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# LEGISLATIVE



*Update*

From State Representative

**JAMES R. ROEBUCK**

188th Legislative District



## Roebuck backs 'Pa.'s Promise' tuition plan

As Democratic chairman of the House Education Committee, I recently helped to unveil the "Pennsylvania's Promise" plan at the state Capitol.

This bold proposal would fit well with the House Democrats' Plan For PA, which has a goal of making higher education and training more affordable for everyone. I have long supported restoring and increasing funding for both K-12 and higher education, and we have been making gains on both under Gov. Tom Wolf.

*(continued on page 2)*



*Rep. Roebuck helps to unveil the "Pennsylvania's Promise" tuition plan at the state Capitol with state Sen. Vincent Hughes, at right, and other lawmakers and advocates.*

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# Roebuck advanced-placement bill becomes law

## Could mean big tuition savings for many students, families

One of my top priorities is working to make higher education more affordable and accessible. That's why I'm proud that a new law includes my plan to help students who take advanced-placement courses in high school.

I worked with Republican legislators to include my bill in part of the annual budget-related School Code bill, which Gov. Tom Wolf signed into law.

My legislation will expand Pennsylvania's Transfer and Articulation Program to include credits for matriculating college freshmen who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) exams in high school with scores that qualify them for college course credits. The expansion will cover community

colleges and the 14 universities in the State System of Higher Education.

It will ensure that high school students who have taken Advanced Placement courses and obtained a score of 3 or more on the AP exam would receive college course credit from Pennsylvania public institutions of higher education. The change also will include students who have achieved sufficient scores in exams for an International Baccalaureate Diploma, the College-Level Examination Program or DANTES subject standardized tests.

This legislation will relieve some of the financial burden on college students and parents by eliminating the need to pay for duplicate courses. The

awarding of these credits will save students and their families thousands of dollars in college tuition costs and lead more students to graduate from college in four years.

Another benefit to both the state and parents will be the increased likelihood that these students would graduate on time and not have to seek further state grants or loans to finish college.

For example, students who take AP courses are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time, whether a two-year degree or four-year degree, and they have higher retention rates and a higher first-year grade-point average in college compared to non-AP peers.

### Roebuck backs 'Pa.'s Promise' tuition plan *continued from page 1*

The Pennsylvania's Promise plan would:

- cover two years of tuition and fees for any recent high school graduate enrolled full time at one of Pennsylvania's 14 public community colleges, including the Community College of Philadelphia;
- cover four years of tuition and fees for any recent high school graduate with a family income less than or equal to \$110,000 per year accepted into one of the 14 universities in the State System of Higher Education, including Cheyney and West Chester;
- provide four years of grants ranging from \$2,000 up to \$11,000, depending on family income, for students accepted into a state-related university such as Temple, Lincoln or Penn State.
- finance the expansion of grant aid to adults seeking in-demand skills and industry-recognized credentials, as well as college credit.

*Rep. Roebuck speaks at a joint Southwest Philadelphia town meeting in December he held with Reps. Joanna McClinton and Jordan Harris.*



## Roebuck backs House Democrats' Plan for PA

The House Democratic Plan for PA features four components:

- A **People First Plan for PA** that would protect the safety, health, financial security, and dignity and opportunity that every Pennsylvanian deserves, not just those at the top.
- A **Jobs Plan for PA** that would attract good jobs that support families, move the economy forward, expand opportunities for working people, and protect the financial security of the middle class. This includes raising the minimum wage, which I strongly support.
- A **Quality Schools Plan for PA** that would give every child access to a safe school and a quality education, and allow adults to gain the skills and training they need to do the jobs businesses are looking to fill.
- A **Fair Taxes Plan for PA** that would ease the tax burden on working people and homeowners and prevent corporations and the wealthy from exploiting the middle class. Corporations and the wealthy should pay their fair share to support schools, public health and safety, and community resources.

More information is available at <http://planforpa.pahouse.com>.

## Roebuck applauds Wolf education funding boosts in new budget proposal

As Democratic chairman of the House Education Committee, I applaud the education funding proposals Gov. Tom Wolf made in his annual budget address.

I'm pleased at the progress we have made together with Governor Wolf in restoring the Corbett-Republican education cuts to K-12 and higher education. As we return local control for Philadelphia public schools, something I have long supported, I also want to see more state funding returning as well, and for that to be driven through the new fair funding formula I took part in developing.

Wolf's address reaffirmed his commitment to increasing funding for public education at all levels. Since Wolf took office in January 2015, Pennsylvania has made sustained investments in education, including restoring the cuts made under the Corbett administration, increasing the number of children able to attend pre-kindergarten by nearly 50 percent and enacting a fair funding formula.

Wolf's 2018-19 budget proposal for education includes:

- \$100 million increase in basic education;
- \$40 million increase in Pre-K Counts and Head Start;
- \$20 million increase for special education;
- \$15 million increase for the State System of Higher Education, including Cheyney and West Chester universities; and
- \$10 million for career and technical education.

I believe the governor's goals fit well with the House Democrats' Plan For PA. We want to give our kids a great start in life with quality schools. And we want to give workers access to the education, skills and training needed for the changing workforce.



*Rep. Roebuck held two document-shredding events in 2017 to help constituents protect themselves from identity theft. The events also helped to protect the environment since the paper was recycled.*

## Roebuck helps to secure \$4.25 million for four local projects

I have recently helped to secure a total of \$4.25 million in state funding for four local projects. I thank Gov. Tom Wolf for agreeing to my requests to release much of this funding. Governor Wolf is a true partner who understands the needs of Philadelphians.

The four grants are:

- \$1.25 million for the Community College of Philadelphia to help it substantially increase the capacity of its automotive technology program in west Philadelphia to train more students for well-paying jobs in that field. The project also will allow an increased emphasis on the latest alternative fuels technology and a greater ability to provide a qualified technician workforce for large regional fleets. Construction was expected to begin in January 2018 and be completed in spring 2019.
- \$1 million for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House's Chestnut Street expansion project: Many of the families who stay there are financially devastated by their child's illness and treatment, and would have nowhere else to go without the lodging and supportive services of this organization. However, because of increasing demand, they can accommodate only a fraction of the families who need to stay with them, and last year turned away 1,665 Pennsylvania family requests.  
The expansion project includes more than doubling the facility's size from 45 to 111 bedrooms and will also benefit the surrounding community, creating both construction and long-term jobs and contributing to the ongoing revitalization efforts in the area.
- \$500,000 for the Mercy Catholic Medical Center emergency department. The Mercy Ambulatory Clinic plans to renovate existing space to expand the Mercy Philadelphia hospital emergency department. The department plans to expand by 10,000 square feet from 14 to 29 bays by building a second pod of 15 bays - including two isolation bays - while retaining the five fast track bays.
- \$1.5 million for the 37th Street Extension project, linking a to-be-constructed street grid at the former University City High School site to Market Street.



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## INSIDE:

- Roebuck legislation becomes law – Could mean tuition savings for many
- Roebuck secures \$4.25 million for local improvements

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## Don't miss out! Quick way to stay informed

If you receive my occasional email updates, I hope you find them to be useful and informative. Starting in mid-March, due to a House rule covering periods before primary and general elections for the House, I will be unable to send you these email updates until May 16 **UNLESS** you have specifically opted in to keep receiving them.

To make sure you keep receiving updates about important events like my recent veterans, document shredding and tax help events, the pending state budget and more, **please visit [www.pahouse.com/Roebuck/contact](http://www.pahouse.com/Roebuck/contact) and send me a quick email to opt in, if you haven't opted in already.**

You can also keep up with news from my office by "Liking" my Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/RepRoebuck](http://www.facebook.com/RepRoebuck)) and following me on **Twitter @RepRoebuck**.



*Rep. Roebuck held an event in November to help local veterans learn more about the services available to them. He is pictured with Maj. Gen. Anthony J. Carrelli, adjutant general of the Pennsylvania National Guard, who spoke at the event.*

## Important voting deadline

**Do you know someone who's not registered to vote? April 16 is the deadline to register** in time to vote in the May 15 primary, when candidates for U.S. senator, U.S. representative, governor, lieutenant governor and many other offices will be on the ballot. Pennsylvania now has **online registration at [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com)**.



For more information, call the Philadelphia voter registration office at 215-686-1591.

## Fall 2018 college students: Have you filled out your financial-aid form yet?

If you plan to be in college this fall, you need to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and the sooner, the better.

You must complete the FAFSA to qualify for:

- Federal aid programs: Pell grants, Perkins loans, Stafford loans or work-study employment
- Pennsylvania state aid programs: the Pennsylvania State Grant Program or work-study employment
- School aid programs: private grants or need-based scholarships

Each state has different deadlines. For Pennsylvania, the deadlines for the 2018-19 school year are:

**May 1, 2018:** Most applicants, except for the groups listed with the August deadline.

**Aug. 1, 2018:** All first-time applicants enrolled in a: community college; business/trade/technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; or non-transferable two-year program.

Colleges and universities sometimes have earlier deadlines of their own, so don't wait!

If you have completed the FAFSA in the past, most of your information should roll over automatically.

I urge you not to pay any websites for assistance that you can get for **FREE** at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov).

For more information, visit your school's financial aid website or contact the financial aid office. You can also call the Federal Student Aid Information Center toll free at 1-800-4-FED-AID.