

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

State Budget

Pennsylvania's Budget Battle: What You Need to Know

Yesterday, the Pennsylvania House advanced a \$50.6 billion budget proposal, a somewhat significant step forward in the ongoing budget negotiations for 2025. This proposal marks a reduction of approximately \$900 million from Governor Josh Shapiro's initial \$51.5 billion plan presented in February. Despite this progress, the proposal is far from final, as it now moves to the GOP-led Senate, where further negotiations are expected.

[Click here](#) for full article.
Source: *The DT Firm*, July 15, 2025.

Pa. House passes budget bill; 'still much work to do,' Senate Republicans say

The proposal House Democrats sent to the Senate would cut spending by about \$900 million

Two weeks after the state budget deadline, lawmakers and Gov. Josh Shapiro said they've made progress in negotiations as the Democratic-controlled House advanced a \$50.6 billion proposal to the GOP-led Senate.

It represents about a \$900 million reduction in overall spending compared to Shapiro's \$51.5 billion proposal in February, but Republican House leaders said the bill is a largely procedural document and that more work remains to be done.

[Click here](#) for full article.
Source: *Pennsylvania Capital Star*, July 14, 2025.

Pa. House Republicans tried to force a vote on a transgender athlete ban. Democrats blocked it.

Members of the Republican minority in the state House tried to force a vote on a bill that would ban transgender athletes from participating in women's sports in public schools and publicly funded colleges.

But [last] Tuesday, Democrats on the House Education Committee blocked them.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Pennsylvania Capital Star*, July 9, 2025.

Basic Ed Bill Actions

- **HB354 (Chapter 30)** - An Act providing for "What Is Your Pennsylvania Story" guidelines for school entities; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Jared G. Solomon (D)**
 - **Action: 07/07/2025 - Signed by the Governor (becomes Act No. 30 of 2025 8)**
- **HB564** - An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for mental health crisis response; and imposing duties on the Department of Human Services.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Tarah Probst (D)**
 - **Action: 07/09/2025 - Re-committed to - House Appropriations**
- **HB865 (Chapter 32)** - An Act amending Title 51 (Military Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in Educational Assistance Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility and for recoupment of grant payments; and, in Military Family Education Program, further providing for definitions, for eligibility, for limitations and for recoupment of Military Family Education Program grant payments.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)**
 - **Action: 07/07/2025 - Signed by the Governor (becomes Act No. 32 of 2025)**
- **HB1407** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels and duties of department and providing for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels; and abrogating a regulation.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)**
 - **Action: 07/09/2025 - Re-committed to - House Appropriations**
- **HB1505** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in early learning programs, further providing for definitions.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)**
 - **Action: 07/07/2025 - Third consideration and final passage**
- **HB1701** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, further providing for referendum or public hearing required prior to construction or lease; providing for school facilities; establishing the Public School Facility Advisory Committee; in construction and renovation of buildings by school entities, repealing provisions relating

to building condition assessments; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.

- **Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D)**
- **Action: 07/09/2025 - Referred to - House Education**
- **HB1706** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school health services, providing for student mental health awareness.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D)**
 - **Action: 07/07/2025 - Referred to - House Education**
- **SB9** - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Judy Ward (R)**
 - **Action: 07/09/2025 - Re-referred to - House Health**
- **SB930** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in student supports, further providing for definitions; in school safety and security, further providing for definitions, for School Safety and Security Committee, for school safety and security assessment providers, for School Safety and Security Grant Program, for school safety and security coordinator, for school safety and security training and for reporting and memorandum of understanding; in school security, further providing for training, for school resource officers, for school security guards and for duties of commission; in Safe2Say Program, further providing for intent, for definitions, for Safe2Say Program and for annual report; in threat assessment, further providing for definitions, for threat assessment teams and for threat assessment guidelines, training and information materials; and making editorial changes.
 - **Sponsor: Sen. Scott Martin (R)**
 - **Action: 07/10/2025 - Referred to - Senate Education**

Click the link below for the full Education Recap.

EDUCATION RECAP

[Click here](#) for more.

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

Federal Update

Federal K–12 funding is at risk. Join us in speaking up!

Join NASSP advocates by sending a prewritten message to your representative and senator. It only takes a moment, but your voice will make a lasting and powerful difference to the budget outcomes of all schools.

Right now, federal support for public education is facing a serious threat. In an unprecedented delay, the Trump administration recently announced it's withholding \$6.88 billion in K–12 education funding for the 2025–26 school year. Congress already appropriated this money in its most recent government funding bill.



[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *NASSP Advocacy Email*, July 15, 2025.

Supreme Court green-lights Education Department layoffs

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to proceed with laying off nearly half the U.S. Department of Education's staff — a significant victory for the administration's mission to dissolve the department to the greatest extent possible.

[Click here](#) for more.

Source: *K-12 DIVE*, July 15, 2025.

Governor Shapiro Challenges Trump Administration's Unlawful Decision to Withhold \$230 Million from Pennsylvania Schools

The Trump Administration abruptly froze \$230 million in Congressionally-appropriated federal funding for the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Cuts threaten critical initiatives to help Pennsylvania students learn, including teacher recruitment, the purchasing of critical technology supplies to support students, and connecting students to in-demand industries.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Commonwealth of PA Newsroom, Press Release*, July 14, 2025.

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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[FIND YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS](#)



The Pennsylvania Principals Association - 122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025
717-732-4999 - www.paprincipals.org

PA Principals Association | 122 Valley Road | Enola, PA 17025 US

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