

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

The House and Senate will return to session on Monday, January 26. The following week, Governor Shapiro is scheduled to deliver his annual budget address to a joint session of both chambers on Tuesday, February 3.



Legislators Propose Later Start Times for Secondary Schools

- ***Lawmakers propose later start times for Pennsylvania secondary schools***
 - Pennsylvania lawmakers are proposing a change that could allow middle and high schools across the state to begin the day later, aiming to better align class schedules with adolescent sleep needs. The bipartisan proposal, circulated in a legislative memo by **Jill Cooper, R-55**, and **Tim Briggs, D-149**, would authorize school entities to voluntarily adopt later start times for secondary schools. The legislation would also permit districts to use funding from the School Safety and Mental Health Grant Program to help offset costs associated with implementing schedule changes.
 - [Click here](#) for the full news release.
 - **Source:** *Gettysburg Connection*, January 19, 2026.
- ***Pennsylvania lawmakers propose changing secondary school start times***
 - Pennsylvania lawmakers are proposing to change the start time of secondary school in Pennsylvania.
 - [Click here](#) for the full article.
 - **Source:** *ABC27, WHTM*, January 13, 2026.

Senators host hearing on reading instruction

State lawmakers have a better grasp of how legislation passed in 2024 and 2025 are affecting reading instruction in the state.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *Times Observer*, January 15, 2026.

Steele to host Jan. 21 town hall on cell phones in schools

H.B. 1814 would restrict cell phone use in PA schools

State Rep. Mandy Steele, D-Allegheny, will host a town hall on cell phone use in schools from **6 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at Cooper-Siegel Community Library, 403 Fox Chapel Road, Pittsburgh.**

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus*, January 14, 2026.

EDUCATION RECAP

[Click here](#) for more.

(A weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government.)

Federal Update

FY2026 Funding Bill Boosts Federal Investment in Child Care and Early Learning



This morning, the House of Representatives released a Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations package that includes funding increases for federal early learning and care programs.

The FY2026 House bill includes the following spending levels for key programs:

- \$8.831 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program, an increase of \$85 million;
- \$12.357 billion for Head Start, an increase of \$85 million; and
- \$315 million for Preschool Development Grants Birth through Five (PDG B-5).

[Click here](#) for full article.
Source: *First Five Years Fund*, January 20, 2026.

Senators discuss school tech limits amid youth mental health crisis

Senators stressed the need for federal solutions to address a mental health crisis tied to social media and technology use among children and teens during a Thursday hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

[Click here](#) for full article.
Source: *K-12 DIVE*, January 16, 2026.

In Trump's First Year, at Least \$12 Billion in School Funding Disruptions

The constitutional principle known as “the power of the purse” has been a fixture of American history classrooms for generations. Federal law explicitly prohibits the executive branch from overriding Congress’ spending decisions.

[Click here](#) for full article. (Subscription may be required.)
Source: Education Week, January 16, 2026.

Trump Signs a Law Returning Whole Milk to School Lunches

Whole milk is heading back to **school cafeterias** across the country after President Donald Trump **signed a bill** Wednesday overturning Obama-era limits on higher-fat milk options.

[Click here](#) for full article. (Subscription may be required.)
Source: Education Week, January 15, 2026.

U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights Initiates 18 Title IX Investigations

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) initiated investigations into eighteen educational entities in ten states based on complaints submitted to OCR alleging that they have violated Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX).

[Click here](#) for full article.
Source: U.S. Department of Education Press Release, January 14, 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.](#)

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