

Oct. 10 – 16, 2025

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SESSION STATUS

At 5:25 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, October 27, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 3:35 p.m. the Senate returned briefly and now stands in recess to the call of the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

Oct. 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-10 (NV), 15-17

Senate

Oct. 20-22, 27-29
Nov. 17-19
Dec. 8-9

The Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government, as compiled and edited by PLS. Additional information, including video, transcript and testimony, is available to [PLSGovTrac](https://www.plsgovtrac.com) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings and media availabilities

“SEXUAL VIOLENCE IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE,” RAPE CRISIS CENTERS SAY, DEMANDING ACTION ON STATE BUDGET IMPASSE

By Julia Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | October 16, 2025

Sen. Lindsey Williams (D-Allegheny) joined advocates from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) and other centers at the Pittsburgh City-Council Building today to demand a state budget for rape crisis center funding.

Sadie Sterner Restivo, executive director, PAAR, thanked key figures and groups for being present to support rape crisis centers and survivors. “We are here today because Pennsylvania rape crisis centers are on the brink of collapse,” she said. Restivo mentioned the commonwealth’s 47 rape crisis centers have gone without funding for more than 100 days. She noted that this results in fewer workers answering phone lines, fewer advocates in hospitals, fewer educational programs in schools and longer wait times for care. Restivo called the budget impasse “entirely preventable.” She stated the budget issues are about priorities rather than politics. Restivo recalled how the House passed a state budget and stated, “The money is there.” She accused Senate Republicans of “holding this up.” Restivo mentioned Senate Majority Leader Joe Pittman (R-Indiana) and Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) can bring the Senate back into session at any time. “You have the power to release the funds,” she stressed. “Pass the budget and invest in services that protect, heal and save lives across Pennsylvania.”

Yolanda Edrington, CEO, Respect Together, stated she was “proud” to stand with PAAR and other rape crisis centers. She said their “critical work is at stake” as she detailed 108 days of Pennsylvania’s budget impasse. Edrington noted that rape crisis centers were “struggling to stay afloat” and keep their doors open. She criticized flat funding that rape crisis centers have received for the past five years and explained that the need has continued to grow. Edrington emphasized that after three months of no state budget, rape crisis centers are now “past the breaking point.” She explained how centers are maxing out credit cards and taking out new loans with high interest. “Sexual violence is not a partisan issue,” Edrington stated. “It touches every community in every district, and yet survivors are put in the middle of partisan politics.” She reminded elected officials that their responsibility is “to the people of Pennsylvania.” Edrington mentioned that funding rape crisis centers is an investment in the safety and “stability of our communities.” She highlighted how rape crisis centers in Pennsylvania support more than 27,000 people per year, one-third of whom are children. Edrington explained how rape crisis centers help survivors with medical care, therapy, bills and many other services. She mentioned that when survivors receive “timely trauma-informed support” and when focus is placed on prevention and education, overall costs of resources for rape crisis centers will decrease. Edrington advocated for an \$8 million increase to the Department of Human Services’ (DHS) rape crisis center line item in the state budget. She mentioned the investment will result in stronger communities across the commonwealth.

Megan McConahy, executive director, AWARE, Inc. of Mercer County, said, “Survivors deserve better.” She called on the General Assembly to pass a state budget. McConahy mentioned that AWARE serves domestic violence survivors in Mercer County. She stated survivors use AWARE to seek shelter, medical advocacy or assistance with rent or other bills. “In theory, we are a fully funded program,” she said. “But in reality, we have no funding streams left.” McConahy said the budget impasse and government shutdown are responsible for the lack of funds. She noted she speaks with survivors daily, who she “should be able to help,” but stated she cannot help everyone with fewer resources. McConahy emphasized, “Survivors are paying the price.” She added that rape crisis centers would not be in these positions if not for the state budget impasse. “To the governor and to the legislature, do your jobs,” McConahy said. “Survivors deserve it.”

Maria Gardner, survivor, writer and advocate, emphasized that “survivors’ voices need to be heard,” but mentioned that survivors “should not have to” tell their stories to legislators in order to get a budget passed. She noted Harrisburg is 108 days late on the state budget, as rape crisis centers are going without funding while attempting to serve thousands of Pennsylvanians per day. Gardner described her experience with sexual assault in 2021 and how an advocate from PAAR helped “make sure she was taken care of every step of the way.” She recalled how her advocate “physically stood between me and my assailant” while in court. Gardner added that rape crisis centers aren’t optional and are “essential for public safety.” She stated she “could not have survived” her own sexual assault without the help of rape crisis centers. Gardner criticized the General Assembly for their “abandonment” of survivors. She accused legislators of “placing them in an unjust and retraumatizing position of pleading cases to legislators” after already doing so in court. Gardner explained she was speaking “directly” to Harrisburg legislators and urged them to pass a budget “immediately.”

Sterner thanked Gardner for sharing her story and called her “courageous.” She highlighted that the employees who work in rape crisis centers are “selfless” and “don’t get paid a whole lot of money” to do their work, but still “show up” every day. Sterner introduced Sen. Williams and said she is “a true champion for rape crisis centers.”

Sen. Williams spoke to survivors present at the press event as well as to those listening in and said, “We see you, and we hear you.” She continued, “We will not let this budget leave you behind.” Sen. Williams thanked rape crisis center workers across the commonwealth for their work. She stated she stands “side by side” with PAAR to “support and demand an \$8 million increase to the rape crisis line item in the budget.” Sen. Williams criticized the line item for being flat-funded over the past five years. She emphasized how Pennsylvania is “facing an even bigger crisis right now,” and noted the state budget’s 108-day delay “with no end in sight.” Sen. Williams emphasized the budget’s impact on families, students, small businesses and health care providers. “Instead of passing a budget, we are asking you to do more with nothing,” she said. Sen. Williams expressed empathy for rape crisis centers having to borrow money, decrease staff or close their doors and called it “an impossible decision.” She noted health care centers “shouldn’t have to” make decisions about funding, which was “constitutionally owed in June.” Sen. Williams encouraged those listening to call their state senator and “demand them to pass the budget that was sent to them.” She mentioned the Senate is in session Monday morning. “We’re ready to pass a budget,” Sen. Williams said. “It’s time to stop playing games.”

Sterner said she was grateful for the press for showing up and telling advocate stories. She mentioned survivors “endure trauma every single day, whether their assault was yesterday or 20 years ago.” Sterner spoke to survivors and said, “Don’t let this make you feel hopeless.” She continued, “We’re not going anywhere, and with or without a budget, we will figure it out.” Sterner noted PAAR’s helpline will remain open and their advocate will remain in hospitals. “Don’t let this deter you from calling us,” she stressed.



Committee News

Comprehensive coverage of the House & Senate public hearings and voting meetings

No committee news this week.

Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

Cosponsor Memos

SCO1360 - Protect Pennsylvania's Academic Freedom Act

Sponsor

Sen. Anthony H. Williams (D)

Summary

Prohibits institutions that receive state funding from signing onto the "Compact for Academic Excellence in Higher Education," as requested by the Trump administration, or similar agreements.

Intro Date

10/14/2025

Last Action

10/14/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1365 - The S.H.I.P. Act

Sponsor

Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)

Summary

Creates the Shipbuilding and Hands-on Instruction Pathways Act (S.H.I.P) to connect Pennsylvania students with high-demand careers in shipbuilding and maritime industries.

Intro Date

10/16/2025

Last Action

10/16/2025 S - Cosponsor memo filed

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)

Summary

(PN 2418) Amends the Public School Code, 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 (PDE). (PN 2364) Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, further providing for referendum or public hearing required prior to construction or lease; providing an article 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 (PDE). Includes the addition of administrative space as a secondary building as part of the applicable aggregate building expenditure standard for the total amount calculated for each building or substantial addition. Adds article VII-A and provides several definitions, including for "athletic facility," "facility condition assessment" and strikes the definition for "building condition assessment." Establishes the powers and duties of PDE. Stipulates the collection of information from each public school facility. Outlines required information. Requires PDE to develop a form and electronic process for each public school entity to submit the required information no later than April 1, 2027, and for each school entity to submit the information no later than December 31, 2027. Permits the provision of technical assistance. Mandates updating inventories beginning with the 2028-2029 school year and every three years thereafter. Establishes the duties of the Public School Facility Advisory Committee. Details the committee's member composition, striking the requirement of legislature-appointed members. Outlines the frequency of committee meetings. Asserts that the members serve without compensation but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Mandates the development of a statewide facility condition assessment and outlines requirements. Provides applicability of the assessment. Requires reporting and lists the required contents. Revises the executive summary requirement. Stipulates that within one year of its receipt of a facility condition assessment under section 705-A(c), each public school entity shall develop a plan for the modernization of its facilities based upon the assessment results and shall post the plan on its website. Repeals the section regarding building condition assessments. The amendment of section 701.1 of the act is effective in 60 days. The remainder of the act is effective immediately. (Prior PN: 2364, 2101)

Intro Date

07/09/2025

Last Action

10/15/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

HB1940 - An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in registration of vehicles, providing for Fish PA plate.

Sponsor

Rep. Josh Bashline (R)

Summary

(PN 2449) Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in registration of vehicles, providing for Fish PA plate. Directs the design of the plate to be through a public design contest, in consultation with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC), to a school entity and nonpublic school students in kindergarten through fifth grade for a period of 60 days. Outlines the contents of the plate. Provides application fee. Establishes a limitation on gross weight. Allocates fees to Fish Fund. Effective in 120 days.

Intro Date

10/10/2025

Last Action

10/16/2025 H - Referred to - House Game and Fisheries

HB1943 - 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 automatic external defibrillators, providing for automated external defibrillators and training, further providing for sudden cardiac arrest and electrocardiogram testing and providing for electrocardiogram testing for interscholastic athletics; and, in terms and courses of study, further providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation education.

Sponsor

Rep. Gregory Scott (D)

Summary

(PN 2452) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for automatic external defibrillators, providing for automated external defibrillators and training, further providing for sudden cardiac arrest and electrocardiogram testing and providing for electrocardiogram testing for interscholastic athletics; and, in terms and courses of study, further providing for cardiopulmonary resuscitation education. Makes editorial changes throughout the act. Establishes the requirement for each school entity to place an automated external defibrillator in an easily accessible, centralized location in each occupied school building or facility where school-sponsored activities or athletic activities occur. Provides the minimum for school entity employees trained in the use of automated external defibrillators. Lists the school entity employees required to participate in the training. Mandates annual inspections of each school entity and reporting to the Department of Education (PDE). Lists the contents of the report. Provides definitions. Include guardians to have access to PDE's online guidelines and other relevant materials to inform and educate students participating in or desiring to participate in an athletic activity. Adds the symptom of "shortness of breath" as a sign of sudden cardiac arrest. Establishes the requirements to request, from the family's medical provider or a cardiologist, the administration of an electrocardiogram, in addition to the comprehensive initial participation physical examination, at a cost to be incurred by the parent or guardian. Requires once each school year for a coach of an athletic activity to complete training in sudden cardiac arrest and the use of an automated external defibrillator. Outlines which students shall receive an electrocardiogram. Provides what parents must provide to a school entity. Stipulates that if a student fails an electrocardiogram, the student shall obtain a comprehensive cardiovascular examination by a cardiologist within 120 days or before the start of the next school year, whichever occurs first, and the notice submitted to the school entity shall include a form completed by the examining cardiologist. Asserts that a student is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities if documentation is not submitted. Stipulates that a school entity shall not be required to arrange comprehensive cardiovascular examinations and shall not be financially responsible for the treatment of a student who fails an electrocardiogram. Provides for parental objection. Defines "interscholastic athletics." Directs CPR instruction to begin with the 2026-2027 school year for all students in grades nine and eleven. Declares that beginning with the 2027-2028

school year, a student may not graduate from a high school unless the student has successfully completed instruction in CPR consistent with this section. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

10/14/2025

Last Action

10/16/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

HB1948 - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, prohibiting institutions of higher education that receive State grants or loans from entering into certain agreements; and providing for enforcement by the Office of Attorney General.

Sponsor

Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta (D)

Summary

(PN 2457) Amends Title 24 (Education), prohibiting institutions of higher education that receive state grants or loans from entering into certain agreements; and providing for enforcement by the Office of Attorney General. Provides several definitions. Stipulates that as a condition of receipt of a state grant or loan, an institution of higher education may not enter into a compact or other voluntary agreement with the federal government that, except as required under law, limits the ability of the institution of higher education to make operational decisions on admissions processes, including the admission of foreign students, hiring decisions, academic curriculum, disciplinary policies, tuition policies, grading policies, freedom of speech for students and staff, treatment of students based on the student's membership in a racial, ethnic, national or religious group or a group based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity and establishing or abolishing institutional organizations. Outlines enforcement. Provides applicability. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

10/15/2025

Last Action

10/16/2025 H - Referred to - House Education

SB1014 - 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 bell-to-bell phone-free policy.

Sponsor

Sen. Devlin J. Robinson (R)

Summary

(PN 1227) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, providing for bell-to-bell phone-free policy. Requires, no later than the start of the 2026-2027 school year, the governing body of each school entity to adopt a policy related to student possession and use of mobile devices during the school day while on school property. Outlines the content requirements of the policy and provides for exceptions. Requires a public comment period before adoption of the policy and the posting of the policy on the school entity's public website no later than five business days after adoption. Establishes reporting requirements and adds definitions. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

10/10/2025

Last Action

10/10/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

SB1039 - 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 and for student supports and providing for the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid Training Program; and, in school safety and security, further providing for the School Safety and Security Grant Program.

Sponsor

Sen. Patty Kim (D)

Summary

(PN 1237) Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, further providing for definitions and for student supports and providing for the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid Training Program; and, in school safety and security, further providing for the School Safety and Security Grant Program. Adds definitions. Provides for school-wide staff training programs conducted by a certified trainer to recognize and respond appropriately to indicators of mental distress and suicidal ideation in students as part of the powers and duties of the department to implement student supports. Outlines the policy requirements to include, at a minimum, the policy requirements for the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid Training program. Establishes the Pennsylvania Mental Health First Aid Training Program to provide guidance and support to school entities and nonpublic schools in identifying student mental health struggles and deterioration. Adds that the program is not required for school entities and outlines the requirements for school entities that offer or implement student supports. Allows school entities providing training programs to submit education plans to the department for approval. Requires all policies to be available on the school entity's public website. Directs the committee to provide grants to school entities for staff training programs conducted by a certified trainer. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

10/15/2025

Last Action

10/15/2025 S - Referred to - Senate Education

Higher Ed Bill Actions

No Bill Actions this Week.

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY – 10/21/2025

10:00 AM, [Senate Education](#)

Public Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing on cell phone policies in schools.

WEDNESDAY – 10/29/2025

10:00 AM, Head Start Celebrates 60 Years of Strong Families and Children Press Event

Press Conference, TBA

11:00 AM, Literacy is Freedom Dyslexia Awareness Month

Press Conference, TBA

In the News

[10/10/2025 - Lawmakers Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Prohibit Student Cellphone Use in Pennsylvania Schools](#)

[10/14/2025 - HACD: 2025/26 General Fund Budget - SB 160 as amended 10/8/2025](#)

[10/14/2025 - HACD: 2025/26 Budget: Education Funding - SB 160 As Amended](#)

[10/15/2025 - Senator Anthony H. Williams, Lawmakers, and Community Leaders Urge Penn to Reject Federal “Compact for Higher Education”](#)

[10/15/2025 - Senate Democrats Send Letter to Senate Republicans Calling for Immediate Passage of Bipartisan Budget Bill SB 160](#)

[10/15/2025 - Yaw, Senate Republicans Urge PJM to Protect Competitive Energy Market](#)

[10/16/2025 - PASSHE University Innovations Are Driving Record Student Retention](#)

[10/16/2025 - PSEA: Likely Pa. voters favor governor’s school funding plan, oppose vouchers, and support federal investments in public schools, new poll finds](#)

Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education related legislation in the Pennsylvania Capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at mypls@mypls.com or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Deborah, Cheryl, Derek, Hattie, Sam, Grace, Aaron, Christian, Katie, Zoe, Daniel, Kyle, Nicholas, Dominic, Julia and Noah.

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Provided by Pennsylvania Legislative Services
409 N. 2nd Street, Suite 212
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Phone: 717.236.6984
www.mypls.com