



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



March 4, 2025



## *State Legislative Update*

February 21 - 27, 2025

### **GOV. SHAPIRO ADDRESSES FEDERAL FUNDING FREEZE**

Gov. Josh Shapiro provided an update on his lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's freeze of federal funding and its impact on Pennsylvania in the Governor's Reception Room today

[2.24.25].

Following a directive issued by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) on January 27, 2025, the Shapiro administration filed a lawsuit seeking to restore roughly \$2.1 billion in federal funds to Pennsylvania. Gov. Shapiro began by calling the Trump administration's freezing of these funds "illegal." He noted the funds were meant to help Pennsylvanians by means such as preventing sinkholes, plugging abandoned wells leaking toxic chemicals and reducing energy costs for homeowners. "Today, I'm here to provide an update on where things stand with that litigation," he said. "Every dollar that we identified at the filing of our lawsuit is currently unfrozen and accessible to

all Pennsylvania state agencies.” He said critical programs and infrastructure projects once jeopardized by the funding freeze will now be resumed.

[Click here](#) for more.

*(A weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government.)*

## ***Federal Legislative Update***



- **McMahon on Cusp of Confirmation**: The full Senate advanced Linda McMahon's nomination in a 51-47 vote, setting up the nominee for a final confirmation vote on Monday, March 3, 2025. (*Note: Vote is scheduled for approximately 5:30 p.m.*)
- The U.S. Department of Education has issued a **Dear Colleague Letter** telling K-12 and post-secondary schools that receive federal funds they “must cease using race preferences and stereotypes as a factor in their admissions, hiring, promotion, compensation, scholarships, prizes, administrative support, sanctions, discipline, and beyond.” The department will begin monitoring adherence to the policy starting on March 1, with schools that fail to comply facing the possibility of losing their federal funding.
- Kirsten Baesler, North Dakota state superintendent of public instruction, **has been nominated** to be the assistant secretary of K-12 education.
- The Trump administration has placed Peggy Carr, **commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics**, on administrative leave.
- NAEP's long-term trend assessment of 17-year-olds that was scheduled to be administered next month **has been canceled**.
- The U.S. Department has canceled more than \$600 million in grants under the SEED (Supporting Effective Educator Development), TQP (Teacher Quality Partnership) and Teacher and School Leader incentive programs.

*(Source: NAESP Advocacy in Action, Feb. 26, 2025)*

## **Pennsylvania Principals Association**

### ***Position Statement on State and Federal Education Issues***

The **Pennsylvania Principals Association (PA Principals Association)** stands in solidarity with national organizations such as the **National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)** and the **National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)** in advocating for equitable, well-funded and inclusive education policies at both state and federal levels. In light of ongoing challenges and critiques directed at the education sector, we reaffirm our commitment to the following principles:

**[CLICK HERE FOR POSITION STATEMENT.](#)**



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