

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## State Update

### STATE BUDGET

*The continued delay in approving the 2025–26 state budget has extended into late September, creating serious financial uncertainty for school districts. Over \$2 billion earmarked for basic education, special education and transportation is still on hold due to the budget stalemate. In response, many districts are resorting to borrowing — a costly stopgap that could place a financial strain on local taxpayers if the final budget does not include reimbursement measures.*

### ***Cost of Pennsylvania's late budget could be local tax increases, borrowing, service cuts***

School districts and county governments face cascading financial impacts as the ongoing state budget impasse starves them of funding, leaders said Monday, Sept. 29.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source:** *Go Erie / Pennsylvania Capital Star, Sept. 30, 2025.*

---

### ***Pennsylvania poised for potential federal government shutdown amid state budget impasse***

The ongoing spending plan showdown on Capitol Hill is barreling toward a federal government shutdown just as state leaders continue to grapple with a budget impasse, with thousands of Pennsylvania workers' paychecks on the

line and many families and students facing the loss of critical services and benefits.

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

**Source: Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Sept. 28, 2025.**

---

## *IOU: \$4 billion; state budget mess leaves school districts in financial limbo*

By January, if a new budget or stop-gap measure isn't approved in Harrisburg, education officials say districts will have used up budget surpluses and borrowing or cutbacks might not be optional — the costs of which would fall on local taxpayers.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, September 26, 2025.**

---

## Basic Ed Bill Actions

- **HB1043** - 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 definitions, for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, for school access to emergency epinephrine and for administration of epinephrine auto-injectors by school bus drivers and school crossing guards.
  - **Sponsor: Rep. Arvind Venkat (D)**
  - **Action: 09/22/2025 - Meeting Scheduled - 10/07/2025, 9:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Health), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building**
- **HB1539** - An Act establishing the Electric School Bus Grant Program and the Electric School Bus Grant Program Fund; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.
  - **Sponsor: Rep. David Madsen (D)**
  - **Action: 09/22/2025 - Meeting Scheduled - 10/01/2025, 10:00 AM - Public Hearing (House Energy), Room G-50, Irvis Office Building**
- **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: 09/24/2025 - Meeting Scheduled - 09/30/2025, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol**
- **SB246** - 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, providing for parental and employee notification of weapon incidents.
  - **Sponsor: Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R)**
  - **Action: 09/23/2025 - Removed from table**

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

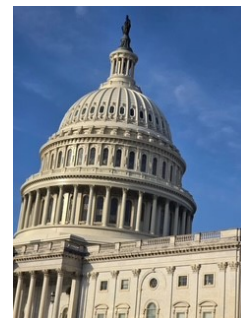
## EDUCATION RECAP

[Click here](#) for more.

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

## Federal Update

### *How Will a Federal Shutdown Affect Schools? 5 Big Questions, Answered*



School funding could experience yet another setback this year if the federal government closes up shop.

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

**Source: *Education Week*, Sept. 30, 2025.**

---

### *NAESP Federal Relations Coordinator (FRC) Report: September 2025 Meeting Summary*

*Provided by Melanie Rosenberger, Federal Relations  
Coordinator, PA Principals Association*

#### **Announcements:**

As part of National Principal's Month in October, NAESP, NASSP, and AFSA will be holding a virtual policy-focused event about the challenges and successes school leaders face in the profession. More information will be provided soon.

The **NAESP Advocacy Conference will be held February 8-11, 2026**, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C.

#### **Funding:**

##### **Withholding of FY25 Funds**

The Trump administration's OMB withheld FY25 funding that was supposed to be sent to states on July 1 for several K-12 programs: Title II, Title III, Title IV-A, Title IV-B, Title I migrant grants and adult education.

The freeze disrupted local activities and posed challenges to state and local budget decisions in the months leading up to July 1 as the Department did not provide the state allocations for each of these programs that would have helped with budget planning.

The money was eventually released after pressure from congressional leaders though some offices were only willing to intervene with OMB and the Department of Education privately, behind the scenes.

[Click here](#) for the full report.

---

### *Education Department brings back mental health grants*

The agency issued new priorities for the funding after having canceled the grants

for not aligning with Trump administration priorities.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: K-12 DIVE, Sept. 29, 2025.**

---

## *What schools stand to lose in the battle over the next federal education budget*

The battle over next year's federal education budget has begun. Congress and the White House have released not one, not two, but three competing funding visions for the nation's K-12 schools in fiscal year 2026. And education researchers warn that two of those three proposals — from the White House and House Republicans — would impose steep cuts on some of the United States' most vulnerable students and disadvantaged school communities.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: NPR, Sept. 26, 2025.**

---

## *Cuts to Title III and civil rights enforcement will harm English learners, report says*

A new report from the Children's Equity Project at Arizona State University raises concerns about proposed cuts to formula grants for Title III funding aimed at language skills for new immigrants and English learners, changes to Individuals with Disabilities Education Act funding for those with disabilities, and rescinded guidance on how to enforce civil rights laws that protect English learners.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: K-12 DIVE, Sept. 25, 2025.**

## **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 (NAESP)** 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.papprincipals.org](http://www.papprincipals.org)

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!