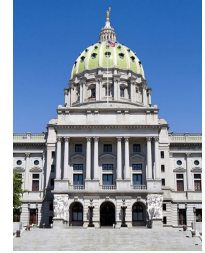


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



March 25, 2025



State Update

Week ending March 21, 2025

Press Conferences

PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings and media availabilities.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS CALL FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

By Kyle Purchase, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | March 18, 2025

Advocates and House Democrats advocated for a juvenile justice reform legislative package today in the Main Capitol Rotunda.

Rep. Emily Kinkead (D-Allegheny) welcomed everyone to the press conference and said she wanted to begin with the “real architect” of the package, Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny).

Rep. Miller said he did not know about the “real architect” label but appreciated the recognition and provided a background on the bipartisan Juvenile Justice Task Force and the report that was issued providing 75 recommendations for reform. He praised the task for their work and noted in the previous session where the Senate “addressed partially two of the roughly 75 types of recommendations.” He said, “Two is better than zero, but we’re going to try and do better with this term.” He discussed legislation he is authoring with Rep. Justin Fleming (D-Dauphin) to address Miranda warnings with juveniles, which he said the warnings are “generally not compatible with minors.” He referred to studies showing juveniles not understanding the Miranda warnings. He also discussed efforts to assist in educating children in an environment where they may be placed in a juvenile detention facility.

[Click here](#) for more.

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

Federal Update

From NAESP's Principal Advocate - March 20, 2025



Principals Advocate on Capitol Hill

School leaders from all fifty states attended NAESP's National School Leaders Advocacy Conference last week. The event was hosted jointly with The National Association of Secondary School Principals. Sessions provided attendees with the latest decisions made by Congress and the Trump Administration regarding federal K-12 education policy and funding as well as looming issues on the horizon. School leaders also met with their congressional representatives to advocate for NAESP's legislative priorities that include maintaining funding for key programs like Title I, IDEA, and Title II.

Attendees were briefed on key actions taken by the Trump administration and potential cuts to Title I and IDEA funding, and efforts expand the use of federal funds for private school vouchers.

A panel discussion examined the critical role of federal funding in K-12 education, covering ongoing budget threats such as potential cuts to Title II funding, teacher preparation grants, and special education. School leaders were reminded of the importance of connecting large and abstract budget numbers with the personal stories of student success these resources make possible at the school level.

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) provided a message about the importance of education advocacy and the profound impact educators have on shaping the future for students as well as the need for school leaders to be engaged in the policy process, especially for small rural school districts like in the congressional district he represents.

Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-CT), the 2016 National Teacher of the Year, emphasized the power of education experience in shaping education policy and the need for principals to advocate for their schools. "You can't sit out and assume decision-makers have all the information they need," she said.

The conference underscored the principal's vital role in advocating for sound education policy. It offered attendees valuable insights from colleagues and prominent leaders, while empowering them to use their voices to advocate not only for themselves but also for their students, communities, and the future of public education.

Trump Orders Education Department Dismantled

President Trump today directed Secretary Linda McMahon to "take all necessary steps" to close the Department of Education and transfer its authority to the states. White House aides said that education program funding would not be effected. Abolishing the Department requires an act of Congress and it's not clear how or to what extent that can be accomplished by executive action alone. Last week, the Department laid off nearly half its staff. This is a developing story and more details will be forthcoming.

THE ROUNDUP

- An analysis of federal data estimates that the number of students with disabilities could climb to nearly 8 million, with experts saying recent special educator shortages will only add further strain to school systems. **Read more.**
- The U.S. Department of Education **laid off approximately half of its staff**—

- about 1,400 employees—last week.
- Linda McMahon was sworn in as the nation’s 13th Secretary of Education on March 3rd and delivered a message about the “**Department’s Final Mission.**”

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.](#)



The Pennsylvania Principals Association - 122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025
717-732-4999 - www.paprincipals.org

PA Principals Association | 122 Valley Road | Enola, PA 17025 US

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