

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

Conestoga Valley virtual schooling program receives praise from lawmakers at cyber charter hearing

Somewhere between 250 to 300 students in the Conestoga Valley School District are taking a somewhat nontraditional learning path in any given year.

These students, which make up 7% of district enrollment, attend Conestoga Valley's Virtual Academy. Created in 2007, the academy offers online classes to K-12 students who can choose to take a single online class during the school year or request their class load to be entirely virtual. ...

Members of the Pennsylvania House Education Committee praised the Conestoga Valley academy as an alternative to cyber charter schools, which are funded by school districts across the state with taxpayer dollars.

[Click here](#) for the full article.

(Source: LNP | LancasterOnline, April 25, 2025.) (A subscription may be required.)

Last week, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives convened in Harrisburg and has now adjourned. The House and Senate are both scheduled to reconvene on Monday, May 5, 2025. Although the House of Representatives did not pass any school-related legislation, there are a number of updates to share with you. (Week ending April 25, 2025)

Committee News

Comprehensive coverage of the House & Senate public hearings and voting meetings

House Children and Youth Committee

04/23/25, 9:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider a resolution: **HR 195 - (PN 1381)** - Resolution designating the month of April 2025 as "Child Abuse Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania. The resolution was unanimously reported as committed.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO140 - Ensuring the Right to Free Speech at our Public Colleges

Sponsor: Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)

Summary: Prohibits public institutions of higher education from utilizing "bias response teams," or "bias reporting systems" and assessing unreasonably high security fees for guest speakers on campus. Creates a private cause-of-action for those aggrieved by a violation of provisions.

Intro Date: 12/03/2024

Last Action: 04/17/2025 H - Introduced HB1271

[Click here](#) for more.

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

Federal Update

(Source: NAESP Advocacy in Action, 4.23.25)

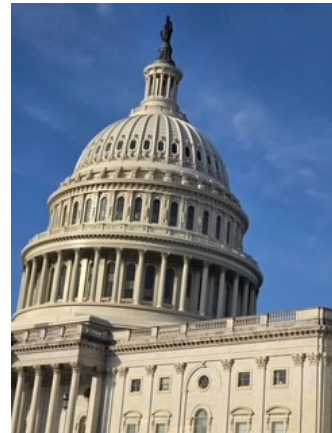
Threats to Title II and Head Start

The Trump administration targeted funding for Title II, the \$2.1 billion professional development formula grant program, for elimination in each fiscal year of its first term, and it appears likely that it will be the case again when the White House releases its FY26 budget in May.

Congress rejected those proposals to cut Title II funding last time after being inundated by messages from educators about the importance of the program and the benefit of the activities it funded. A similar effort will likely be required this year.

The U.S. Department of Education is also now considering withholding or diverting the current FY25 Title II funds approved by Congress last month. It is not clear what the funds would be used for instead, if at all, but administration officials are exploring their options. The potential loss of \$2.1 billion earmarked for professional learning and educator recruitment and retention would be devastating to next year's school budgets that are being finalized right now. NAESP is **urging the department to provide the Title II funding** to states and districts like usual and per congressional intent.

An initial draft of the **president's FY26 budget** also includes the elimination of the \$12.3 billion for Head Start. The move would end early childhood services for half a million low-income children.



House Education and Workforce Committee Advances Two Bills on Gender Policy

The House Education and Workforce Committee passed two bills last week regarding transgender students. [The “Say No to Indoctrination Act”](#) (H.R. 2617) would prohibit federal K-12 funds to be used for gender ideology instruction and asserts that there are only two genders: male and female. [The “PROTECT Kids Act”](#) (H.R. 2616) would require any elementary or middle school receiving federal funds to “obtain parental consent before changing a minor’s gender markers, pronouns, or preferred name on any school form or sex-based accommodations, including locker rooms or bathrooms.” The committee members approved both bills on straight party line votes. The next step is for full House consideration at some point in the future.

U.S. Supreme Court Allows Trump Administration to Freeze Grants

The U.S. Supreme Court will allow the Trump administration to [freeze \\$65 million in teacher training grants while a group of eight states challenge the grant cancellation in court.](#) The teacher training grants are part of the Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) and Teacher Quality Partnership (TQP) programs. The Trump administration canceled the grants which it says promote diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). A district court had paused the grants’ cancellation, ruling that the move was arbitrary and lacking a clear explanation. The U.S. Supreme Court ended the pause after noting that the government was likely to prevail in its argument that the dispute belongs in the Court of Federal Claims.

[Click here](#) for more.

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 (NAESP)** 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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