Valley and across the Commonwealth.

The finalized school code (Act 33/Act 35) and fiscal code (Act 34), signed by Governor Shapiro, deliver substantial investments in key areas:

- A \$175 million boost for public school facility improvements,
- \$261.6 million in community college funding,
- \$83.3 million (2023-24) and \$124.9 million (2024-25) in child care tax credits, benefiting over 200,000 Pennsylvania families, and
- \$100 million dedicated to K-12 Mental Health programs.

Senator Boscola, recognizing the extended budget process, commented, "I was proud to support the final spending bills that came together in the end, addressing crucial needs for our communities."

The K-12 Mental Health initiative, derived from the \$100 million allocation, will disburse funds equitably among school districts, prioritizing students' mental well-being. The allocation also supports school-based mental health internship programs, reinforcing professional development.

Moreover, Senator Boscola underscores the establishment of the School Environmental Repairs Program and the Public School Facility Improvement Grant Program. The former addresses environmental hazards, including lead abatement and asbestos removal, with a focus on high-risk projects. The latter, housed within the Commonwealth Financing Authority, will allocate grants for various school infrastructure projects, prioritizing health, safety, and security.

Boscola said, "we invested taxpayer dollars back into our community's health and wellbeing with this budget, putting our children in a better place to learn and succeed."



National Canal Museum
Receives Recognition
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Allentown Rescue
Mission's Employee
of the Month
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New St. Luke's
Orthopedic Hospital
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Slate Belt Milk Bottle
Collection
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108th Pennsylvania Farm Show 2024, January 6th - 13th

By William L. Piper / Chairman Friends of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Foundation, Inc.

HARRISBURG - Each year, as I gather my thoughts together to put them on paper to Welcome everyone to the Farm Show, I am overwhelmed inside with pride. Proud that I am fortunate to be part of a group of volunteers of Annual Friends, Lifetime Friends and a nine-member Board of Directors, who have given freely their time to support educational programs for the annual Farm Show and to help to maintain this event as — our



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Apple Queen
Claire Roberts, Gardners



State Fair Queen
Chloe Bomgardner, Jonestown



Dairy Princess
Alexis Butler, Pine Grove



FFA State President
Crystal Bomgardner, Jonestown

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