

# PASSHE requests increase in state funding

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**Justine Coyne** Reporter *Pittsburgh Business Times*

The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education on Thursday approved a request for additional funding from the state, requesting \$521.2 million in appropriations for the 2016-17 school year, which the organization said would help to restore the deep funding cuts made five years ago.

Although PASSHE has not yet received its current fiscal year appropriation because of the absence of a 2015-16 state budget, it is required to submit next year's appropriation request to the Governor's Budget Office by the end of October. Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal included an increase of \$45.3 million, or 11 percent, to support the 14 schools in the state system. Assuming PASSHE receives a \$433 million appropriation this year, the funding total still would be about \$70 million less than what was received in 2010-11, according to the organization.

PASSHE's annual appropriation was cut by more than \$90 million in 2011-12. It has not received an increase in state funding in seven years.

"This is not a typical budget request," Ronald Henry, chair of the Board's Finance, Administration and Facilities Committee, said in a statement. "We have the chance to fundamentally change the way we approach this issue, and this is the first step."

*Justine Coyne covers manufacturing and higher education.*