

Education Recap



Feb. 13 – 19, 2026

Contents

Press Conferences.....	1
Committee News	2
Bullet.in.Points.....	2
Cosponsor Memos	2
Basic Ed Bill Actions	4
Higher Ed Bill Actions.....	6
Upcoming Events	6
In the News	7

SESSION STATUS

At 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, the House stands adjourned until Monday, March 23, 2026, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 1:59 p.m. on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, the Senate recessed until Monday, March 16, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

House

March 23-25
April 13-15, 27-29
May 4-6
June 1-3, 8-10, 15-17, 22-30
Sept. 28-30
Oct. 5-7, 19-21
Nov. 9, 10

Senate

March 16-18, 23-25
April 20-22
May 4-6
June 1-3, 8-10, 22-26, 29-30

The Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government, as compiled and edited by PLS. Additional information, including video, transcript and testimony, is available to [PLSGovTrac](https://www.pls.gov/trac) users. For more information, contact sales@mypls.com.

Press Conferences

PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings and media availabilities

HOUSE, SENATE DEMOCRATS HIGHLIGHT STATE INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

By Dominic Kenny, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | February 19, 2026

House and Senate Democrats joined Allentown School District to discuss the results of the \$526 million investment from last year's state budget at a press conference in the Allentown School District Administration Building today.

Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia), minority chair, Senate Appropriations Committee, noted the start of budget hearings in the House and Senate on Monday, February 23. He said Gov. Josh Shapiro's budget proposal calls for "another significant investment in education funding" following the 2023 Commonwealth Court ruling that Pennsylvania's school funding system was unconstitutional. He continued that increased education funding has caused test scores and graduation rates to rise. "It's just the right thing to do," he said. "I can tell you that [opponents] of adequate and constitutional education funding... were trying to remove the dramatic and new increases." He stressed that adequate education funding is "always in jeopardy."

Sen. Nick Miller (D-Lehigh) stated that some Allentown School District schools are seeing attendance rate increases in the double digits since funding increases. He said schools were now able to provide free breakfast to students and retain teachers. He remarked that he was glad to see schools replace decades-old tools and musical instruments, arguing that these updates enhanced students' experiences.

Rep. Peter Schweyer (D-Lehigh), chair, House Education Committee, discussed his daughter's improved experience in the Allentown School District following the funding increases, including updated uniforms for her step team. He noted that rural school districts have also been seeing improvements in attendance and graduation rates since the Commonwealth Court ruling. He argued Pennsylvania has a "moral responsibility" to properly fund schools, which in turn will boost its workforce.

Carol Birks, superintendent, Allentown School District, recalled testifying in front of the Basic Education Funding Commission about how Allentown School District was operating with a budget that did not reflect the complexity of the students it serves and the scale of their needs. She said the school district has seen numerous positive results since the implementation of adequacy funding, including increases in specialized staff, an enhanced curriculum, the creation of the Ruby Bridges Early Learning Center and a partnership with the Juilliard School. "Continued state investment is not optional," she said. "It is essential."

Amaris Recker, teacher, Sonia Sotomayor Dual Language Immersion Academy, said Allentown School District is now able to provide students with smaller classroom sizes and increased attention. She said the immersion academy currently plans to extend from second grade to fifth grade by 2029, increasing the number of bilingual students in Pennsylvania. She added that she has seen firsthand how increases in funding have provided students with the opportunity to find their voice and improve their academic experience.

Christopher Dwornicki, student, Dieruff High School, recalled how his robotics team struggled due to a lack of resources that other school districts had. "Students in the Allentown School District deserve the same resources as students in neighboring school districts," he said. He noted that over 42 new courses have been added to the program of study since he was a freshman four years ago.

Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh), House majority whip, marveled at the improvements he has seen in the Allentown School District in the years following the Commonwealth Court ruling. He noted that his wife used to work at Harrison Morton Middle School, which was built in 1874. He said the school lacked many basic utilities, including a malfunctioning HVAC system. He stressed the disparities between many school districts in the commonwealth. "Every kid in Pennsylvania deserves world-class facilities," he said. "Every taxpayer deserves the lowest tax rate possible."

Sen. Hughes called the contrast in funding before and after the Commonwealth Court ruling "outstanding." He recalled one of the lawyers hired by the opposition in that case and the Senate Republican Caucus, asking a witness, "Why should every student be required to learn algebra? Don't we need burger flippers too?" Sen. Hughes called the question "ugly" and "hurtful." He said the desire to learn exists in all school districts, arguing the importance of education investments. He stated he believed that many of society's "great problems" would have been solved by now if proper investments were made in education.



Committee News

Comprehensive coverage of the House & Senate public hearings and voting meetings

No committee news this week.

Bullet.in.Points

PDE: AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The Department of Education announced the availability of the following funds:

- Approximately \$1.115 million in state grant funds for tutoring programs for adults to recruit and train volunteer adult literacy education instructors
- A maximum of \$2.3 million in federal grant funds to support activities that comprise a system of professional development and technical assistance to division-funded adult education and family literacy programs

Details will be posted on the department's [website](#). Additional information is available on the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

Cosponsor Memos

HCO3139 - Repeal of Medical Loan Assistance Program Provisions

Sponsor

Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)

Summary

Aims to repeal the section of the Public School Code pertaining to the Medical Loan Assistance Program.

Intro Date

02/13/2026

Last Action

02/13/2026 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO3143 - Educator Expenses Tax Credit

Sponsor

Rep. John C. Inglis (D)

Summary

Aims to provide a tax credit up to \$500 for out-of-pocket classroom expenses.

Intro Date

02/13/2026

Last Action

02/13/2026 H - Cosponsor memo filed

HCO3157 - Property Taxes for School Districts in Multiple Counties

Sponsor

Rep. Paul Friel (D)

Summary

Aims to update the Public School Code by reflecting the property tax relief provisions in the Taxpayer Relief Act that single-county school districts utilize.

Intro Date

02/19/2026

Last Action

02/19/2026 H - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1561 - Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Health and Safety Act

Sponsor

Sen. Lynda Schlegel Culver (R)

Summary

Establishes the scope of practice for each modality, sets requirements for the licensure and renewal of licenses, determines proper training, and develops standards to improve medical imaging and radiation therapy procedures.

Intro Date

02/17/2026

Last Action

02/17/2026 S - Cosponsor memo filed

SCO1562 - Preventing Predatory Business Practices in the Childcare Industry**Sponsor**

Sen. Amanda M. Cappelletti (D)

Summary

Establishes guardrails in the childcare industry.

Intro Date

02/17/2026

Last Action

02/17/2026 S - Cosponsor memo filed

Basic Ed Bill Actions

HB460 - 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 child abuse recognition and reporting training; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse awareness and prevention.

Sponsor

Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D)

Summary

(PN 2860) Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for child abuse recognition and reporting training; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for child abuse awareness and prevention. Directs school entities and independent contractors of school entities to provide employees who have direct contact with children with mandatory training on child abuse recognition and reporting. Asserts that employees required to undergo continuing professional education will receive credit toward their requirements if the training program has been approved by the Department of Education (PDE) in consultation with the Department of Human Services (DHS). Requires school entities to offer an age-appropriate, evidence-based child abuse awareness and prevention education program. Directs PDE to post relevant educational materials on its publicly accessible website regarding child abuse recognition and prevention. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. (Prior PN: 444)

Intro Date

02/04/2025

Actions

02/04/2026 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations

02/04/2026 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations

02/04/2026 H - Laid out for discussion

02/04/2026 H - Third consideration and final passage

02/13/2026 S - Referred to Senate Education

HB2218 - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for comprehensive school counseling services.

Sponsor

Rep. Mandy Steele (D)

Summary

(PN 2912) Amends the Public School Code, adding an article to provide for comprehensive school counseling services. Provides definitions. Requires each school entity to develop and implement a written comprehensive school counseling plan and outlines the general requirements that the plan must meet. Specifies the components and contents that the plan must contain. Requires sufficient time at each school entity to be allotted for the school entity's counselor to carry out the duties stated in the school entity's plan. Provides for direct and indirect services. Allows a school counselor to spend a portion of the school counselor's working time during student contact days performing program planning and school support, after applying subsection (b) and with a goal of no more than 20%. Outlines monitoring and support, including the posting of the plan, oversight and Department of Education duties. Asserts that nothing in this article shall be construed to supersede or preempt the rights, remedies and procedures afforded to school employees or labor organizations under federal or state law or any provision of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between a school employer and an exclusive representative of the employees in accordance with the Public Employee Relations Act. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/12/2026

Actions

02/12/2026 H - Introduced

02/13/2026 H - Referred to House Education

SB1188 - An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of 1929, in powers and duties of the Department of Public Instruction and its departmental administrative boards and commissions, further providing for collective bargaining.

Sponsor

Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)

Summary

(PN 1436) Amends the Administrative Code, in powers and duties of the Department of Public Instruction and its departmental administrative boards and commissions, further providing for collective bargaining. Allows school administrators employed by a school district of the first class A the ability to collectively bargain for improved workplace conditions. Effective immediately.

Intro Date

02/13/2026

Actions

02/13/2026 S - Introduced

02/13/2026 S - Referred to Senate Labor and Industry

Higher Ed Bill Actions

HB1935 - An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats.

Sponsor

Rep. Tim Briggs (D)

Summary

(PN 2434) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in assault, further providing for the offense of terroristic threats. Allows the court to order restitution in the amount equal to the cost of supplies, equipment and materials, including the salary, overtime pay or other wages of affected employees and first responders. Requires the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to provide a sentencing enhancement for courts to consider in cases of terroristic threats against a school entity or an institute of higher education. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

Intro Date

10/08/2025

Actions

02/03/2026 H - Voted Favorably From Committee House Appropriations

02/03/2026 H - Re-reported as committed House Appropriations

02/03/2026 H - Laid out for discussion

02/03/2026 H - Third consideration and final passage

02/13/2026 S - Referred to Senate Judiciary

Upcoming Events

MONDAY – 02/23/2026

9:30 AM, [Senate Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget Hearing with the Department of Education (PDE).

1:00 PM, [Senate Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget hearing with the Department of Education (PDE).

TUESDAY – 03/03/2026

9:30 AM, [Senate Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building
Budget hearing with state universities in Millersville, East Stroudsburg, West Chester and Indiana.

1:00 PM, [House Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, House Chamber
Budget hearing with the Department of Education (PDE).

WEDNESDAY – 03/11/2026

10:00 AM, [House Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, House Chamber
Budget hearing with the state-related universities.

1:00 PM, [House Appropriations](#)

Budget Hearing, House Chamber

Budget hearing with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) and community colleges.

MONDAY – 03/16/2026

10:30 AM, 2026 Big 33 Capitol Celebration

Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda

In the News

[02/19/2026 - 102 Pennsylvania State Legislators Ask Penn State Administration to Exercise Neutrality in Union Organizing Efforts](#)

[02/19/2026 - Matzie: PIAA board made 'the right decision' in moving Aliquippa Football to Class 3A for next two years](#)

Education Recap is a comprehensive weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education related legislation in the Pennsylvania Capitol and is compiled and edited by PLS.

For subscription information, questions or more information contact PLS at mypls@mypls.com or 717-236-6984. Thank you, Deborah, Cheryl, Derek, Hattie, Sam, Grace, Aaron, Christian, Katie, Zoe, Daniel, Kyle, Nicholas, Dominic, Julia and Noah.

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