

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## State Update

### STATE BUDGET

*Pennsylvania's state budget is nearly 3 months late. Leaders still can't agree on the basics.*

Pennsylvania's state budget is nearly 3 months late. Leaders still can't agree on the basics.

[Click here](#) for full article. (Subscription may be required.)

**Source:** *Philadelphia Inquirer*, Sept. 22, 2025.

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### *Pennsylvania's budget is nearly three months past due*

It's been nearly three months since the constitutionally-mandated deadline for state lawmakers in Harrisburg to pass a budget. But partisan gridlock continues to hold up negotiations.

Republicans hold a majority in the Senate, while Democrats maintain a one-vote edge in the House. Both chambers must agree on a spending plan before Gov. Josh Shapiro can sign it.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source:** *Pennsylvania Capital Star*, Sept. 19, 2025.

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### *Blair County legislators expect Pennsylvania state budget impasse to linger*

The Pennsylvania state budget impasse could last for more than three

months, jeopardizing dozens of local organizations and community-support agencies that rely on funding from Harrisburg, according to state Sen. Judy Ward, R-Blair, and state Rep. Scott Barger, R-Blair.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Altoona Mirror, Sept. 19, 2025.**

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## *Political gridlock continues over PA budget, straining finances for counties, schools, nonprofits*

Despite their insistence a few weeks ago that a deal was as near as a few days away, neither chamber convened in the Capitol for a voting session during the week of September 15, and the budget bill advanced by the House last week sat idle in a House committee without any updated spending figures.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: WHYI, September 19, 2025.**

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## *A big transit deal is off the table, but Pa.'s budget still isn't done. What gives?*

More than a week ago, Gov. Josh Shapiro took off the table what he called the biggest obstacle to a finished Pennsylvania budget.

His administration funded SEPTA for the next two years, flexing infrastructure dollars to cover operating expenses for the distressed Philadelphia-area system. The move — temporarily — ended fraught talks over how to boost long-term funding for transit systems, something they say is desperately needed.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Spotlight PA, Sept. 18, 2025.**

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## **Basic Ed Bill Actions**

- **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:** 09/12/2025 - Meeting Was Scheduled - 09/22/2025, 11:00 AM - Public Hearing (House Education), Easy Passyunk Community Center, 1025 Mifflin Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
  
- **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:** 09/16/2025 - Meeting Was Scheduled - 10/07/2025, 9:30 AM - Public Hearing (House Education), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

- **HB1864** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for enrollee wellness checks.
- **Sponsor: Rep. Melissa L. Shusterman (D)**
- **Action: 09/17/2025 - Referred to - House Education**
- **SB999** - 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, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)**
- **Action: 09/12/2025 - Referred to - Senate Education**

**[Click the link below for the full Education Recap.](#)**

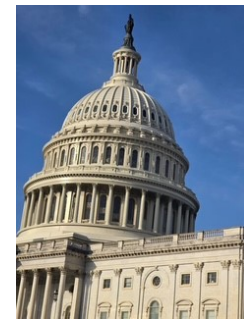
## EDUCATION RECAP

**[Click here](#) for more.**

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

## Federal Update

### *U.S. Department of Education Issues Guidance to States on Ed-Flex Option to Encourage Local Innovation*



The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Elementary and Secondary Education today sent a **letter** to all chief state school officers reminding them that they may apply for authority under the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999 (Ed-Flex Act). This option allows states with Ed-Flex authority to waive certain federal requirements that apply to districts and schools without first having to submit waivers to the Department for review and approval – allowing school districts to focus on improving learning outcomes and better serve the needs of the local community.

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

**Source: U.S. Department of Education, Sept. 17, 2025.**

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### *Education Department's latest priority: 'Patriotic education'*

On the 238th birthday of the U.S. Constitution, Education Secretary Linda McMahon proposed her fifth supplemental priority for discretionary grants: prioritizing patriotic education.

Grant competitions will favor civics education that teaches American history, values and geography "with an unbiased approach," according to a **[news release](#)**.

**[Click here](#)** for full article.

**Source: District Administration, Sept. 17, 2025.**

## ***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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