

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

The House and Senate both reconvened on Monday, May 12, 2025.

The following bills were presented and voted on at the PA State House Education Committee on Monday, May 12, 2025.

All bills were voted upon favorably.

- [House Bill 1401](#) (Young) – Reduces the undergraduate GPA requirement for teacher preparation programs from 3.0 to 2.8.
- [House Bill 1402](#) (Schweyer) – Limit teacher certification fees and the professional educator discipline fee assessed by the PDE to be no more than \$50.
- [House Bill 1403](#) (Borowski) – Waives fees for educators who place their certificate into “voluntary inactive” status and allow those in voluntary inactive status to meet the 30 required hours of continuing professional education through in-service days provided by the school entity.
- [House Bill 1404](#) (Curry) – Increase the length of time that future CTE teachers and educators can utilize an intern certification from three years to five years. The legislation would also change the name of the teacher intern certification to “Second Career Certification” and the CTE intern certification to “CTE Second Career Certification.”
- [House Bill 1405](#) (Munroe) – Would allow veterans’ service experience in a specific occupational area to count towards the credits necessary for a CTE Instructional 1 certification.
- [House Bill 1407](#) (N. Nelson) – Would update Pennsylvania’s teacher certification levels as follows:
 - **Primary: Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, grades 1 through 6, or ages 3 through 11.**
 - **Secondary: Grades 6 through 12 or ages 11 through 21.**

VOTED OUT OF SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE LAST WEEK

Vouchers: Senate Bill 10: (Sen. Judy Ward, R-Blair) – This legislation creates the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success scholarship program (PASS). The program would make parents with school-age children who reside within the attendance area of a district school in the bottom 15% of performance eligible to receive a scholarship for alternative education expenses outside of their local public school.

The PA Principals Association is opposed to the bill, as it represents the latest attempt to enact a voucher program in Pennsylvania, and joined other statewide education associations in a joint letter opposing this legislation, which you can [read here](#).

EDUCATION RECAP - May 2-8, 2025

[Click here](#) for more.

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

Federal Update

NAESP Federal Relations Coordinators May 2025 Meeting Summary



Attendees: Melanie Rosenberger (PA), Doug Ammeraal (MI), Heather Conn (AK), Jesse Davis (GA), Troy James (SD), Jennie Lamon (NJ), Stacy Lemelin (MT), Tara McAuliffe (RI), Dereck Minakami (HI), Sue Myers (MD), Amy Schott (VA), John Schilling (CA), Roz Thompson (WA), Heather Woodward (CO), and Trudy Wilson (UT). David Griffith, NAESP Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy, and Alison Van Dee, NAESP Coordinator, Advocacy Support Services, were also in attendance.

Title II Funding Status:

- The possibility is that Title II FY25 funds will be delayed or otherwise diverted for the upcoming school year.
- FY25 education funding was finalized just before the NSLAC conference and K-12 programs were maintained at existing levels from the previous year, including Title II. Due to a legislative drafting quirk, however, the final bill indicated level funding for Title II but did not *actually* specify the amount appropriated (\$2.19 billion).
- This has happened in the past with full-year Continuing Resolution funding bills. The administration in the office has historically abided by the obvious congressional funding intent.
- This year, the Trump Administration is considering its options to use the Title II funds for some other purpose because of this ambiguity. NAESP and other national groups sent a letter to Secretary McMahon urging her to send the approved Title II funding out to states and districts as per usual.
- Congressional appropriations leaders are aware of the issue and are monitoring the situation.
- Title II is a program the first Trump administration sought to eliminate.
- David Griffith, **NAESP Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy**, was asked if he had any idea on how the funds might be repurposed. He said he thought that the administration may try to block grant it in some fashion but couldn't say for sure. David did note that there are some constraints on how Title II funds could be used so the administration doesn't have open-ended discretion to use it for anything.

FY26 Funding:

- Friday the Trump Administration put out a broad outline of its FY26 funding proposal known as a "skinny budget."
- The key takeaways are that funding for IDEA and Title I will be maintained at

- existing levels.
 - o The budget does call for consolidating IDEA subprograms into a single IDEA grant.
- The budget would eliminate the Title III English Language Acquisition grants (- \$890 million).
- It would also consolidate eighteen other K-12 programs into a \$2 billion block grant with a net cut in funding of \$4.5 billion. The 18 programs are unspecified but presumably include Title II, Title IV and 21st Century Community Learning Centers among others.
- Head Start was not mentioned in the budget at all. Press reports earlier indicated that the budget would eliminate Head Start so this is encouraging though not definitive.
- Initial congressional reaction to the budget plan has been skeptical though Congress appears more favorably disposed to funding cuts than was the case in the first Trump term.
- Secretary McMahon will be testifying before Congress about the budget at the end of the month giving the House and Senate committees a chance to dig into the details.

Budget Reconciliation:

- Congress is in the process of making the 2017 Trump tax cuts permanent at a cost of approximately \$5 trillion. To offset that loss of revenue, Congress is considering approximately \$2 trillion in cuts to mandatory spending programs like Medicaid, school meals, and student financial aid. The legislative process is called “budget reconciliation” as it allows the Senate to pass the bill with a simple majority vote (and not the 60-vote filibuster threshold).
- Since most K-12 education programs are not mandatory spending (but are funded through the annual appropriations process), budget reconciliation does not have a direct impact on K-12 schools.
- However, schools receive more than \$7 billion in Medicaid reimbursements annually for health services provided to Medicaid eligible students and for IDEA-related services and personnel. Large Medicaid cuts could negatively impact K-12 schools.
- In addition, large cuts to Medicaid would squeeze state Medicaid budget and put pressure on state education budgets. Increases to the annual deficit might also affect annual appropriations funding decisions.
- David Griffith wrote a blog post on what school leaders need to know about [budget reconciliation available here.](#)

Executive Orders:

- The Department of Education’s [anti-discrimination certification for states and school districts to complete was enjoined by three different federal circuit courts.](#) As a result of the courts’ actions, the Department is quietly letting the issue fade away.
- [All of Maine’s federal K-12 funding is under review](#) because the Trump Administration says they are in violation of Title IX for allowing a transgender student to play in a girl’s sport.
- Three education-related executive orders were issued: 1) [Artificial Intelligence in K-12 schools](#) 2) [school discipline and skilled trade jobs.](#)
- The Department is sending the states and districts a [student privacy notice](#) asking them to be mindful of complying with student privacy rules.
- *David Griffith reminded the FRCs that executive orders set out the priorities for executive agency staff to work on. Executive Orders do not replace, revise or rescind existing statutes.*

Recent Supreme Court Cases:

- There have recently been oral arguments in three Supreme Court cases concerning K-12 education.
 - o *Mahmoud v. Taylor*
§ Parent opt-out options
 - o *St. Isidore v. Drummond*
§ Religious charter schools
 - o *A.J.T. v. Osseo Area Schools*
§ Special education student disability protections beyond IDEA
- Decisions on these cases as well as the constitutionality of the E-rate will be issued within the next 4-6 weeks and no later than the end of June.

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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