

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

Educators Identify Opportunities to Improve Reading Performance



Educators and reading specialists discussed how new requirements for reading instruction have benefited students and identified areas where further progress could be made during a public hearing of the Senate Majority Policy Committee hosted by [Sen. Tracy Pennycuick \(R-24\)](#) and chaired by [Sen. Dave Argall \(R-29\)](#).

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

Source: *PA Senate Republicans News Release*, January 12, 2026.

New State Law Updates School Policies on Reporting Weapon Incidents

- ***New PA law requires schools to notify families of incidents involving weapons***
 - Districts have 24 hours from the time of the incident to send that notice using a method of communication that is likely to reach recipients, according to Act 44, which took effect January 6.
 - [Click here](#) for the full article.
 - Source: *Scranton Times-Tribune/Republican Herald*, January 9, 2026.
- ***New law requires PA schools to quickly notify parents if weapon is found on school grounds***
 - Several new laws are set to take effect across Pennsylvania this new year. Education changes include new teacher certification flexibility and tighter oversight of cyber charter schools.
 - [Click here](#) for the full article.
 - Source: *WJAC 6*, January 5, 2026.

Proposed SAVE Act Would Require Mental Health and Violence Prevention Education in PA Schools

Pennsylvania lawmakers continue to debate how to address the state's youth mental health crisis, with schools increasingly viewed as a primary setting for early intervention.

On Tuesday, Rep. Brian Munroe, D-Warminster, introduced the Student Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) Act.

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

Source: *Franklin County Free Press*, January 8, 2026.

Legislators reconsider violence prevention in schools

Pennsylvania lawmakers have struggled to get their arms around the ongoing mental health crisis in the state's youth population.

Schools often stand as the first line of defense against violence and self-harm, leading some legislators to look for curriculum-based solutions.

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

Source: *WKMZ TV*, January 7, 2026.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB2117** - 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 definitions, for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, for school access to emergency epinephrine and for administration of epinephrine auto-injectors by school bus drivers and school crossing guards.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- **Action:** 01/08/2026 - Referred to House 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

Education Department data shows slight dip in public school enrollment

Public school student enrollment across the U.S. dipped slightly by 0.3% to 49.3 million in the 2024-25 school year compared to the year before, according to data released in December by the U.S. Department of Education for the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

[Click here](#) for full article.



What Will Scaled-Back Childhood Vaccine Recommendations Mean for Schools?

Newly announced guidance from the federal government that removes a half-dozen long-standing and common vaccines from the list of recommended immunizations for children could sow further mistrust in the shots among families and lead to unnecessary confusion and challenges for schools, according to experts on vaccine law and school health.

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

Source: *Education Week*, January 8, 2026.

Trump officials give Iowa flexibility on federal education money. More states could follow

The Trump administration is giving Iowa more power to decide how it spends its federal education money, signing off on a proposal that is expected to be the first of many as conservative states seek new latitude from a White House promising to "return education to the states."

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *PBS News*, January 7, 2026.

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](#)



[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!