

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## State Update

### STATE BUDGET

#### *Pennsylvania's budget is six weeks late, and lawmakers can't agree on transit funding*

The state budget is six weeks late, and both parties seem to have dug their heels in even deeper during the past week: Democrats have said they have no interest in passing a six-month, short-term budget, while Republicans have signaled that their return to Harrisburg this week may be to propose just that.

[Click here](#) for more.

Source: *90.5 WESA*, Aug. 11, 2025.

---

#### *Pennsylvania budget impasse delays payments to schools*

The budget is more than a month late with no sign of a deal between Gov. Josh Shapiro, Senate Republican and House Democratic leaders on legislation to present to lawmakers for a vote.

[Click here](#) for more.

Source: *Capitolwire/Altoona Mirror*, August 7, 2025.

---

#### *Gov. Shapiro addresses Pennsylvanian's concerns of the unfinished state budget*

Governor Josh Shapiro visited Lancaster County to address ongoing budget negotiations and the impact of delayed payments on essential services.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *WGAL8, NBC*, Aug. 5, 2025.

---

## *Kim Ward suggests 'six-month budget' amid ongoing PA budget impasse*

As Democrats and Republicans in Harrisburg continue to **remain at odds** over the details of the state's annual budget, the president pro tempore of the Pennsylvania Senate said Tuesday that lawmakers may want to consider a shorter, six-month spending plan in the interim.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *City & State Pennsylvania*, Aug. 5, 2025.

---

## *Counties sound alarm that the Pennsylvania budget stalemate threatens essential services*

As Pennsylvania finds itself in its sixth week without a finalized state budget for fiscal year 2025-2026, counties across the commonwealth are growing increasingly concerned about the consequences of continued delay.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Pennsylvania Capital-Star*, Aug. 5, 2025.

---

## Basic Ed Bill Actions

- **HB1767** - An Act amending Titles 24 (Education), 71 (State Government) and 72 (Taxation and Fiscal Affairs) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in membership, contributions and benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; in benefits, providing for supplemental annuity commencing 2025; providing for special funds and for disposition of Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund; establishing the Budget Stabilization Reserve Fund Interest Account; and making a repeal.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Kathleen C. Tomlinson (R)**  
• **Action: 08/04/2025 - Referred to - House State Government**
- **HB1768** - An Act establishing the Keystone Fresh Program; providing for the Fresh Schools Grant Program, for the Keystone Producer Grant Program, for the Keystone Assistance Grant Program and for the administration of the Keystone Fresh Program by the Department of Education and the Department of Agriculture; and establishing the Keystone Fresh Fund.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Danilo Burgos (D)**  
• **Action: 08/04/2025 H - Referred to - House Agriculture and Rural Affairs**
- **HB1770** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for supplemental mathematics program for kindergarten through grade five.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Robert Freeman (D)**  
• **Action: 08/04/2025 - Referred to - House Education**

***Click the link below for the full Education Recap.***

### **EDUCATION RECAP**

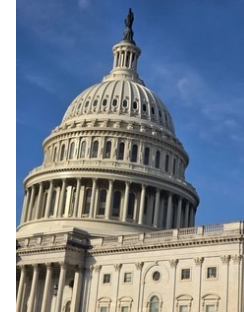
**[Click here](#) for more. (Week of 8.4.25)**

**[Click here](#) for more. (Week of 7.28.25)**

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

# **Federal Update**

## States Sue U.S. Department of Education Over Withheld Funding



Twenty-four states have sued the Trump administration over the withholding of nearly \$7 billion in federal education funds for educator professional development, after-school activities, English learner instruction, and a well-rounded education ([gift link](#)). The U.S. Department of Education claims it is reviewing the programs and funds. The states argue there is nothing to review since the funds are formula grant programs approved by Congress.

Lawmakers and education organizations have urged the department to release the \$7 billion in FY25 federal education funds that were supposed to be sent to states on July 1.

The department's delay is causing school districts to begin suspending or canceling program activities and considering potential layoffs because of the sudden funding shortfalls. Advocates are urging the administration to release the funds and appealing to Congress to compel the release as well.

**Please see the links below for additional statements from Congress, NAESP, and other organizations demanding the release of the funds:**

- [NAESP Joint Letter](#): NAESP Joins Other Education Organizations in a Letter on Education Department Withholding FY25 Funds.
- [600 Education Organizations Letter](#): More Than 600 Education Organizations Issued Signed a Letter to Director Vought and Secretary McMahon Urging the Education Department to Release the Withheld Funds.
- [Letter from Senate Democrats](#): Senate Democrats Issued a Letter to Director Vought Welcoming the Opportunity to Work with the Department to Release the Federal Funds.
- [Letter from Senate Republicans](#): Senate Republicans Issued a Letter Encouraging the Education Department to Reverse Their Decision to Withhold Education Federal Funding from the States.

---

## SCOTUS Approves Trump Administration's Efforts to Lay Off 1,400 Employees

The U.S. Supreme Court [approved the Trump administration's efforts to layoff nearly 1,400 U.S. Department of Education employees](#). This ruling overturned lower court rulings that paused the terminations over concerns that the layoffs of nearly half the staff would hamper the department's ability to carry out its legal responsibilities. U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon [issued a statement](#) on the ruling. The layoffs can take effect while the lawsuit proceeds, with other legal challenges from school districts, education groups, and unions still pending in the courts.

- 
- The U.S. Department of Education is not releasing nearly \$7 billion in approved K–12 education funding for the 2025–2026 school year. [Take action](#) by contacting your members of Congress and encouraging them to release the funds.
  - The Trump administration [issued a notice](#) prohibiting undocumented immigrants from attending Head Start and participating in post-secondary schooling programs. In response, families of students and Head Start providers are [suing](#) the administration.
  - Check out a [first-hand view](#) of the presidential transition, DOGE, and contract cancellations from the former Commissioner of Education Statistics Peggy Carr.
  - A new [RAND survey shows fewer teachers plan to quit](#), but low pay, burnout, and persistent racial and gender disparities continue to drive dissatisfaction and potential turnover in the profession.
  - According to Amplify Data, young [students have demonstrated that 68 percent of them are on track to learn to read](#) and are showing massive improvements since the COVID-19 pandemic.

- A study by the National Bureau of Economic Research found that [flagging third-graders for retention](#) led to small reading gains, driven by increased support from teachers and parents than by retention itself.
- According to the founder of the K-12 School Shooting Database, school shootings [decreased by 22.5 percent in the 2024-2025 school year](#).

## 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.](#)

[FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS](#)

[FIND YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS](#)



The Pennsylvania Principals Association - 122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025  
717-732-4999 - [www.paprincipals.org](http://www.paprincipals.org)

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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!