

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

State Budget

Pennsylvania is 13 days from the State Budget deadline.

The proposed Pennsylvania state budget for fiscal year 2025-26 is \$51.5 billion, a 7.5% increase over the previous year. Governor Shapiro's proposal focuses on key areas like K-12 education, human services and economic development. Significant investments are planned for underfunded schools, special education and early childhood education programs. The budget also includes initiatives to address the state's workforce needs and improve government efficiency.

A Six-Month Budget Splits Lawmakers

HARRISBURG — At least one top state House Democrat is on the record opposing a short-term budget before the June 30 deadline to fund public schools and vital services while the U.S. Congress finalizes a budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Lancaster LNP*, June 17, 2025.

Safe2Say Something Program

AG Sunday Joins Carlisle School Leaders, Sen. Rothman to Spotlight Safe2Say Something's Impact on Pa. Students during 2024-25 School Year

CARLISLE — Attorney General Dave Sunday — along with Carlisle Area School District leaders and Pa. Sen. Greg Rothman — recently **discussed** how the **Safe2Say Something program** helped students and communities

during the 2024-2025 school year.

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

Source: *David W. Sunday, Jr., Pennsylvania Attorney General, News*, June 16, 2025.

Find more information about Safe2Say Something [HERE](#).

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, June 11, 2025.)

More details are emerging about the Trump administration's FY26 education budget, and it is not good news for schools. At best, the mainstays of federal K-12 support—Title I and IDEA—aren't cut. At worst, a slew of other K-12 programs, including major formula grant programs like Title II and Title IV would be completely eliminated in the White House plan. Read more below about the grim new details of the proposed cuts and what you can do to help stop them from happening.



Action Alert: Reject Drastic Education Budget Cuts

The Trump administration's FY26 budget proposal calls for cutting billions from K-12 education by eliminating dozens of programs, including foundational support for professional development (Title II), student academic enrichment (Title IV), and after-school activities (21st Century Community Learning Centers).

[Contact your members of Congress and encourage them to reject these cuts.](#) Please share the action alert with your colleagues and other school leaders!

McMahon Defends Big Cuts to Education

Education Secretary Linda McMahon made two appearances before Congress this past week. She testified before the [Senate Appropriations Subcommittee](#) and the [House Education and Workforce Committee](#) about the administration's FY26 budget request. She reaffirmed her intent to close the U.S. Department of Education, calling it the agency's "final mission" and pledging to "Make American Education Great Again," while defending sweeping cuts across K-12 education.

While the budget request essentially maintains Title I and IDEA funding at current levels, it eliminates funding for over 30 K-12 programs including Title II (-\$2.2B), Title III (-\$890 million), Title IV (-\$1.4B), and 21st Century Community Learning Centers (-\$1.3B). The administration also plans to end six targeted special education programs and redirect those funds into the general state grant, resulting in a modest increase for IDEA funding for local districts.

The budget eliminates funding for professional development and after-school programs. Only charter schools would receive a funding boost (+\$60 million). Additional programs such as TRIO, GEAR UP, Promise Neighborhoods, Full-Service Community Schools, and Rural Education would be eliminated in the Trump budget plan. The budget also calls for the creation of a \$2 billion block grant. Please refer to [this NAESP blog post](#) for more information on the FY26 budget request.

Baesler Nomination Advances, Schwinn Testifies

The [Senate HELP Committee Approved Kirsten Baesler](#), North Dakota's State Superintendent, to serve as Assistant Secretary for Elementary and Secondary Education. Her nomination now heads to the full Senate where she is expected to get final confirmation.

On June 5, the Senate Education Committee held [a confirmation hearing for Penny Schwinn](#), nominee for Deputy Secretary of Education and former Tennessee Education Commissioner. Schwinn advocated for the science of reading, defended her commitment to local control and said she supports the administration's priorities, including closing the U.S. Department of Education. Schwinn now awaits a full Senate vote. More Department of Education nominees are expected soon.

Federal Judge Orders Reinstatement of Staff

A federal judge in Massachusetts ruled that the [Trump administration has to reinstate nearly 1,400 staff](#) that were part of its a mass layoff at the U.S. Department of Education in March. The judge found that the layoffs, which amounted to about half of the department's staff, were part of the effort to close the department, which can only be done by congressional approval. The administration is appealing the decision. In the meantime, the status of the employees remains uncertain.

- [Many rural schools are at risk of losing funding](#), and in some cases, closing their doors altogether, as private school choice programs expand.
- Proposed federal Medicaid cuts could [limit early intervention and health services](#) for millions of children, threatening their development and long-term outcomes, according to Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association research.
- Maryland is investing [\\$1 million in grants to help 11 colleges create online teacher licensure programs](#) for laid-off federal employees, aiming to tackle the state's persistent teacher shortage.
- Nearly half of U.S. school leaders report that [hiring qualified math teachers is highly challenging](#) due to a limited talent pool and insufficient math training in teacher preparation programs, a new Gallup poll finds.
- In the case of a Long Island, New York, high school fighting to keep its "Chiefs" mascot, [Education Secretary Linda McMahon has found that New York's ban on such tribal mascots](#) is discrimination against Native Americans and ordered the state to reverse its policy.

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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