

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

House Children and Youth Committee
06/03/2025, 10:00 a.m., Room 60, East Wing
The committee held an informational meeting on HB 460.

HB 460 (PN 444) (*Prime Sponsor: Rep. Mary Jo Daley*) - Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for child abuse recognition and reporting training; and, in

terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse awareness and prevention. Requires school entities to develop age-appropriate child abuse awareness and prevention educational materials and resources for students in kindergarten through 12th grade starting in the 2026-2027 school year. Asserts that these curriculums be modeled after a curriculum developed between the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Human Services (DHS) and then distributed to all public school entities and non-public school entities upon request. Directs the curriculum provided by PDE and DHS to be posted on publicly accessible websites. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

PA Principals Association Executive Director Dr. Eric Eshbach provided testimony regarding this legislation (via letter) on June 3, 2025. [Click here](#) for his testimony.

HB 1500 (PN 1795) (*Prime Sponsor: MaryLouise Isaacson*) - Passed in the House of Representatives by a 104-98 vote **with an amendment** (6-5-25):

This legislation would provide transparency and accountability for Pennsylvania's cyber charter schools and reform how cyber charter education is funded in the commonwealth.

It would address:

- **Cyber charter funding reform -**
 - Setting a standardized state-wide regular education tuition rate for cyber charters.
 - Placing caps on cyber charter fund balances. Cyber charter schools should not be allowed to hoard taxpayer dollars while their students continue receiving subpar education.
- **Transparency -**
 - Imposing restrictions and transparency measures on expenses that do not benefit the students' education.
 - Putting safeguards in place to ensure school districts and taxpayers are not left footing the bill for cyber tuition students who no longer live in the school district, let alone the state.
 - Holding cyber charters accountable to the same reporting requirements for annual budgets, financial statements, construction costs and other expenses that school districts are required to report.
- **Parity with school districts -**
 - Setting a standardized statewide special education tuition rate for cyber charters, based on the amount school districts spend and the needs of each student. Currently, each school district has a different rate for special education students, causing adverse incentives for cyber charter schools.

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 Federal Relations Coordinators (FRC) June Meeting Summary. Submitted by Melanie Rosenberger, Federal Relations Coordinator on the PA Principals Association Board of Directors.)



The monthly meeting of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Federal Relations Coordinators was held on June 3, 2025. Below is a brief summary of the meeting as well as some links that were shared. Click on the link below to view the full summary.

Attendees: David Carpenter (AL), Heather Conn (AK), Jeff Drouin (NH), Mark Johnson (NE), Jennie Lamon (NJ), Derek Minakami (HI), Sue Myers (MD), Nick Neiderhouse (OH), **Melanie Rosenberger (PA)**, Roz Thompson (WA), Heather Woodward (CO), David Griffith (Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy, NAESP).

Budget Information:

- There have been significant delays in the U.S. Department of Education releasing FY25 state formula grant allocations that states and districts need to set their next school year state budgets.

- The Department has finally released the allocations for Title I, Title IV, and IDEA but has not yet issued the allocations for Title II.
- NAESP along with NASSP, AASA, AFSA, and Learning Forward sent a letter to Secretary McMahon urging her to release the allocation information as soon as possible.
- NAESP will continue to urge the Department to release information about the remaining funds and will continue to engage with Congress on the issue, which is also growing concerned about the delays, especially as schools finalize their SY25-26 budgets.
- The lack of Title II information is concerning because the administration is interested in diverting this pot of funds to other programs or for other purposes.

- [**FY26 Skinny Budget**](#)
- [**Budget Reconciliation**](#)
- [**Action Alert about the impact of the proposed \\$500 billion cuts to Medicaid on K-12 schools.**](#)

[Click here](#) for the full meeting summary.

(Source: NAESP Advocacy in Action, May 28, 2025.)

More details are being learned about the President's proposed FY26 budget as you will read below. It is good news for Title I, IDEA and Head Start. Still, there is much more to be learned about which K-12 programs are at risk of elimination.

McMahon Testifies Before House Appropriations Subcommittee

[**Secretary Linda McMahon touted the administration's proposal to block grant funds to states in testimony to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the FY26 budget.**](#) She assured Congress that funding for essential programs, specifically Title I and IDEA, would be maintained at current levels despite other budget cuts. The Trump administration budget proposes to consolidate and cut 18 K-12 programs for a net loss of \$4 billion.

Additionally, [**McMahon stressed parental involvement and state control as key priorities.**](#) McMahon also emphasized improving education literacy, enhancing school choice, and supporting innovation at the state level.

Supreme Court Splits on Oklahoma Charter School Case

In a 4-4 split, [**the Supreme Court let stand the Oklahoma Supreme Court's decision to block the state from funding the nation's first religious charter school.**](#) St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School. Justice Barrett recused herself, leaving the court in a deadlock that does not set any precedent. Indeed, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt called it a "non-decision" and said "there will be another case just like this one and Justice Barrett will break the tie" in favor of publicly funding religious schools. The ruling did not provide the justices opinions nor how each justice voted.

Private School Choice Initiative Clears House

[**A bill to establish a national private school choice tax credit program**](#) was approved by the House as part of their Budget Reconciliation bill. The legislation would allow donors to receive dollar-for-dollar tax breaks for contributing to scholarship programs that help families pay for private school tuition and related educational expenses. Supporters argue it expands options for low-income students, while critics say it diverts funds from public schools.

- Contact your members of Congress with this **Action Alert** about the **impact of the proposed \$500 billion cuts to Medicaid on K-12 schools**.
- **Head Start funding for FY26 would be maintained at its current level** in the administration's budget request, HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr. told the Senate Appropriations Committee.
- Many **Head Start advocates launched a nationwide grassroots campaign** that successfully pressured the Trump administration to reverse the proposed budget cuts and preserve funding for the early childhood program.
- **Many rural schools are at risk of losing funding** and in some cases closing their doors altogether, as private school choice programs expand.
- **The California Department of Education and Los Angeles school district agreed to allow religious private schools as special education placements for students with disabilities**, following a lawsuit by Orthodox Jewish families who argued the previous exclusion violated their constitutional rights.
- **A federal judge in Massachusetts blocked the Trump administration's plan to close the U.S. Department of Education**, ordering the rehiring of the many employees that were laid-off and ruling the administration's efforts violated constitutional duties.
- A 19-year-old hacker that stole the personal information like social security numbers and medical information of more than **62 million students and educators' data from the PowerSchool company was arrested**.
- The nomination of **North Dakota State Superintendent Kirsten Baesler** to be U.S. assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education was approved by the Senate HELP Committee.

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.

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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