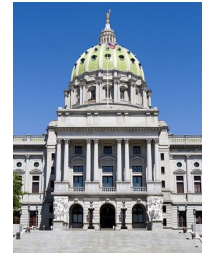


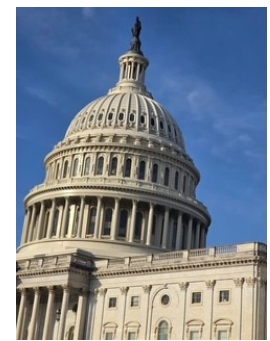
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



March 18, 2025

From the State Office

By Dr. Lauren S. Holubec



PA Principals Association Advocacy Update: National School Leaders Advocacy Conference

Last week, PA Principals Association leaders joined school administrators from across the country in Washington, D.C., for the **National School Leaders Advocacy Conference**, hosted by NAESP and NASSP. This annual event provided an opportunity to meet with federal legislators and advocate for the policies and funding that support Pennsylvania's principals, schools and students.

Protecting Public Education & Opposing Private School Vouchers

One of our top priorities was urging Congress to **reject legislation that would divert public funds to private school vouchers**, such as the *Educational Choice for Children Act (S.292, H.R. 817)*. Research shows that voucher programs do not improve student outcomes and instead take critical resources away from public schools. Our message was clear: Congress must **invest in public education, not privatization efforts that weaken our schools**.

Federal K-12 Budget Priorities

We strongly advocated for **full funding for essential federal education programs** that support Pennsylvania's schools, including:

- **Title I Grants: \$18.4 billion to ensure equitable funding for low-income districts.**
- **Title II, Part A: \$2.19 billion for principal and teacher professional development.**
- **Title IV, Part A: \$1.38 billion for student enrichment, mental health and school safety.**
- **IDEA State Grants: \$14.2 billion to support special education services.**
- **Career & Technical Education (CTE) Grants: \$1.44 billion to strengthen workforce readiness programs.**

We emphasized that **underfunding these programs puts Pennsylvania's schools at a disadvantage**, making it harder to recruit and retain high-quality educators and provide necessary resources for all students.

Tackling the Educator & Principal Shortage

The **principal shortage crisis** continues to affect schools nationwide, with turnover rates at record highs. Data shows that **52% of principals plan to retire within four years**, with even higher departure rates in high-poverty and rural districts. **During our meetings, we urged legislators to:**

- Expand **federal loan forgiveness for principals** to attract and retain school leaders.
- Increase **Title II funding** for leadership coaching and professional development.
- Support **job-embedded training and mentoring** to strengthen the principal pipeline.

Strengthening School Mental Health & Safety

We made it clear to lawmakers that **student mental health and school safety remain top concerns for school leaders:**

- 93% of principals report a rise in **youth mental health challenges**.
- Chronic absenteeism remains high, particularly in **low-income districts**.
- More than 80% of school leaders are concerned about **bullying and substance abuse**.

To address these challenges, we urged Congress to:

- **Increase funding for school counselors, psychologists and social workers.**
- **Expand trauma-informed initiatives and mental health support for students and educators.**
- **Raise reimbursement rates for school meals to ensure no child goes hungry.**

Next Steps & How You Can Help

Our advocacy efforts don't stop in D.C. We encourage all **PA Principals Association members to stay engaged and make their voices heard**. Contact your representatives and urge them to support **public education funding, educator workforce investments and student mental health initiatives**. *(See Special Federal Update below for more.)*



State Update

Week ending March 14, 2025

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RECENT ACTIONS DURING THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly released a summary of recent actions during the 2025 Regular Session:

- **HB 324** – **Poultry Technician Licensure Law**—collection of sample, technician requirements, licensure, powers and duties of Secretary of Agriculture and blood sample restrictions.
- **SB 184** – **Medical Practice Act of 1985**—visiting team physician.

[Click here](#) for more.

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

Special Federal

**2025 National School
Leaders Advocacy**

Update



NASSP Executive Director Ronn Nozoe welcomed school leaders from across the country to the 2025 National School Leaders Advocacy Conference.



The Central Region group with U.S. Rep. Lloyd Schmucker.



The PA Principals Association group with U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick.

Conference

NAESP and NASSP jointly hosted the **National School Leaders Advocacy Conference, March 9 – 12, 2025, in Washington D.C.** The annual event gathers principal leaders from across the country in the nation's capital to build attendees' leadership skills, knowledge around how federal policies and programs impact principals and schools and how to advocate on these issues. Once again, a group of PA Principals Association leaders attended the conference to advocate for principals, schools and students. **(See special update from the State Office above for federal issues/priorities discussed.) See the photos to the left and below.**



Dr. Jessica Quinter (far right), NAESP board member and former PA Principals Association board member, participated in a panel discussion during the conference.



Dr. Eric Eshbach, executive director, and the PA Principals' leaders spoke with U.S. Sen. Dave McCormick.



Melanie Rosenberger, federal relations coordinator on the PA Principals Association board, sat in on an Education Briefing.



The West Region group met with U.S. Rep. Chris Deluzio.



The East Region group with U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan.



The PA Principals Association leaders in front of the U.S. Capitol.

WHAT IS TITLE II, PART A?

What is Title II? Title II, Part A, the Supporting Effective Instruction State Grant Program, is the most significant source of federal funding supporting professional learning for educators and leaders at the school, district and state levels. Authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II is designed, among other things, to provide **all students** with greater access to effective educators.

[Click here](#) for more information.

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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