

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

The House and Senate are recessed for the remainder of May and will reconvene on Monday, June 1, with the state budget expected to take center stage for the General Assembly.



How does Pa. compare to other states in per-student funding?

Public school spending per student hit record highs in the U.S. in 2024, and Pennsylvania's levels topped most other states, according to new federal data.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Erie Times News / USA Today Network*, May 9, 2026.

Pa. education secretary, Lancaster County educators talk risk, benefits of AI at Hourglass Forum

Artificial intelligence, AI, is not a future issue; it's a today issue. It is here right now, the Pennsylvania secretary of education said to a room full of educators Thursday at the Ware Center for the Arts in downtown Lancaster.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *LNP, Lancaster Online*, May 8, 2026.

Shapiro Administration Gives Ten Schools Funding to Teach Students about Disabilities

The Shapiro Administration [today] announced that it is giving 10 schools funding to join a pilot program designed to teach K-12 students about the political, economic, and social contributions of individuals with disabilities – another project that builds on Governor Josh Shapiro's commitment to

ensuring Pennsylvanians of all abilities are supported in their communities and free to live on their own terms.

[Click here](#) for full release.

Source: *Commonwealth of PA, Department of Education, Newsroom, Press Release, May 7, 2026.*

Pennsylvania lawmakers push to expand solar program for more schools

State lawmakers want more of Pennsylvania's schools to go solar. [This week] at the state capitol, advocates pushed for more schools to sign up for the state's Solar for Schools program, which is heading into its second year in existence.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *WGAL Channel 8, May 7, 2026.*

'We've got to do more:' New bill would require teachers to report AI images of child abuse

Pennsylvania House lawmakers unanimously approved a bill aimed at strengthening child protection laws as artificial intelligence-generated abuse images become more common, even though a similar measure has already passed in the Senate.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *CBS Channel 21, May 6, 2026.*

PA youth safety funding expands as demand surges

More than \$65 million in new state funding is being deployed to expand youth safety and afterschool programs across Pennsylvania, as officials warn demand for prevention resources continues to outpace available funding.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *MY CHESCO, May 6, 2026.*

Shapiro administration pushes for free feminine hygiene products in Pennsylvania schools

The Shapiro administration wants to expand its \$6 million investment, providing schools across the Commonwealth with free feminine hygiene products.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *ABC Channel 27 WHTM, May 6, 2026.*

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB41** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in interscholastic athletics accountability, providing for playoffs and championships.*
- **Sponsor:** **Rep. Scott Conklin (D)**

- **Action Taken:** 05/01/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **HB356** - *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, further providing for youth suicide awareness and prevention and providing for violence prevention and social inclusion.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Brian Munroe (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/04/2026 - Press Conference Held - Youth Advocacy Day PC

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- **HB538** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in sexual violence, dating violence, domestic violence and stalking education, prevention and response at institutions of higher education and private licensed schools, further providing for scope of article, for definitions, for education program and for follow-up; and making an editorial change.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Robert Leadbeter (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/04/2026 - Removed from table
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- **HB830** - *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. Jennifer O'Mara (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/01/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **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:** 05/06/2026 - Re-committed to House Appropriations

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- **HB1077** - *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:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **HB1258** - *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, providing for personalized education program; providing for student freedom accounts; and establishing the Student Freedom Account Program.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Joseph D'Orsie (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/05/2026 - Press Conference Held - PA Families for Education Choice

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- **HB1752** - *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:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **HB1814** - 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, providing for possession and use of cell phones.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Rep. Mandy Steele (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/06/2026 - Re-committed to House Appropriations

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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:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **HB1919** - 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 student-related injury leave.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Thomas L. Mehaffie (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/05/2026 - Discussed during public hearing House Education

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- **HB2176** - 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 social media literacy education.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/01/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **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)
 - **Action Taken:** 04/29/2026 - Third consideration and final passage

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- **HB2253** - An Act requiring school life support coaches in Pennsylvania high schools; and imposing duties on the Department of Education and school districts.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/04/2026 - Press Conference Held - Youth Advocacy Day PC

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- **HB2269** - 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:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate 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:** 06/01/2026 - Placed on HVS

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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: 05/06/2026 - Re-committed to House Appropriations**

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- **HB2460** - 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 hunting and trapping education; and imposing duties on the Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Anita Astorino Kulik (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Laid on the table**

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- **HB2474** - An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, further providing for exclusions from child abuse and for persons required to report suspected child abuse.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Nikki Rivera (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Judiciary**

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- **HB2482** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, establishing the Newly Employed Teacher Grant Program.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Jim Prokopiak (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Referred to House Education**

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- **HB2485** - 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, providing for trauma-informed records program; and imposing a penalty.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Referred to House Education**

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- **HB2486** - 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 student mental health supports.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Referred to House Education**

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- **HB2487** - An Act amending Title 23 (Domestic Relations) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in child protective services, providing for information for school districts.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Napoleon J. Nelson (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Referred to House Education**

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- **HB2491** - 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 when providing for transportation of pupils and for kinds of transportation and liability insurance; and, in charter schools, further providing for transportation.

- **Sponsor: Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Referred to House Transportation**

- **HR407** - 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: 05/05/2026 - Adopted**

- **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: 05/07/2026 - Referred to House Education**

- **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: Sen. Rosemary M. Brown (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/07/2026 - Presented to the Governor**

- **SB598** - An Act providing for display of the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States in each school building.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Cris Dush (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/07/2026 - Referred to House Education**

- **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: 05/04/2026 - Re-referred to Senate Appropriations**

- **SB1014** - 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, providing for bell-to-bell phone-free policy.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Devlin J. Robinson (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/06/2026 - Re-referred to House Appropriations**

- **SB1125** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for welcoming schools.
- **Sponsor: Sen. Katie J. Muth (D)**
- **Action Taken: 04/27/2026 - Press Conference Held - Welcoming Schools Ensuring PA Schools are Safe Places for All Students**

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- **SB1325** - 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 when provided and for kinds of transportation and liability insurance; and, in charter schools, further providing for transportation.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Dawn W. Keefer (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **SB1326** - 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, further providing for criminal history of employees and prospective employees and conviction of certain offenses and for employment history review.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Jarrett Coleman (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

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- **SB1327** - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions; and, in membership, contributions and benefits, further providing for mandatory and optional membership in the system and participation in the plan.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Camera Bartolotta (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/07/2026 - Referred to Senate Education

Click on the link below for the full Education Recap.

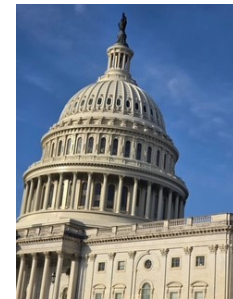
EDUCATION RECAP

[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 and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Announce First Grant Competitions Under Family Engagement and School Support Partnership



Today, the U.S. Departments of Education and Health and Human Services issued the Fiscal Year 2026 competitions for the Ready to Learn Program and the Promise Neighborhoods Program.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Newsroom, Press Release, May 8, 2026.

Trump Holds Back \$2 Billion for Education Grants. What Will Happen Next?

The White House office that oversees federal spending is withholding more than \$2 billion Congress approved in February for more than 30 separate K-12 and higher education programs—all of which the Trump administration has repeatedly proposed to eliminate.

[Click here](#) for the full article. (Subscription may be required.)
Source: *Education Week*, May 6, 2026.

Presidential Physical Fitness Award is back as Trump revives annual fitness test in US schools

President Donald Trump on Tuesday revived the Presidential Physical Fitness Award as part of his push to return an annual physical fitness test to America's schools.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *ABC6 Action News / AP*, May 5, 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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The Pennsylvania Principals Association - 122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025
717-732-4999 - www.paprincipals.org

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