

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## State Update

*The General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene later this month. The Senate will return to Harrisburg for session from March 16–18, and both the House and Senate will meet the following week, March 23–25.*

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## **Stakeholder Feedback Requested for Upcoming House Education Committee Voting Meeting**

***Please review the legislation below and send any feedback/comments to Dr. Eric Eshbach at [eshbach@paprincipals.org](mailto:eshbach@paprincipals.org) by March 19, 2026.***

The House Education Committee meeting has been **officially noticed**: **Tuesday 3/24 @ 9:30 A.M. in Room 140 MC**. At this time, the committee will be considering the following pieces of legislation:

- **[HR 417](#)** – **Struzzi** – designating November 2025 as “Indiana University of PA Appreciation Month.”
- **[HR 434](#)** – **Parker** – recognizing March 9 through 13, 2026 as “Civic Learning Week.”
- **[HB 1045](#)** – **Kazeem** – requires school nurses and school staff whose duties include direct contact with students to complete training every two years regarding awareness of students with seizures, seizure recognition and related first aid.
- **[HB 2285](#)** – **Borowski** – amends the required staffing ratio for school nurses and amends the State reimbursement for health services.
- Yet-to-be-filed bill – **Inglis** – related to experience-based teacher certification (**[see cosponsor memo](#)**).
- **[HB 830](#)** – **O’Mara** – requires parental notification of bullying.
- **[HB 2237](#)** – **Isaacson** – reduces PHEAA reporting requirements in the New Economy Technology Scholarship Act.
- **[HB 2269](#)** – **O’Mara** – repeals Article XXII-A of the Public School Code, which provides for the Medical Loan Assistance Program.
- **[HB 2218](#)** – **Steele** – establishes requirements for comprehensive school counseling services in schools.
- **[HB 1752](#)** - **Curry** - Keystone Exam alternative feasibility study.

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## **Pennsylvania Department of Education announces \$1 million in grants for special education teachers**

The Pennsylvania Department of Education announced \$1 million in grants to help address the shortage of special education teachers.

The funding will go toward programs that train and recruit educators to work in special education.

[Click here](#) for the full news story.  
Source: *ABC27 WHTM*, March 16, 2026.

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## **State House Democrats: Pa. needs to prioritize universal pre-K**

Less than half, **or 44%**, of the state's 3- and 4-year-olds participate in high-quality, publicly funded pre-K, according to Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children. An estimated 84,000 children are left out and **Black children are less likely** to attend high-quality programs.

[Click here](#) for the full article.  
Source: *WESA 90.5*, March 8, 2026.

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## **Demand for student teacher stipends outstrips supply as Shapiro proposes boosting program**

A stipend aimed at getting more student teachers into Pennsylvania schools and easing the commonwealth's educator shortage is working, education advocates and experts say.

[Click here](#) for the full article.  
Source: *Spotlight PA*, March 4, 2026.

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## **BASIC BILL ACTIONS**

- **HB 2267:** - 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 possession and use of prescribed pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Tarik Khan (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/09/2026 - Referred to House Education

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- **HB 2269:** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, repealing provisions relating to medical education loan assistance.
  - **Sponsor:** Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)
  - **Action Taken:** 03/09/2026 - Referred to House Education

- **HB 2275**: - *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 exceptional children, education and training.*
- **Sponsor: Rep. Tarah Probst (D)**
- **Action Taken: 03/10/2026 - Referred to House Education**

- **HB 2285** - *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 health services; and, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for State reimbursement for health services.*
- **Sponsor: Rep. Lisa A. Borowski (D)**
- **Action Taken: 03/12/2026 - Referred to House Education**

- **HB 2286** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in Grow Pennsylvania Scholarship Grant Program, further providing for definitions.*
- **Sponsor: Rep. Jim Rigby (R)**
- **Action Taken: 03/12/2026 - Referred to House Education**

- **SB 9** - *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 harm suffered by designation.*
- **Sponsor: Sen. Judy Ward (R)**
- **Action Taken: 03/10/2026 - Voted favorably from committee with request to re-refer to House Children & Youth House Judiciary**

- **SB 1210** - *An Act amending the act of May 17, 1921 (P.L.789, No.285), known as The Insurance Department Act of 1921, in insurance producers, further providing for powers and duties of department.*
- **Sponsor: Sen. Chris Gebhard (R)**
- **Action Taken: 03/12/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 03/17/2026 - Voting Meeting (Senate Banking and Insurance), Rules Committee Conference Room**

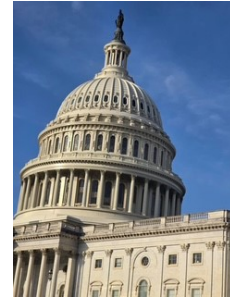
- **SB 1214** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in institutions of higher education, abolishing the State Board of Higher Education and its powers and duties; further providing for Performance-based Funding Council and for public institution of higher education reporting; and providing for reversion of certain powers and duties of the State Board of Higher Education to the State Board of Education and Council of Higher Education.*
- **Sponsor: Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)**
- **Action Taken: 03/12/2026 - Referred to Senate Education**

**[Click on the link below for the full Education Recap.](#)**

**EDUCATION RECAP**  
**[Click here](#) for more.**

## **Federal Update**

### ***Districts express concerns over pending USDA updates to nutrition standards***



As the U.S. Department of Agriculture gears up to propose regulations that align school meals with the latest federal nutrition standards, some school nutrition leaders are urging the agency to not increase meat or meat alternate requirements for schools.

[Click here](#) for the full article. *(Subscription may be required.)*  
**Source: Education Week, March 13, 2026.**

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### ***The Ed. Dept. Is Sending 118 Programs to Other Agencies. See Where They're Going***

The Trump administration is in the process of shifting more than 100 U.S. Department of Education programs to other agencies, as part of its bid to shutter the agency altogether.

[Click here](#) for the full article. *(Subscription may be required.)*  
**Source: Education Week, March 12, 2026.**

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### ***Trump's Top K-12 Official: Returning Ed. to States Isn't Just Waiving Rules***

President Donald Trump campaigned on getting rid of the U.S. Department of Education and returning K-12 policy to the states.

[Click here](#) for the full article. *(Subscription may be required.)*  
**Source: Education Week, March 12, 2026.**

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### ***Special education advocates warn against future program transfers***

As the U.S. Department of Education continues to offload many of its responsibilities to other federal agencies, advocates and lawmakers are pleading for special education services to remain under the jurisdiction of the Education Department.

[Click here](#) for the full article.  
**Source: K-12 DIVE, March 6, 2026.**

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### ***Congress Reviews AI in Education and Online Safety for Children***

Lawmakers recently discussed the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in classrooms and efforts to strengthen online protections for children. A House Education and Workforce subcommittee [hearing](#) explored how AI tools can

help teachers analyze student performance, personalize instruction and reduce administrative tasks.

At the same time, the House Energy and Commerce Committee **advanced several education technology bills**, including the Kids Internet and Digital Safety (KIDS) Act (**H.R. 7757**). The legislation would expand protections for minors online, require disclosures when children interact with AI chatbots and direct the Federal Trade Commission to develop AI safety resources for families, educators and students. The bill was approved by a 28–24 vote and now moves to the full House.

**Sources:** *Summary taken from Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee, Feb. 24, 2026; and Energy and Commerce Comm. Chairman, Brett Guthrie, Press Release, Full Committee Markup Recap: E&C Advances Eight Bills to the Full House of Representatives, March 5, 2026.*

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## ***A State-by-State Breakdown of Teacher Job Satisfaction in 2026***

**Arkansas teachers have the highest morale and Pennsylvania teachers have the lowest**, according to an Ed Week survey of teacher job satisfaction.

**Click here** for the full article. (*Subscription may be required.*)  
**Source:** *Education Week*, March 4, 2026.

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## **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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