

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## State Update

### *Update on SNAP Benefits from the PA Acting Secretary of Education*

I am writing to inform you about recent developments impacting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in Pennsylvania, and some resources that you may wish to share with the learners and communities you serve. Earlier this month, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) notified Pennsylvania that it will be unable to fund November SNAP benefits due to the ongoing federal government shutdown, and there is not yet clarity on when benefits will be issued in response to the federal lawsuits. We recognize that this information is upsetting and alarming, and will continue to keep you updated as new information is shared with us.



Please be assured – Governor Josh Shapiro is committed to taking action to protect Pennsylvanians who rely on SNAP and other resources by:

- Driving out \$5 million in state funding immediately to **Feeding Pennsylvania**.
- Issuing a declaration of disaster emergency to expedite the delivery of Commonwealth funds and ensure the release reaches Pennsylvanians as quickly as possible.
- Launching a private sector fundraising effort to help food banks meet the expected surge in demand – raising more than \$1 million so far for the “SNAP Emergency Relief Fund”.

Nearly two million Pennsylvanians rely on SNAP benefits, including more than 713,000 children. Resources to be aware of include:

- **PA Navigate**: Help finding food and other resources
- [www.pa211.org](http://www.pa211.org): Local assistance
- [www.feedingpa.org](http://www.feedingpa.org): To find local food banks and other food assistance programs.
- Many electric and gas companies also offer utility assistance programs for qualifying customers. Pennsylvanians can contact their utility companies or visit the **PA PUC’s utility assistance website** for more information.

More information on the federal government shutdown and its impact on benefits is available on the **PA Department of Human Services website**. Please feel free to share this information with your school and library communities.

Thank you for all that you do for our schools, libraries, educators, learners, and

communities.

Sincerely,  
**Carrie Rowe, Ed.D.**  
Acting Secretary of Education

## **STATE BUDGET**

### ***Pennsylvania's state budget delay, SNAP depletions collide: This Week in Pennsylvania***

Pennsylvania's months-long budget delay and the depletion of SNAP benefits amid a federal shutdown collided last week as lawmakers scrambled to find solutions to help those who will feel an immediate impact.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: ABC27, WHTM, November 2, 2025.**

### ***All the major players in Pa.'s budget impasse met in person this week. Will a deal follow?***

Gov. Josh Shapiro and the leaders of all four legislative caucuses met in person several days this week amid a four-month budget impasse that is creating increasingly dire consequences across Pennsylvania.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Spotlight PA, October 31, 2025.**

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### ***William Penn School District says lights won't stay on past January without state budget***

The William Penn School District is running out of money as the Pennsylvania State Education Association says a state budget impasse is holding up \$5.3 billion in state funding and the impending loss of federal food benefits is expected to erode educational abilities even further.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Delco Times, October 31, 2025.**

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### ***Pennsylvania public schools waiting on \$5.3 billion in funding: PSEA***

Pennsylvania public schools are waiting on \$5.3 billion in funding as the budget impasse continues.

Pennsylvania's state budget is now 122 days late, forcing public schools to freeze new hires, take out loans, and curtail educational programs, according to the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA).

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: ABC27, WHTM, October 30, 2025.**

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### ***School districts forced to cut programs, take out loans as PA budget impasse continues***

Administrators across Pennsylvania say they're cutting after-school

programs, freezing hiring, and taking on costly loans as the state fails to make significant payments thanks to the nearly four-month-late budget.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: WITF, October 29, 2025.**

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## *Pa. Treasury reports making \$21 million in bridge loans as state budget impasse continues*

Pennsylvania Treasurer Stacy Garrity said Tuesday her office has provided more than \$21 million in loans to four dozen organizations to continue operating during the state budget impasse.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source: Pennsylvania Capital-Star, October 28, 2025.**

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## **BASIC BILL ACTIONS**

- **HB158** - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harms suffered by designation.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**  
• **Action: 10/29/2025 - Discussed during voting meeting - House Health**
- **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: 10/27/2025 - Approved by the Governor; Act No. 41 of 2025**
- **HB1663** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Statewide Imagination Library Program and the Imagination Library of Pennsylvania Restricted Account; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Liz Hanbidge (D)**  
• **Action: 10/29/2025 - Laid on the table**
- **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: 10/28/2025 - Laid on the table**
- **HB1919** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for student-related injury leave.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie (R)**  
• **Action: 10/29/2025 - Referred to - House Education**
- **HB2001** - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for incarcerated students; and abrogating a regulation.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Johann Cepeda-Freytiz (D)**  
• **Action: 10/29/2025 - Referred to - House Education**
- **HB2002** - An Act authorizing the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to join the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists; providing for form of compact; and imposing additional powers and duties on the Governor, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the Compact.  
• **Sponsor: Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)**  
• **Action: 10/29/2025 - Referred to - House Professional Licensure**
- **SB9** - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Judy Ward (R)
- **Action:** 10/29/2025 - Re-referred to - House Judiciary
- **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:** 10/29/2025 - Referred to - House Rules
- **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:** 10/30/2025 - Presented to the Governor

***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.

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### *Schools brace for SNAP benefits lapse*

With the nation's largest federal food assistance program likely expiring Nov. 1, school systems are looking for ways to best support low-income families and children.

***Click here*** for full article.

**Source:** *K-12 DIVE*, Oct. 30, 2025.

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### *How the government shutdown is now disrupting public education*

We're nearly one month into the government shutdown with crucial deadlines approaching. Amid layoffs at the Department of Education, the prolonged shutdown is starting to turn some heads.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: District Administration, October 30, 2025.

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## *Judge extends pause on layoffs of federal employees*

A federal judge on Tuesday extended the [pause on the Trump administration's layoff orders](#) for thousands of federal employees during the government shutdown. This court order extends the temporary block the same judge put into place on Oct. 15.

[Click here](#) for full article.

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

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## *Education Department ordered to reinstate mental health grants*

A school psychologists organization said the ruling is a "win" for families and educators. The department says it will appeal.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *K-12 DIVE*, Oct. 28, 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.\*\*](#)

[\*\*FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS\*\*](#)

[\*\*FIND YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS\*\*](#)



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