

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

Pennsylvania Releases 2024-25 School Assessment Results

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) released the results of the **2024-25 administration of state assessments**, including the Pennsylvania System for School Assessment (PSSA), Pennsylvania Alternate System of Assessment (PASA), Pennsylvania Keystone Exams and Access for English Language Learners.

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

Source: *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education Newsroom, November 14, 2025.*

STATE BUDGET

Education Budget Information

[Click here](#) for the **Basic Education Funding** (*Excel*) that goes to each school district.

Information on district-specific allocations for **Ready to Learn** and **Special Education Funding** are on the PDE website. [Click here.](#)

Source: *PA Department of Education website.*

5 things to know about Pennsylvania's 2025-26 state budget

It came 135 days late, but Pennsylvania finally has a state budget for the 2025-26 fiscal year after lawmakers returned to Harrisburg to pass a \$50.1 billion budget that was promptly signed into law by Gov. Josh Shapiro.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *City & State Pennsylvania, November 14, 2025.*

Budget impasse ends after 135 days

Billions of dollars for Pennsylvania's public schools and social services could soon start flowing after four-plus months of delay, as lawmakers on Wednesday approved key elements of a roughly \$50 billion spending plan to break the state's budget impasse.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: Associated Press/Times News, November 13, 2025.

Governor Shapiro Signs 2025-26 Budget into Law that Cuts Taxes for Working Families, Addresses Critical Workforce Needs, Makes Historic Investments in Education, and Delivers for Pennsylvania

[Today], **Governor Josh Shapiro** signed into law a **FY2025-26 budget** that delivers real results for the people of Pennsylvania — building on two years of progress, tackling Pennsylvania's most pressing challenges, and continuing to fuel the Commonwealth's rise. The Governor's remarks as prepared for the 2025-26 budget signing ceremony can be found [here](#).

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

Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Newsroom, Press Release, November 12, 2025.

Pa. budget: What's in store for public schools?

Lawmakers passed a \$50.1 billion 2025-26 state budget, providing \$665 million for public schools, \$175 million in cyber charter reforms and expanded student support programs.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: WHYY, November 12, 2025.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **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: 11/12/2025 - Meeting Scheduled - 11/17/2025, 11:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Agriculture and Rural Affairs), Room 515, Irvis Office Building**

- **HB2025** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, providing for reimbursements for borrowing costs during budget impasse; and establishing the School District Impasse Recovery Fund.
- **Sponsor: Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)**
- **Action: 11/12/2025 - Referred to - House Appropriations**

- **HB368** - A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of changes in commercial property values in this Commonwealth, assess the fiscal impact on local governments and school districts and make recommendations.

- **Sponsor: Rep. Joe Webster (D)**
- **Action: 11/12/2025 - Referred to - House Local Government**
- **SB10** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program and the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Fund.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Judy Ward (R)**
- **Action: 11/12/2025 - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)**
- **SB127** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, repealing provisions relating to Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction and providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction required.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**
- **Action: 11/12/2025 - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)**
- **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: Sen. Scott Martin (R)**
- **Action: 11/12/2025 - Laid out for discussion**
- **SB315 (Chapter 47)** - 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: 11/12/2025 - Referred to - House Rules**

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

The federal government reopened on November 13 after the longest shutdown in history (40 days). The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will start to flow again to families in need, laid off government workers (including more than 450 at the U.S. Department of Education) will be rehired, furloughed staff will get back pay and a plan to increase Affordable Care Act health insurance subsidies will get a vote in the Senate.



But the funding to restart the government only runs through Jan. 30, 2026, meaning we could be back in this situation again if Congress can't enact its FY26 spending bills, including for K-12 programs. In fact, with time of the essence, now would be a great time to tell your senators and representatives to maintain education funding at current levels ***using this NAESP***

Special Ed Moving to Health and Human Services?

The U.S. Department of Education is exploring moving special education programs and operations, including oversight of IDEA, to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The shift is being portrayed as a **“partnership” with other federal agencies to oversee special education programs.** A department spokesperson said leaders are aiming to protect the federal funding for students with disabilities while exploring options that would not disrupt services. Education Secretary Linda McMahon has long expressed interest in moving special education to HHS as part of a longer-term goal to dismantle the department and return education authority to the states.

These discussions are occurring amid another round of significant staff reductions at the Education Department, including **recent layoffs within the Office of Special Education** and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) during the government shutdown (note: The legislative deal to end the government shutdown requires the rehiring of these and all other laid off workers but only requires them to be re-employed until January 2026). Education and disability groups are concerned that moving special education oversight to another non-education agency could increase compliance burdens on states and districts while risking delays in evaluations and services. Regardless of any federal restructuring, schools must continue to follow IDEA and Section 504 requirements.

- Schools nationwide are preparing for **significant declines in key federal education funds,** especially Title I, IDEA, and Title III, forcing school leaders to consider cutting staff, stalling initiatives, and limiting incidental budgets as uncertainty grows around congressional action and proposed Trump administration reductions.
- States have **reduced chronic absenteeism in K-12 schools** by improving data collection, limiting punitive practices, and investing in mental health and outreach programs that support student engagement.
- Schools in New Jersey and Maryland are **teaching AI literacy to K-12 students through age-appropriate lessons, coding exercises, and library programs,** aiming to help them understand, use, and think critically about AI while addressing ethical and practical considerations.
- Special education teachers are **using AI to help draft IEPs,** even as the rapid adoption raises unresolved ethical, legal, and quality concerns due to limited guidance and risks such as bias, privacy violations, and overreliance on automation.
- Character.AI announced it will **ban users under 18 from its open-ended AI chat feature** by Nov. 25, 2025, citing concerns over teen mental health and following warnings from experts and pending lawsuits.
- Researchers argue that **lockdown drills often increase student anxiety and offer uncertain safety benefits,** prompting calls for trauma-informed approaches and stronger prevention measures instead.

Source: *NAESP Advocacy in Action*, November 12, 2025.

NAESP's Federal Relations Coordinator (FRC) Meeting Summary - November 2025

Submitted by Melanie Rosenberger, PA's Federal Relations Coordinator

Attendees: J Anderson (MO), Aaron Burd (MO), David Carpenter (AL), Jesse Davis (GA), Jeff Drouin (NH), Allison Evertz (MT), Rebecca Fillion (VT), Shannon Goo (HI), Debra Houghton (MS), Troy James (SD), Mark Johnson (NE), Shay Lewis (CT), Naiomi

Matsuzaki (HI), Tara McAuliffe (RI), Sue Myers (MD), Nick Neiderhouse (OH), Jerod Phillips (DE), **Melanie Rosenberger (PA)**, John Schilling (CA), Amy Schott (VA), Andrea Sifers (OK), Johnathan Swegles (MI), Mark Terry (TX), Trudy Wilson (UT), Stephen Wiltshire (MA) and Heather Wolf (TN)

NSLAC Registration

- Registration for NAESP NSLAC 2026 is now open. FRCs can [register for the conference here](#).
- NSLAC will take place February 8-February 11, 2026, at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Allie Van Dee at avandee@naesp.org.

Government Shutdown Status

- The current government shutdown has become the longest in U.S. history.
- It is very easy for the government to enter a shutdown, but it is very difficult to end one.
- Shutdowns typically end when the public begins to feel direct and widespread impacts.
- *(Note: the shutdown ended on Thursday, November 13.)*

SNAP Implications

- The public could experience significant hardships as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) loses funding during the shutdown.
- Several states have filed lawsuits to compel continued funding.
- Federal judges in Connecticut and Massachusetts ruled that the Trump administration must fund the program.
- The administration has agreed to fund half of SNAP benefits, although
- Some stakeholders have suggested using school meal funding to temporarily cover SNAP and replenishing the funds later.

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

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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