

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

There are two bills to highlight this week having to do with healthy foods in schools: [HB1131](#) and [HB1132](#).

HOUSE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS PRESS RELEASE

- The Consumer Protection Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives held a hearing this week on the eight bills included in the **Healthy PA legislative package**. State Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R-Allegheny/Washington), author of the package, along with several other lawmakers held a press conference following the testimony.

[Click here](#) for the full press release.

(Source: *House Republican Caucus / Rep. Mihalek Press Release, May 16, 2025.*)

EDUCATION RECAP

[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, May 14, 2025.*)



Congress will be consumed with a special legislative process called “Budget Reconciliation” for the next two months. Learn more about what it means for K-12 education and [what school leaders need to know](#) about it.

While budget reconciliation doesn't deal with K-12 spending directly, the massive

proposed cuts to Medicaid will affect education since Medicaid is the fourth largest source of federal funding for schools (reimbursing for IDEA-related expenses).

FY26 Budget Outlook

The Trump administration unveiled a FY26 budget outline. The key takeaways for K-12 education are:

- Title I and IDEA funding would be maintained at current levels;
- Title III English language acquisition grants would be eliminated (-\$890 million);
- 18 other K-12 programs would be consolidated and cut by a combined -\$4.5 billion; and
- A new \$2 billion block grant would be created.

Head Start is not mentioned at all (either good or bad) in the budget outline. The reception to the plan on Capitol Hill has been cool at best with many members wanting to see more budget details. More information is forthcoming but click [here](#) to learn more about proposed FY26 K-12 funding shifts.

Supreme Court Hears Two Education Cases

The Supreme Court heard two cases last week involving K-12 education.

The first is a [case about whether Oklahoma can create and oversee a religious public charter school](#), Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School. The court will consider whether funding the school violates the First Amendment prohibiting the government from establishing or favoring a religion or whether denying the school is religious discrimination. The school plans to teach a Catholic-centered curriculum while receiving public education funds. The Supreme Court justices appear split on the issue, however, Justice Amy Coney Barrett rescued herself from the case, so a tie vote is possible.

A day earlier, the Supreme Court heard the [case of a Minnesota teenager with a rare form of epilepsy](#) whose school did not accommodate her need to be taught in the afternoon and evening because of her morning seizures. The family sued the school district to have these services provided, citing IDEA and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Rehabilitation Act. The high court is considering to what extent and what burden of proof the family must meet to receive compensatory damages under the ADA. The student's family argued that lower courts made it too difficult to sue public schools for failing to meet the educational needs of students.

A decision on both cases is expected next month.

Action Alert: Protect School-Based Medicaid Funding

Congress is considering major cuts to Medicaid as part of a legislative process called Budget Reconciliation. Congressional leaders are proposing cuts of more than \$700 billion!

Medicaid provides reimbursements to schools for health services provided to Medicaid eligible children and for IDEA-related services and personnel for students with disabilities. Schools received more than \$7 billion in Medicaid reimbursements last year making Medicaid the fourth largest source of federal funds to K-12 schools.

Significant cuts to the program will negatively impact school budgets and services. Use [NAESP's Advocacy Action Center](#) to [take action now and reach out to your](#)

- President Trump issued three executive orders on April 23: promoting AI in K-12 schools, no longer considering disparate impact in school discipline policies, and high skill trade jobs to highlight the value of apprenticeships and hands-on training for high-demand careers.
- President Trump urged Education Secretary Linda McMahon to intervene in support of a New York school's efforts to keep its mascot name, the "Chiefs," that is banned by state law.
- Federal education officials have cut back on the number of subjects NAEP will test over the next seven years by canceling assessments in science, history, and writing while the federally mandated testing in 4th and 8th grade reading and math in 2026 and 2028 will remain.
- The Food and Drug Administration suspended raw milk inspections due to reduced staffing and lab capacity.
- Companies must strengthen data protection, limit data retention, and obtain parental or school consent before collecting or using children's personal information by April 2026 after the Federal Trade Commission updated the Children's Online Privacy Protection Rule.
- Afterschool programs are either shutting down or downsizing as federal relief funding from the pandemic ends and government budget cuts threaten their survival.
- The Department of Education cuts school mental health grants by \$1 billion, threatening crucial support for vulnerable students.
- States continue to expand school voucher programs that are costing more and more, often outpacing public school funding and raising concerns about long-term budget sustainability.
- The Senate voted to repeal an FCC rule that expanded the E-rate program to fund Wi-Fi hotspots for schools and libraries, citing legal and safety concerns.

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

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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