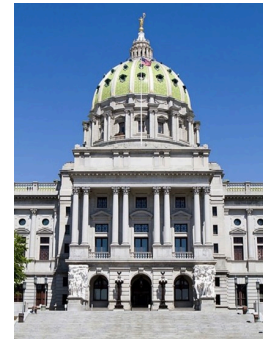


LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

The House returns to session on Monday, April 13, and the Senate returns on Monday, April 20.

The House and Senate returned to Harrisburg last week for an active period of legislative activity. Two new members of the House were sworn in to fill vacancies created by members elected to other offices. Rep. Ana Tiburcio (D-Lehigh) now represents District 22, and Rep. Jen Mazzocco (D-Allegheny) represents District 42. Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R-Butler) also announced her resignation. Democrats currently hold a 102-97 majority in the House, with additional seats to be filled through upcoming swearing-ins and special elections.



Additional Structured Literacy FAQs and Reminder to Complete the Evidence-Based Reading Curriculum Materials Survey due March 31, 2026

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has shared additional guidance to support local education agencies (LEAs) in implementing the structured literacy provisions enacted as part of Act 47 of 2025.

Structured Literacy FAQs

New questions have been added to the [Structured Literacy FAQs](#), providing further clarification on key provision. These updates are intended to support LEAs as they continue planning for and implementing structured literacy requirements.

Evidence-Based Reading Curriculum Survey

Reminder to complete the [Required Evidence-Based Reading Curriculum Survey](#) by **Tuesday, March 31, 2026**.

Under Act 47 of 2025, each school entity must report to the Pennsylvania Department of Education the K–3 reading instruction curriculum materials in use during the 2025–26 school year. A school entity includes school districts, intermediate units, charter schools, cyber charter schools, regional charter schools, and area career and technical schools.

The Department is collecting this information using an [online survey](#).

The survey also includes questions related to the implementation of structured literacy and professional development for educators, as required under Act 135 of 2024 and Act 47 of 2025. Responses will help inform planning and technical assistance efforts by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Survey details:

- One entry per school entity
- Deadline: Tuesday, March 31, 2026
- To be completed by Chief Administrators or a designee
- Please refer inquiries to: RA-EDSTRUCTUREDILIT@pa.gov

Source: Amy Lena, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, PA Department of Education, March 30, 2026.

Ad Hoc Committee on Recess for Elementary Students - April 7 Meeting Agenda

Governor Shapiro has requested that the Pennsylvania State Board of Education provide him with recommendations regarding the importance of recess in grades Kindergarten through 5. The State Board of Education has formed a new ***Ad Hoc Committee on Recess (for Elementary Students)*** that will take the lead in exploring this issue and in developing recommendations for consideration by the State Board as a whole.

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Recess will be held on April 7, 2026, at 1 p.m.

[Click here](#) for the meeting agenda. *(Please note: The Zoom meeting link is included in the agenda.)*

Source: Pennsylvania State Board of Education, March 30, 2026.

PA rep. hopes to protect free speech 'on both sides' for K-12 students with new bill

Legislation proposed Monday hopes to provide guiderails for school policies on how they handle free speech for K-12 students.

[Click here](#) to view the full article.

Source: CBS21, March 30, 2026.

Bill would put Pennsylvania students back in shop class

Amid the AI boom, two Pennsylvania lawmakers want to go back to a saw, some wood and a skilled pair of hands.

Rep. Jill Cooper (R-Westmoreland) and Rep. Marla Brown (R-Lawrence) said they plan to propose legislation that would require students in grades six through 12 to attend shop class.

[Click here](#) to view the full article.

Source: ABC27 WHTM, March 30, 2026.

Pa. House, Senate position education bills for floor votes

A busy session week of the Pennsylvania House and Senate saw multiple education bills advance within the respective chambers with varied aims — from posting course materials and information online to notifying parents of bullying incidents, expanding the complement of school nurses to training non-medical employees to respond to student seizures.

[Click here](#) to view the full article.
Source: *Allied News*, March 26, 2026.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB 289:** - *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 radon testing.*
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Tim Briggs (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - Laid on the table

-
- **HB 830:** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in student supports, further providing for policy relating to bullying.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Rep. Jennifer O'Mara (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/24/2026 - Laid on the table

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- **HB1042** - *An Act amending Titles 61 (Prisons and Parole) and 63 (Professions and Occupations (State Licensed)) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general administration, providing for earned vocational training and education credit; in Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, further providing for parole power and for short sentence parole; and, in powers and duties, further providing for consideration of criminal convictions.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - Third consideration and final passage

-
- **HB 1045** - *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 seizure recognition and related first aid training.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Kazeem (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/24/2026 - Passed over in committee House Education

-
- **HB 1077** - *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, establishing the Commission on Children's Vision and providing for duties of Commission on Children's Vision.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Johanny Cepeda-Freytiz (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/25/2026 - Laid on the table

-
- **HB 1752** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for Keystone Exam alternative feasibility study.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/24/2026 - Laid on the table
-

- **HB 2218** - 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)
- **Action Taken:** 03/24/2026 - Laid on the table

- **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:** 03/24/2026 H - Laid on the table

- **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:** 03/24/2026 - Laid on the table

- **HB 2307** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in reimbursements by Commonwealth and between school districts, further providing for extraordinary special education program expenses.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Emily Kinhead (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - Referred to House Education

- **HB 2314** - An Act providing for a public education campaign focused on educating the public about artificial intelligence and improving AI consumer literacy.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/24/2026 - Referred to House Communications and Technology

- **HR 407** - A Resolution recognizing the week of April 11 through 17, 2026, as "Week of the Young Child" in Pennsylvania.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/25/2026 - Reported as committed House Children and Youth

- **HR 408** - A Resolution recognizing the month of April 2026 as "Financial Literacy Month" in Pennsylvania.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- **Action Taken:** 03/25/2026 - Reported as committed House Finance

- **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:** 03/25/2026 - Discussed during voting meeting House Children and Youth

-
- **SB 128** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in terms and courses of study, providing for online curriculum availability.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - First consideration

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- **SB 375** - 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:** Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/25/2026 - Re-reported as amended House Appropriations

-
- **SB 378** - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, providing for student data privacy and protection; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Education; and imposing penalties.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - First consideration

-
- **SB 402** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for administration of emergency anti-seizure medication.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. David G. Argall (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - First consideration

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- **SB 835** - 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, further providing for display of United States flag and development of patriotism.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Tracy Pennycuick (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/23/2026 - First consideration

-
- **SB 1234** - 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 scoliosis screening and examination; and abrogating a regulation.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Michele Brooks (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 03/20/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

Click on the link below for the full Education Recap.

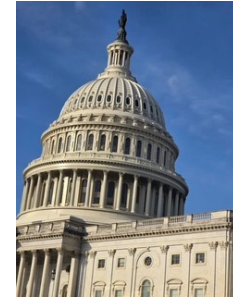
EDUCATION RECAP

[Click here](#) for more.

Federal Update

Week In Review: School meal funds in the courts and new staffing data

Twenty-one state attorneys general on March 23 **sued the U.S. Department of Agriculture** to stop the agency from enforcing new conditions that they say could threaten their states' ability to receive key federal funds for school meals and other nutrition programs.



Click here for the full article.
Source: K-12 DIVE, March 30, 2026.

U.S. Department of Education to Downsize Footprint in Washington, D.C. and Save Taxpayers Over \$4.8 Million Annually

In a prudent step to save hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars and further reduce the federal education bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon, U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright, and General Services Administration (GSA) Administrator Edward C. Forst [today] announced that the U.S. Department of Education (ED) will move out of the Lyndon B. Johnson headquarters building.

Click here for the full article.
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Press Release, March 26, 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.](#)

[FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS](#)

[FIND YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS](#)



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