

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

STATE BUDGET

Democrats propose compromise on cyber charter tuition amid Pa. budget impasse

Amid the ongoing budget impasse, Democratic state House lawmakers have offered a compromise to Republicans who see public cyber charter schools as a lifeline for parents whose children aren't thriving in traditional schools.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: News From the States, October 27, 2025.



What have Pennsylvania's lawmakers been doing during months of state budget inaction?

Pennsylvania's budget is almost four months late. For counties, school districts, nonprofits, and contractors, the cost of inaction is **piling up**. But for the commonwealth's legislators, it's been business as usual.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: Go Erie / Spotlight PA, October 27, 2025.

Tempers flare but deal elusive in nearly 4 month Pa. budget stalemate

As the impasse over Pennsylvania's state budget nears four months, many of the details about the sticking points are still unknown. But lawmakers are more openly showing their anger.

Gov. Josh Shapiro, [during a visit to Pittsburgh](#), referred to a spending plan authored by the Republican-controlled state Senate as "a joke." The GOP

budget's total expenditures mirror last year's spending of \$48 billion — still billions less than House Democrats proposed in a scaled-back budget of their own last month.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: 90.5 WESA, October 24, 2025.

Westmoreland Intermediate Unit looks to borrow millions, warns of possible layoffs during budget impasses

The Westmoreland Intermediate Unit wants to borrow \$2 million to keep services and programs operating during the ongoing state budget crisis, the organization's leader said.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, October 24, 2025.

City & State's 2025-26 Pennsylvania state budget tracker

Pennsylvania's ongoing budget impasse has surpassed 100 days.

Pennsylvania has now gone more than 100 days without a state budget – an impasse that is imperiling funding for county governments, public schools, mass transit and other essential services.

As negotiations continue to drag on in Harrisburg, **City & State** has compiled a **budget tracker for the 2025-26 fiscal year to keep you updated on the current status of the ongoing stalemate.**

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: City & State, October 21, 2025.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB564** - An Act amending Title 35 (Health and Safety) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for mental health crisis response; and imposing duties on the Department of Human Services.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Tarah Probst (D)
- **Action:** 10/21/2025 - Press Conference Held - 988 Public Education Campaign

- **HB1405** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in certification of teachers, further providing for career and technical instructional certificate.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Brian Munroe (D)
- **Action:** 10/21/2025 - Presented to the Governor

- **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

- **HB1900** - An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, providing for teacher tax credit.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Nikki Rivera (D)
 - **Action:** 10/22/2025 - Meeting Scheduled - 10/28/2025, 10:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Finance), Room B31, Main Capitol
- **HB1986** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for mascot transition grants; and establishing the Mascot Grant Fund.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Christopher M. Rabb (D)
 - **Action:** 10/23/2025 - Referred to - House Education
- **HB1991** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for Bilingual Educators Advancement Grant Program.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)
 - **Action:** 10/23/2025 - Referred to - House Education
- **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:** 10/21/2025 - Senate concurred in House amendments, as amended by the Senate
- **SB229** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school safety and security, establishing the Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
 - **Action:** 10/21/2025 - Discussed during public hearing - Senate Education
- **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:** 10/22/2025 - Senate concurred in House amendments
- **SB315** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)
 - **Action:** 10/20/2025 - Referred to - Senate Rules and Executive Nominations
- **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:** 10/21/2025 - Discussed during public hearing - Senate Education
- **SB1046** - An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in rules of the road in general, further providing for automated enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)
 - **Action:** 10/21/2025 - Referred to - Senate Transportation
- **SB1054** - 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, providing for use and maintenance of opioid antagonists.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Christine M. Tartaglione (D)

- **Action:** 10/17/2025 - 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.

Additional Department Layoffs

Another round of **layoffs at the U.S. Department of Education** will leave a skeletal staff in a number of important offices. The reductions in force are the fulfillment of an Office of Management and Budget threat to fire staff across government agencies as a negotiating tactic during the government shutdown standoff. More than 450 employees have been notified of their dismissal, including almost every staff member in the offices of elementary and secondary education, special education, and civil rights. The depth of the cuts threaten enforcement of education laws and could interrupt the processing of billions of dollars in Title I and IDEA grants. The Office of Special Education Programs, for example, will retain fewer than five staff members.

The move to eliminate 20 percent of the department's remaining workforce comes after half of the workers were let go in the spring. A federal judge has temporarily halted the layoffs, pending further legal review.

Poll Reports Record Low for Education Satisfaction

A Gallup Poll reported a record-low **35 percent of Americans express satisfaction with the quality of K-12 education**, citing poor preparation for college and the workforce. Parents, however, remain somewhat more positive about their own children's schooling. The poll also found that only 26 percent of Americans believe K-12 schools are headed in the right direction, with majorities rating them as "fair" or "poor" in preparing students for future success. Satisfaction with schools among Democrats and Independents has fallen sharply since Donald Trump returned to office.

- Trump **administration prepares to move special education** services to Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Senate confirmed North Dakota Superintendent **Kirsten Baesler as assistant secretary for elementary and secondary education** and **Kimberly Richey to lead the department's Office for Civil Rights**. Neither has yet been sworn in due to the government shutdown.
- Indiana is **seeking a waiver** from the U.S. Department of Education to consolidate most of its ESSA formula grant programs into a block grant.
- Properly implemented and designed school-based **behavioral threat assessment systems can prevent violence and improve student supports**, according to new research from the Learning Policy Institute.
- Schools are being urged to offer more flexible hours after a RAND Corp. report found that **teachers, especially women, experience significantly worse work-life balance and well-being than other workers** due to long hours, limited flexibility, and job intrusion into home life.
- A new analysis from the American Enterprise Institute finds that **student**

- [absenteeism remains alarmingly high nationwide](#), threatening academic recovery and prompting schools to rethink how they track and address attendance.
- The National Constitution Center launched a free and interactive [Constitution 101](#) curriculum to [help middle school students explore America's founding ideals](#) through engaging lessons, videos, and projects aligned with state standards.
 - [Banned books have become normalized across U.S. school districts](#) as local, state, and federal pressures are driving censorship that burdens educators and limits student access to diverse materials, according to a [PEN America report](#).
 - [President Trump's new \\$100,000 H-1B visa fee will worsen teacher shortages nationwide](#) and prevent schools from hiring foreign teachers, according to a lawsuit challenging the higher fees.

Source: NAESP Advocacy in Action, Oct. 23, 2025.

School Districts Prepare to Go Without Some Federal Funds Next Year

School district leaders nationwide are bracing to lose annual federal formula funding that they consider essential for serving students, even as financial pressures at the local and state levels limit potential sources of alternative revenue.

[Click here](#) for full article. (Subscription may be required.)
Source: Education Week, October 23, 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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