

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

What time do polls open and close Tuesday in Pa.? All the information you need for primary election day 2026.



Pennsylvania's 2026 primary election is here.

Democrats and Republicans are selecting candidates for governor, lieutenant governor, U.S. House, and state House and Senate. Across the state there may also be local ballot questions, depending on where you live.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Spotlight PA*, May 19, 2026.

State Update



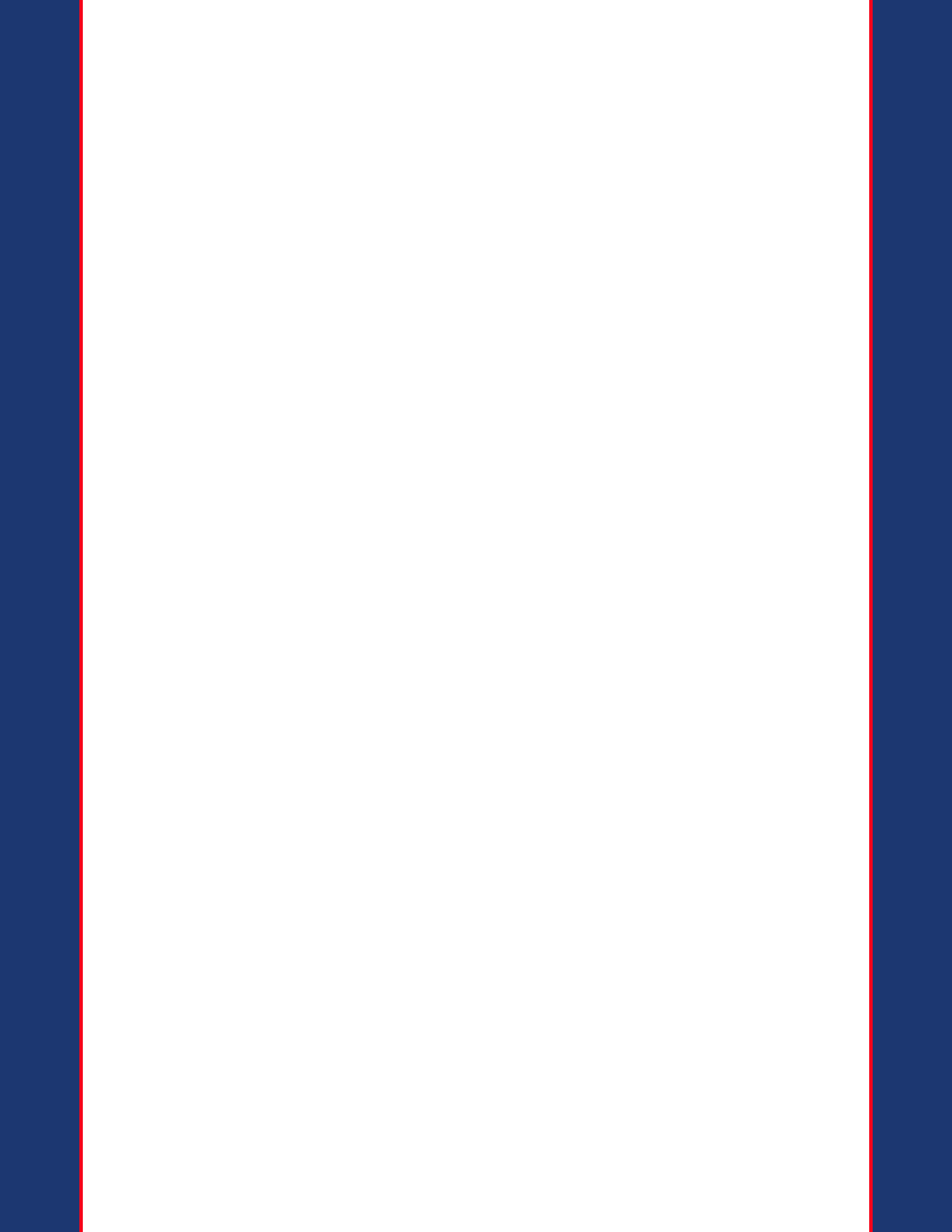
The House and Senate are recessed for the remainder of May and will reconvene on Monday, June 1, with the state budget expected to take center stage for the General Assembly.

House Bill 41 Playoffs and Championships Update and Call to Action

House Bill 41 of 2025 introduces a new format for athletic playoffs and championships. By permitting PIAA to investigate the possibility of separate playoffs and championships for boundary vs. non-boundary schools. This is a topic that will have significant impact, especially on our secondary school administrators. *The message below invites us to be represented in the State Capitol in support of HB41.*

We have important work ahead of us with the PA Senate, but *the momentum is undeniable*. You can truly feel the growing support for House Bill 41 by [watching this short two-minute video](#). Likewise, we also need a strong presence in the **Capitol Rotunda on June 9, 2026, at 1 p.m.** *If you are able to join us*, we would greatly appreciate your support.

Please share this call to action (below) with your friends, colleagues, and networks. Truly, every voice and every person will make the difference. Together, we are building something meaningful, and **your continued commitment** is what drives this movement forward.



The Capitol Call for PIAA Playoff Reform



Event Logistics



June 9th at 1:00 PM
Join stakeholders for this critical call to action.



**The Rotunda,
Pennsylvania State
Capitol**
501 N. 3rd Street,
Harrisburg, PA 17120.



**Representatives,
Media, and Public**
Inviting all school district
leaders and community
members to attend.

The Mission for Reform



Support House Bill 41
Legislative action to reform
PIAA playoff structures.



**Boundary vs. Non-
Boundary Separation**
Establishing a clear
distinction between school
types in playoff brackets.



**Championing
Competitive Equity**
Ensuring a fair post-season
environment for all
student-athletes.

Three Important PDE Updates

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is sharing three important updates below. Please share with your staff as appropriate.

- **1. FAFSA Opt-Out Form:** PDE anticipates posting the FAFSA Opt-Out form on its website by the end of May 2026. Additional guidance and implementation resources will be made available concurrently to support school entities in meeting the requirements of Act 47 of 2025. A Dear Colleague email sent on February 6, 2026, provides additional information regarding the Universal FAFSA Completion Requirement.
- **2. Enrollment of Students Basic Education Circular (BEC):** The updated BEC is now available on the Department's website - [Enrollment of Students | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#). This BEC has been updated to reflect the changes in statute established by Act 47 of 2025. Among the changes, the Proof of Residency section has been specifically revised to a list of ten acceptable documents for residency verification. These include:
 - A current deed;
 - A mortgage statement (no more than three months old);
 - An active residential lease agreement;
 - A utility bill (no more than three months old);
 - An internet bill (no more than three months old);
 - A credit card bill (no more than three months old);
 - A bank statement (no more than three months old);
 - A tax bill (no more than three months old);
 - An insurance document (no more than three months old); or
 - A piece of mail sent in the past three months by the federal or state government such as benefits information, voter registration, or tax documents

Furthermore, the [Cyber Charter School Enrollment and Residency Verification Form](#) has been updated to align with the standards of the Student Enrollment BEC. This ensures consistency across schools and streamlines the process for Pennsylvania families.

- **3. School Immunization Requirements Basic Education Circular (BEC):** The updated BEC is now available on the Department's website - [School Immunization Requirements | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#).

This BEC update is intended to provide additional clarity and address common questions regarding immunization requirements for students enrolled in public schools, private schools, other nonpublic schools, and home education programs.

While recommendations on immunization requirements may be made at the federal level, the authority to establish immunization

requirements for school enrollment in Pennsylvania remains with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH).

Importantly, after review, there are no changes to Pennsylvania's immunization requirements for school attendance. The revisions in the BEC are limited to clarifying existing requirements and providing guidance to support consistent implementation across school entities.

The BEC addresses several frequently asked questions related to DOH immunization regulations, including:

- Whether students who have not completed the full series of required immunizations may attend school while completing the series;
- Whether compulsory attendance laws allow school entities to compel immunization for students who are excluded from attendance; and
- Whether students excluded from school due to non-immunization may be counted for purposes of state subsidy.

Questions regarding immunization requirements should be directed to the DOH Division of Immunizations at 717-787-5681.

Historic Investments in Public Education and Career Readiness Programs Under Governor Shapiro Are Fueling Innovation and Partnerships Among Coalition of 47 Pittsburgh Area School Districts

Governor Josh Shapiro's historic investments in Pennsylvania's public schools and programs that prepare students for in-demand jobs are showing results in Pittsburgh, where a coalition of 47 area school districts hosted **Department of Education (PDE) Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe** and **Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) Secretary Nancy A. Walker** today to show how state dollars and community partnerships are helping more Pennsylvanians chart their own course to success.

[Click here](#) for full release.

Source: PA Department of Education, Newsroom, Press Release, May 14, 2026.

Shapiro signs Greg Moyer's Law to require CPR training, AEDs for scholastic athletics

Pennsylvania schools are now required to offer CPR training to staff and have an automated external defibrillator at all PIAA events. These provisions are part of Senate Bill 375, signed into law Wednesday by Gov. Josh Shapiro (D).

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: ABC27 News, May 13, 2026.

Forum shows teacher shortage impacting region as educators leave profession

Pennsylvania faces a teacher shortage crisis that needs immediate solutions. That was one of the messages at the 21st annual Indicators forum hosted by The Institute on Tuesday morning at Mohegan Pennsylvania.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *Scranton Times-Tribune*, May 12, 2026.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **HB2513** - *An Act amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.343, No.176), known as The Fiscal Code, in general budget implementation, further providing for Commonwealth Financing Authority.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Robert F. Matzie (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/13/2026 - Referred to House Education
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- **HB2522** - *An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in sales and use tax, further providing for exclusions from tax.*
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Marla Brown (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/14/2026 - Introduced
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- **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:** 05/13/2026 - Act No. 17 of 2026
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- **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:** 05/08/2026 - Discussed during public hearing Senate Institutional Sustainability and Innovation

Click on the link below for the full Education Recap.

EDUCATION RECAP

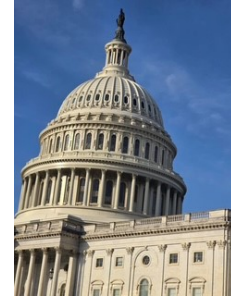
[Click here](#) for more.

(A weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government.)

Federal Update

President Trump pushes major changes at Department of Education

President Donald Trump is pushing sweeping changes to the U.S. Department of Education, reviving his long-standing goal of shrinking — and ultimately abolishing — the agency. The effort, led alongside Education Secretary Linda McMahon, is reigniting debate over federal oversight, government spending, and the future of public education in America.



[Click here](#) for the full story.
Source: ABCNews, May 15, 2026.

Trump's K-12 Leader: Let's Improve Assessment Without Sacrificing Accountability

We know that parents are the best advocates for their child's education. But for too long, our education system has failed to give families a clear answer about how their child is doing in school.

[Click here](#) for the full article. *(Subscription may be required.)*
Source: Education Week, May 15, 2026.

3 takeaways from McMahon hearing on Ed Dept priorities

U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon, during a House hearing on Thursday, touted federal K-12 initiatives such as state block grants for reading and math achievement, even as Democrats pushed back on her agency's record to date.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: K-12 DIVE, May 14, 2026.

Education Department shuts Office of English Language Acquisition

The U.S. Department of Education shuttered the Office of English Language Acquisition on Thursday, over a year after **gutting its staff to just one**. The office reportedly had around 15 employees.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: K-12 DIVE, May 14, 2026.

Secretary McMahon Announces \$144M Boost for Students with Disabilities

[Today], U.S. Secretary of Education Linda McMahon announced a new \$144 million investment by the Trump Administration to help states expand proven interventions that support students with disabilities. These funds will be awarded this year for state and local agencies to use for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) programs.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Press Release, May 13, 2026.

U.S. Department of Education Announces Grant Competition to Empower States Through a Reimagined Comprehensive Centers Program

[Today], the U.S. Department of Education (ED) issued the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 competition for the Comprehensive Centers Program, reaffirming the Trump Administration's commitment to return education to the states by positioning educational authority closer to the communities, educators, and students they serve.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Press Release, May 12, 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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