

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



State Update

Education landscape rocky throughout state

Yet, with the budget delayed by months, the state saw many of its institutions in precarious positions, while higher ed costs and big changes from the feds made headlines all year long.

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

Source: *Times Observer*, January 5, 2026.

High-stakes 2026 elections will determine control of Pa. legislature, which party sets policy

Control of the Pennsylvania General Assembly will be on the ballot in 2026, setting up an expensive and far-reaching fight for the power to set policy in the Keystone State.

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

Source: *Spotlight PA*, January 5, 2026.

Narcan in schools? Educators react to proposed legislation

Almost every school district contacted by *TribLive* for this story already stocked naloxone in its schools, officials said, some for more than a decade. Opinions varied over the proposed law and whether school workers were best equipped to handle such medication.

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

Source: *TribLive*, December 30, 2025.

State invests \$160M in school safety, mental health to reduce violence

Exactly one month following the passage of the state budget, the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency's School Safety and Security committee announced the availability of \$160 million in state funding to support youth and make Pennsylvania's communities safer.

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

Source: Times Leader, December 28, 2025.

New laws will take effect in Pa. in 2026. Here's what you need to know

Pennsylvania lawmakers approved 65 pieces of legislation in 2025, making it one of the **least productive sessions** in decades.

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

Source: WHYY, December 23, 2025.

Inside the legislative effort to expel cellphones from Pennsylvania's K-12 schools

A bill aiming to impose a ban on cellphones in Pennsylvania's K-12 schools is gaining momentum in Harrisburg **as educators struggle to compete with mobile devices for their students' attention.**

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

Source: WHYY, December 15, 2025.

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: 12/16/2025 - Re-referred to House Judiciary**

- **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: 12/17/2025 - Third consideration and final passage**

- **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. Sean Dougherty (D)**
- **Action: 12/16/2025 - Third consideration and final passage**

- **HB2107** - 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: 12/18/2025 - Referred to House Professional Licensure**

RESOLUTIONS RECENTLY ADOPTED BY HOUSE:

- ***Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness***
- **House Resolution 337** - This resolution recognizes the week of November 17-21 as ***Pennsylvanian Education for Students Experiencing Homelessness Awareness Week*** to encourage schools and communities across the commonwealth to plan for and support students who face the challenges of being homeless.
- **Sponsor: Rep. Ismail Smith-Wade-El (D-Lancaster)**

- ***Recognizing 50 Years of IDEA***
- **House Resolution 370** - This resolution celebrates the 50-year anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which guarantees any student in the United States, regardless of their disabilities, a free and appropriate public education that considers the child's individual needs.
- **Sponsor: Rep. Dan Miller (D-Allegheny)**

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

Trump administration efforts to end DOE get failing grade from PA educators



When Andrea Fink, a 17-year public education veteran who leads the Pennsylvania State Education Association's Southeastern region, heard about President Donald Trump's proposal to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education – reassigning its programs and resources to other federal agencies – she immediately thought of all the services her district could lose.

Click here for full article.

Source: *City & State Pennsylvania*, December 15, 2025.

Rural schools hit by Trump's grant cuts have few options for making up for the lost money

When the funding for Shannon Johnson's job as a school **mental health counselor** came to an abrupt end, two years into a five-year grant, she thought about the work left to be done.

Click here for full article.

Source: *AP News*, December 18, 2025.

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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