

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

STATE BUDGET

Pennsylvania Senate passes \$47.9 billion budget as impasse continues

Pennsylvania's Republican-controlled Senate, in a party-line vote on Tuesday, passed a budget proposal that increases spending by roughly \$300 million from last year's spending plan, though it faces opposition in the Democrat-majority House, which already rejected similar legislation amid an impasse that has lasted for more than 100 days.



[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: **WGAL 8, Oct. 21, 2025.**

Pa. Senate explores restricting cell phones in K-12 classrooms

Members of the state Senate Education Committee on Tuesday signaled they've largely made up their minds about the need to restrict access to cellphones in K-12 classrooms.

All that remains to win over some is to add language allowing school districts to adapt the policy to fit their needs.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: **LNP/Lancaster Online, Oct. 22, 2025.**

'Stop playing games': PA budget impasse leads to financial bleeding at school districts

Hiring freezes — including one at Pittsburgh Public Schools — and contract delays and cuts to non-essential spending have already happened. Now, some districts are “discussing moratoriums on sports,” said Sabrina Backer,

president-elect of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association and also president of the Franklin Area School Board in Venango County.

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

Source: *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Oct. 19, 2025.

Pennsylvania's budget crisis drags on as fed shutdown adds to residents' hardships — a political scientist explains

While Americans across the country [deal with the consequences of the federal government shutdown](#), residents of Pennsylvania are being hit with a double blow.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *The Conversation*, October 18, 2025.

Pennsylvania education administrators sound alarm over state budget impasse that froze millions for schools, teachers

Now more than 100 days late, the lack of a budget means the loss of millions of dollars for individual districts as they borrow to “keep the lights on.”

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *WHYY*, October 16, 2025.

Education Groups Highlight How Pennsylvania Budget Stalemate Shortchanges Students' Education

Now more than 100 days late, the lack of a budget means the loss of millions of dollars for individual districts as they borrow to “keep the lights on.”

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Bucks County Beacon*, October 16, 2025.

Financial pain for many Pa. service providers will continue after budget impasse ends

Schools and nonprofits that provide critical services to Pennsylvania's most vulnerable have not received billions in payments from the state over the past four months because of the budget impasse.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Spotlight PA*, October 15, 2025.

Loans and layoffs: Missing \$3 billion in state payments, PA's public schools implore lawmakers to end budget impasse

Public schools across Pennsylvania have missed more than \$3 billion in payments from the state, requiring the state's 500 school districts to take out billions in loans, spend their reserves, or lay off staff [as the state budget impasse stretches into its fourth month.](#)

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

Source: The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 14, 2025.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **SB160** - An Act to provide appropriations from the General Fund for the expenses of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; to provide appropriations from special funds and accounts to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; to provide for the appropriation of Federal funds to the Executive and Judicial Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025; and to provide for the additional appropriation of Federal and State funds to the Executive and Legislative Departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.
- **Sponsor: Senator Scott Martin**
- **Action: 10/21/25 - Bill voted on and passed by Senate (The bill was reported as amended, along a party-line vote, with Democrats voting in the negative.)**

- **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: 10/15/2025 - Referred to - Senate Education**

- **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)**
- **Action: 10/16/2025 - 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)**
- **Action: 10/16/2025 - 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)**
- **Action: 10/10/2025 - 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)**
- **Action: 10/15/2025 - Referred to - Senate Education**

[Click on 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

NAESP has issued an [Action Alert](#) urging Congress to support the Senate plan to maintain FY26 education funding at current levels and to reject the House plan to cut and eliminate major K-12 programs.

When could the shutdown end? 5 key dates to watch

The shutdown became one of the three longest in U.S. history on Friday, with lawmakers indicating they believe it will drag on and few signs emerging of progress toward reopening the government.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *The Hill*, October 18, 2025.

Education Department Layoffs Would Affect Dozens of Programs. See Which Ones

The U.S. Department of Education during the government shutdown has sent layoff notices to 465 staff members across six of the agency's 17 primary offices. Affected workers include virtually the entire staff who work on certain key formula grant programs, including Title I for low-income students and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grant programs.

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

Source: *Education Week*, October 16, 2025.

Many Districts Will Lose Federal Funds Until the Shutdown Ends

School districts that collectively enroll roughly 1 in 7 of the nation's K-12 public school students will begin going without routine federal payments in the coming days as the government shutdown drags on—and fears among districts and advocates are growing that the funding could cease altogether now that the Trump administration has laid off all the staffers who manage it.

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

Source: *Education Week*, October 15, 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 (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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