



# From the Desk of Jeffrey E. Piccola

## Upcoming Events...

**Speak: Harrisburg Regional Chamber Government Relations Comm. Meeting**  
August 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 a.m.  
Front Street in Harrisburg

**Visit & Tour: John Shumaker Public Safety Center**  
August 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.  
HACC Campus

**Speak: PA Assn. of Nonprofit Organizations' Lobbying & Advocacy Training Day**  
August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.  
East Park Drive in Harrisburg

**Present Anthony J. Piccola Memorial Scholarship Awards: HACC Foundation Awards Program**  
August 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.  
C. Ted Lick Wildwood Conference Center

**W. Hanover Twp. Anniversary Parade**  
August 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.  
Fairville & Manor Avenues

## Recent Happenings...

Recognized two students from the Holy Name of Jesus School as the recipients of my Good Citizenship Awards, which were awarded to nearly 100



area students this year from schools in the 15<sup>th</sup> Senatorial district who exhibited qualities of leadership, community service, and academic achievement (pictured here: David Hayek and Kaela Curcillo)

Addressed parent leaders and policymakers from around the country at the National Coalition for Public School Options Conference in Washington, D.C.

Attended the State System of Higher Education Board meeting in which tuition levels were discussed and set for the 2010-2011 school year.

Welcome to the next edition of my e-newsletter! This biweekly correspondence is intended to keep you informed of my legislative work, priorities, and whereabouts in the 15<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District. I welcome your comments and look forward to hearing from you.

## News & Views...

### School Choice Movement Continues to Grow *Additional options needed to help fill gap in education system*

A conference was recently held in Washington, D.C. hosted by the National Coalition for Public School Options, a group of advocates on both the national and state levels for public education options and choice. As a co-chair of the Policy Maker Advisory Board of this organization, I attended the event and addressed those present on education reform, specifically the various opportunities available to families in Pennsylvania. It's important that all children and their families have a chance to receive a quality education not only in Harrisburg but throughout our region and the Commonwealth.



Traditional public schools do not have the capability to adjust to the needs of every individual student. As a result, too many children are left behind. We have observed this right here in our own backyard with the poor performance of our city schools. Fortunately, a number of options are available -- including charter and cyber charter schools, and the Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) -- to help fill this gap in our education system.

I have been pleased to be at the forefront on many of these initiatives during my tenure in the Legislature and as Chairman of the Senate Education Committee. I had the privilege of helping to write and champion our charter school law and advocated for the enactment of our cyber charter law which is recognized today as one of the strongest statutes in the country. Our Commonwealth has also been a pioneer in the establishment of its educational tax credit for corporations. The EITC law allows businesses to donate to scholarship organizations and receive state tax credits. The organizations then award scholarships to recipient schools on behalf of students. EITC has been another successful option for families and one modeled by other states as well.

This fall, my committee will take steps to once again focus on our failing schools. We'll also be pursuing a measure I have sponsored that will give parents the ability to petition for a school closure or change in management when the school is not performing to the level that it should. These and other efforts will go a long way in improving the system and giving parents a stronger voice in their child's education.

For more information on these efforts and the future work of the Education Committee including our fall agenda, visit my website at [www.piccola.org](http://www.piccola.org).

Capitol Office: P.O. Box 203015 · 173 Capitol Building · Harrisburg, PA 17120-3015 · (717) 787-6801  
District Office: 916 B North River Road · Park Plaza · Halifax, PA 17032 · (717) 896-7714  
Toll free # 1-888-PICCOLA

Email: [jp Piccola@pasen.gov](mailto:jp Piccola@pasen.gov) Website: [www.piccola.org](http://www.piccola.org)