

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

Governor Shapiro delivered his 2026-27 state budget address to both chambers today (Tuesday, Feb. 3). *See more below.*

The House and Senate were originally scheduled to convene last week, but after severe weather across the commonwealth, only the House was in for a brief session on Wednesday, January 28. Both chambers returned to session on Monday, February 2.



STATE BUDGET PROPOSAL

- ***Governor Shapiro Unveils 2026–27 Budget Proposal to Keep Doing What’s Working in Pennsylvania: Cutting Costs, Growing the Economy, Strengthening Public Safety, Funding Education, and Getting Stuff Done for Pennsylvanians***
- Today, **Governor Josh Shapiro** presented his **2026–27 budget proposal** to the General Assembly and the people of Pennsylvania — **building on three years of historic progress by continuing to do what’s working across the Commonwealth** to lower costs, create economic growth, strengthen public safety, support students, and continue Pennsylvania’s rise. The Governor’s budget proposal maintains fiscal responsibility, continues to cut taxes, and ensures taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.
- **[Click here](#)** for the full press release.
- **Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Governor, Newsroom, Press Release, February 3, 2026.**

- ***Gov. Shapiro unveils Pa. budget plan that ‘builds on progress’ and raids the piggybank***
- **[Gov. Josh Shapiro is proposing a \\$53.26 billion state budget](#)** for the year starting July 1 that increases spending for schools and the most vulnerable, but also exceeds projected revenues by nearly \$4.6 billion.
- **[Click here](#)** for the full article. (*Subscription may be required.*)

- **Source: PENNLIVE, February 3, 2026.**

- ***Governor Shapiro's 2026-27 Budget Address as Prepared for Delivery***

- Today, **Governor Josh Shapiro** delivered his 2026-27 Budget Address to the General Assembly and to the people of Pennsylvania.
- **Governor Shapiro's 2026-27 Budget Address as Prepared for Delivery:** *Lieutenant Governor Davis, Speaker McClinton, President Pro Tem Ward – Leader Bradford, Leader Pittman, Leader Topper, and Leader Costa –*
- *Thank you for giving me the honor of addressing another joint session of this General Assembly as your Governor.*
- **[Click here](#)** for the full address.
- **Source: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of the Governor, Newsroom, Press Release, February 3, 2026.**

State budget season begins

Gov. Josh Shapiro is set to release his fourth budget address Tuesday, kicking off a new budget season just three months after the 2025-26 budget deal was completed and just as Shapiro's campaign for re-election ramps up.

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

Source: Altoona Mirror, February 2, 2026.

Shapiro calls for cellphone ban in Pennsylvania schools

Gov. Josh Shapiro (D) called on state legislators to pass a cellphone ban in Pennsylvania schools.

Bipartisan lawmakers **[introduced legislation back in October](#)** that would require K-12 schools to implement a bell-to-bell phone-free policy for the 2026-27 school year. Bell-to-bell bans generally prohibit students from using cellphones on school grounds at public and parochial schools, including during homeroom, lunch and recess.

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

Source: ABC27 WHTM, January 29, 2026.

What principals and educational leaders need to know about Act 47

In a recent video Q&A hosted by the Pennsylvania Principals Association, ***Amy Lena, Deputy Secretary for the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Pennsylvania Department of Education***, breaks down the most important provisions of **[Act 47 of 2025](#)**—covering immediate requirements, staffing flexibility through expanded certification grade spans, safety and cyber charter changes and curriculum requirements on the horizon.

Principals and school leaders are strongly encouraged to watch this timely Q&A video to better understand what's coming and how to prepare their schools for successful implementation.

[Click here](#) to view the Q&A video.

[Click here](#) for the transcript.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB 1375:** - *An Act amending Titles 24 (Education) and 71 (State Government) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in administration and miscellaneous provisions, further providing for administrative duties of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board; and, in administration, funds, accounts and general provisions, further providing for administrative duties of the State Employees' Retirement Board.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Brett R. Miller (R)
- **Action Taken:** 01/28/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/03/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House State Government), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

- **HB1648:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in pupils and attendance, further providing for definitions and providing for mental health days.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HB1763:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions and providing for compliance with Federal tax credit for contributions to scholarship organizations.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- **Action Taken:** 01/23/2026 - Discussed during public hearing House Republican Policy

- **HB1706:** - *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, providing for student mental health awareness.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Mary Jo Daley (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HB2152:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in terms and courses of study, providing for delaying secondary school start times.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Jill N. Cooper (R)
- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HB2157:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in career and technical education, providing for governance of schools and institutes.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Gary W. Day (R)
- **Action Taken:** 01/26/2026 - Referred to House Education

- **HB2167:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in career and technical education, providing for governance of schools and institutes.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)

- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HB2168:** - An Act amending the act of December 19, 1990 (P.L.1372, No.212), known as the Early Intervention Services System Act, in Statewide system for provision of early intervention services, further providing for administration by Department of Education.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HB2169:** - An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, making editorial changes to delete references to "approved private school" for the purpose of adding references to "approved special education school."
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/29/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/04/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room B31, Main Capitol

- **HR408:** - A Resolution recognizing the month of April 2026 as "Financial Literacy Month" in Pennsylvania.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/28/2026 - Referred to House Finance

- **HR409:** - A Resolution designating March 8, 2026, as "Charter Day" and Pennsylvania's 345th birthday in Pennsylvania.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Robert F. Matzie (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/28/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/03/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House State Government), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

- **SB375:** - 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, repealing provisions relating to CPR instruction; in school safety and security, further providing for School Safety and Security Grant Program; and, in school health services, further providing for definitions, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators, providing for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, establishing the Automated External Defibrillator Program and providing for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Robert F. Matzie (D)
- **Action Taken:** 01/28/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/03/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House State Government), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

- **SB759:** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, providing for certified point-of-use filter required; establishing the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund; and imposing duties on the Department of Environmental Protection.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. Devlin J. Robinson (R)
- **Action Taken:** 01/28/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 02/03/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House State Government), Room 515, Irvis Office Building

- **SR212:** - A Resolution designating the week of January 25 through 31, 2026, as "Catholic Schools Week" in Pennsylvania and expressing

congratulations and appreciation to Catholic elementary and secondary schools across this commonwealth.

- **Sponsor: Sen. Scott Martin (R)**
- **Action Taken: 01/23/2026 - Introduced**

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

Government shutdown live updates with House set to vote on funding package



What to know about the partial government shutdown:

- Back in Washington, the House on Monday began considering a revised funding package to end the partial government shutdown that started over the weekend.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: CBS News, February 3, 2026.

Federal Relations Coordinator Update

Submitted by Melanie Rosenberger, Federal Relations Coordinator

Here is a link to a **[blog post by David Griffith](#)** (NAESP Associate Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy) about the FY26 federal K-12 education funding deal. **It is nearly the best possible outcome given the alternatives and especially considering the proposed cuts made by the House Appropriations Committee and the Trump administration's budget plan.**

Below is a link to a handy funding table of key K-12 programs and their funding levels in FY25 compared to FY26.

This is the current state of play in Congress with respect to this funding.

The temporary funding that reopened the government in November expires at midnight tomorrow night January 30th.

The House passed a 6 bill omnibus package of appropriations bills last week by a vote of 341-88. The omnibus included education funding as well as funding for defense, transportation, health, and homeland security. They then left town and are out of session until next week.

The Senate was out of town last week and returned this week to vote on the omnibus bill passed by the House. The events regarding ICE in Minnesota this past weekend have caused support among Senate Democrats for the legislative package to weaken without some sort of changes to the ICE funding and casting into doubt passage of the current bill as is.

If changes are made to the legislative package with respect to ICE funding or some other legislative language that garners Senate Democratic support and passes, **this would not be the same bill that the House passed – which**

will require the House to vote on the newly revised omnibus bill when they return.

Between now and then, the temporary funding deadline would pass and the federal government would go into a partial government shutdown for those agencies whose funding has not yet been enacted – basically all the departments previously mentioned. Although this would include the Department of Education, it would not have any immediate or noticeable impact on K-12 education since most of those programs are forward funded and were already sent to states and districts. For other non-education programs, a brief weekend shutdown might not be very noticeable to the public.

There is a presumption that a revised bill that passes the Senate would quickly be passed by the House to end the brief partial government shutdown. But it is possible the House may want to make their own revisions or have objections to the Senate changes, in which case the shutdown could last longer than a couple of days. If a partial shutdown does happen, the longer it goes increases the chances all the negotiated funding deals in it – including education – unravel.

[Click here](#) for the funding table.

The K-12 outlook for 2026: How new federal priorities and funding challenges will stretch schools

The myriad obstacles that school leaders must navigate each day continue to evolve. Along with growing competition from school choice, district officials are contending with funding pressures and possible school closures fueled by declining enrollment.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *K-12 DIVE*, January 30, 2026.

Trump Slashed Billions for Education in 2025. See Our List of Affected Grants

During the first year of the Trump administration, educators across the country faced a sweeping wave of federal grant cuts, cancellations, and disruptions that scrambled budgets and plans for hundreds of in-progress initiatives.

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

Source: *Education Week*, January 27, 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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