

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## State Update

The House returned on Monday, April 27 and the Senate will return the following week on May 4.



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### *Pa. lawmakers push 'welcoming schools' bills to strengthen protections for immigrant students*

While some states are considering legislation that would **challenge immigrant students' educational rights**, some Pennsylvania lawmakers want to make commonwealth schools more welcoming.

[Click here](#) for full article.  
Source: 90.5 WESA, April 28, 2026.

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### *Pa. House passes bill to set social media literacy standards for Pennsylvania students*

House lawmakers in Pennsylvania on Monday passed legislation aimed at creating statewide standards for social media literacy, seeking to teach students about both the benefits and risks of using digital platforms and smartphones.

[Click here](#) for full article.  
Source: WGAL8, April 27, 2026.

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### *'Best practice:' New bill would require Pa schools to publish full curriculums & textbooks online*

A battle over transparency in education is unfolding in Pennsylvania as lawmakers move to require schools to open up like never before. Senate Bill 128 will require school districts to post a full course syllabus, the title of every

textbook used and the state's academic standards for each course offered on the district's website. It also would require that it be updated no later than thirty-days after any revisions.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source:** *WJAC*, April 26, 2026.

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## ***Hundreds of Pennsylvania High School Students Are Earning Tuition-Free College Credits Through Dual-Credit Programs Supported by Shapiro Administration Investments***

Through historic investments in education from the Shapiro Administration, more Pennsylvania students are charting their own course to success through dual-credit programs that offer high school students the opportunity to earn college credits before graduation – at no cost to the students or their families. [Today] at Kutztown University, **Secretary of Education Dr. Carrie Rowe** announced \$7 million in grants to 10 institutions of higher education to build and expand programs that offer hundreds of Pennsylvania students a headstart on their college career – bringing the Shapiro Administration's total investment in the Dual Credit Innovation Grant Program to \$21 million.

[Click here](#) for full press release.

**Source:** *PA Department of Education, Newsroom*, April 23, 2026.

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## ***Pa. lawmakers say regulations on AI in education, student privacy are coming***

Pennsylvania lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are working to draft guidance regulating how schools use artificial intelligence in the classroom, while also devising protections for student privacy and data.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source:** *90.5 WESA*, April 21, 2026.

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## ***House Education Committee held hearings on artificial intelligence (AI) in Schools***

On Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22, the House Education Committee held hearings on artificial intelligence (AI) in Schools in Pittsburgh. On Tuesday, the committee heard testimony specifically on AI's impacts on K-12 education. On Wednesday, the committee heard testimony on AI's presence in teacher preparation programs.

[Click here](#) to watch the hearing.

**Source:** *PA House Education Committee*, April 21, 2026.

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## ***PA State Assessment Provider Update***

***A Message from Amy Lena, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, PA Department of Education***

On April 9, Pearson was selected to provide PA state assessments after the expiration of DRC's current contract for up to five years, starting with the 2027-28 school year. Pearson was selected through a competitive bidding process in which interested companies submitted requests for proposals which were then scored

according to Commonwealth procurement laws and policies. **Pearson will assume the partnering role currently performed by Data Recognition Corporation (DRC) and will supply test development, administration, scoring, and reporting services for the PSSAs, Keystone Exams, Classroom Diagnostic Tools (CDTs) and Firefly benchmark assessments starting July 1, 2027.**

While any transition will naturally carry with it some need for adjustment, we expect this transition to have minimal impact on the field. Pearson was selected to administer PA's assessment program in a manner consistent with current requirements.

1. All of the major components of the system will remain available and be transitioned as seamlessly as possible: PSSAs, Keystone Exams, CDTs and Firefly benchmark assessments.
2. Nothing is expected to change regarding tested content standards or eligible content as a result of this transition.
3. Test designs for both Keystone Exams and PSSAs are expected to remain unchanged during this transition.
4. All products/services supplied through this contracted partnership will remain free to the field.

The essential elements of the assessment system will remain unchanged, and we anticipate only minor procedural changes to transition the testing platform from DRC's Insight system to Pearson's TestNav platform and to transition Reporting from Emetric to Pearson's subcontracted partner, Focal Point.

**PDE is dedicated to ensuring that high-quality training materials are available in advance of the July 1, 2027, transition.**

The 2026 and 2027 assessments will still be delivered by DRC and administered via DRC's Insight system. With that in mind, we strongly encourage educators to continue to acclimate students to Insight and prepare students for testing using that platform as PDE prepares resources to support the transition.

**Source: Amy Lena, Deputy Secretary, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, PA Department of Education, April 20, 2026.**

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## ***Invitation to Submit Public Comments on Elementary Recess - Deadline is Today - 4.28.26***

In his budget address to the General Assembly, Governor Shapiro called on the Pennsylvania State Board of Education to develop recommendations for schools to guarantee recess for students. The State Board of Education has appointed an Ad Hoc Committee on Recess to review evidence-based best practices related to recess and to formulate draft recommendations for consideration by the Board. **The Ad Hoc Committee held its first public meeting on April 7, 2026, and the Committee will meet again on May 1, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Recess believes educational policy is best made in an open, public process where all perspectives are considered. As such, the Committee invites interested stakeholders to submit written comments on recess to further inform its deliberations on formulating draft recommendations. **Written comments must be submitted to the State Board of Education office no later than today, April 28, 2026.**

Comments may be submitted electronically to [ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov](mailto:ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov) or may be sent in hard copy to: **State Board of Education, 607 South Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17120.** Individuals with disabilities are invited to submit public comments in alternative formats such as Braille or taped comments and by means of the telephone. Individuals with disabilities should contact **Stephanie Jones, Administrative Assistant to the Board**, at [ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov](mailto:ra-stateboardofed@pa.gov) or

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## **Updated Immigration Guidance from the PA Department of Education**

*Below is an important message from PA Secretary of Education, Dr. Carrie Rowe, regarding the updated immigration guidance from the PA Department of Education.*

In light of increased immigration enforcement activities nationwide, the Pennsylvania Department of Education is issuing this **updated non-regulatory guidance** to local educational agencies (LEAs) to provide general information about federal and state law relating to immigration status and potential immigration enforcement activities at or near schools and other educational facilities. **This guidance replaces the guidance issued on April 11, 2025.**

Every child of school age who is a resident of a Pennsylvania school district is entitled to a public school education. An essential part of this right is a safe and welcoming learning environment in which all children in the Commonwealth have equal access to a basic public elementary and secondary education. Therefore, this updated guidance shares information on the fundamental principals of a public education, the federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), judicial versus administrative warrants and subpoenas, interacting with Immigration Enforcement Agents, considerations for LEAs in formulating policies and additional resources.

The Department encourages LEAs to work with their solicitors to establish a written policy and standard operating procedures for what to do if immigration enforcement agents arrive on LEA property or seek information about students, family members, employees or others for immigration enforcement reasons.

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## **BASIC BILL ACTIONS**

- **HB1045** - *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: 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol**

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- **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: 04/17/2026 - Referred to Senate Education**

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- **HB1877** - *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 Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy.*
  - **Sponsor: Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)**
  - **Action Taken: 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol**

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- **HB2117** - *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 definitions, for possession and use of asthma inhalers and epinephrine auto-injectors, for school access to emergency epinephrine and for administration of epinephrine auto-injectors by school bus drivers and school crossing guards.

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Carol Hill-Evans (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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- **HB2307** - 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 Kinkead (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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- **HB2314** - 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:** 04/23/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/29/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Communications and Technology), Room B31, Main Capitol

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- **HB2424** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/18/2026 - Referred to House Education

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- **HB2425** - 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 Career and Technical Education Curriculum Modernization Grant Program.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Jacklyn Rusnock (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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- **HB2436** - 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 State certificate fee reduction.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Ana Tiburcio (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/22/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/28/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

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- **HB2438** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in school finances, providing for school mapping services.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Ben V. Sanchez (D)
- **Action Taken:** 04/21/2026 - Referred to House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness

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- **HB2441** - 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, providing for educational specialist experience-based certification; and making an editorial change.
- **Sponsor: Rep. John C. Inglis (D)**
- **Action Taken: 04/22/2026 - Referred to House Education**

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- **HR368** - A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of changes in commercial property values in this Commonwealth, assess the fiscal impact on local governments and school districts and make recommendations.
- **Sponsor: Rep. Joe Webster (D)**
- **Action Taken: 04/23/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 04/29/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Local Government), Room 60, East Wing**

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- **SB180** - 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 Nonprofit School Food Program, repealing provisions relating to school lunch and breakfast reimbursement and establishing the Universal School Meal Program and the Universal School Meal Fund; and making an interfund transfer and an appropriation.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)**
- **Action Taken: 04/21/2026 - Press Conference Held - PA Senate Democrats Policy Agenda**

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- **SB250** - An Act providing for display of the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania in each school building.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Cris Dush (R)**
- **Action Taken: 04/21/2026 - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations**

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- **SB598** - An Act providing for display of the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania in each school building.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Cris Dush (R)**
- **Action Taken: 04/21/2026 - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations**

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- **SB698** - 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 acquisition of buildings, sites for school buildings and playgrounds, and disposing thereof.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R)**
- **Action Taken: 04/20/2026 - First consideration**

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- **SB1102** - An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, providing for the Budget Impasse Reimbursement Program and for grants to certain eligible entities; and establishing the Budget Impasse Reimbursement Restricted Account.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Lindsey Marie Williams (D)**
- **Action Taken: 04/21/2026 - Press Conference Held - PCAR Advocacy Day**

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***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**

### ***U.S. Department of Education Launches Comprehensive, Nationwide Federal Student Aid Fraud Prevention Effort***



[Today], the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) launched a new, real-time fraud detection capability for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) form, marking the largest and most comprehensive, nationwide fraud prevention effort in the agency's history. Effective immediately, fraud detection is built directly into the FAFSA itself, with every applicant evaluated in real-time using risk-based identity screening. Applicants who display a certain level of fraud risk will now be required to present government-issued identification before accessing federal student aid funds such as Pell Grants and federal student loans.

**[Click here](#)** for the full press release.

**Source:** *U.S. Department of Education Newsroom, Press Release, April 27, 2026.*

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### ***Trump administration delays rule aimed at improving disability access in schools***

Public colleges, K-12 schools, local governments and other public institutions will have an extra year to make their digital materials fully accessible for people with disabilities, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

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

**Source:** *NPR, April 22, 2026.*

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### ***Five things K–12 districts should know about ADA Title II compliance***

Digital accessibility in K–12 education has largely been something districts respond to when a specific need arises. The latest update to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act changes that framing. With the U.S. Department of Justice's 2024 rulemaking, digital accessibility is now a systemwide requirement.

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

**Source:** *EdTech Magazine, April 22, 2026.*

## ***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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**[FIND YOUR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS](#)**



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