

# 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.

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### ***With teens' input, Pa. AG shares social media recommendations for families and lawmakers***

Attorney General Dave Sunday's office released a 20-page report this week that compiled social media guidance for families, schools, social media companies and lawmakers. The recommendations come after a series of conversations with teens across Pennsylvania that took place over the course of the current school year.

[Click here](#) for full article. ([teenTALK report](#).)

Source: 90.5 WESA, May 22, 2026.

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### ***26 PA School Districts Receive Special Education Grants***

- ***Shapiro Administration Announces Grants to 26 Schools Preparing High School Students for Careers as Special Education Teachers***
- [Today], **Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe** announced the Shapiro Administration's latest investment in programs that strengthen Pennsylvania's pipeline of highly qualified teachers. With more than \$510,000 in grants to 26

schools, the Developing Future Special Educators program will give more than 800 Pennsylvania high school students early exposure to a career as a Special Education teacher and opportunities to earn college credits before graduating from high school.

- [Click here](#) for full release.
- **Source:** *PA Department of Education Newsroom, Press Release, May 22, 2026.*
  
- ***Pa. districts receive thousands in state grants to encourage special ed careers***
- The Pennsylvania Department of Education will award grants to 26 schools to encourage students interested in careers in special education.
- [Click here](#) for full article.
- **Source:** *PennLive, May 22, 2026.*

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## ***Shapiro Administration Appoints New State Librarian of Pennsylvania***

Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe today announced that **effective May 30, 2026, Pennsylvania's new Deputy Secretary of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries (OCL) and State Librarian will be Heather Sharpe**, upon the retirement of current Deputy Secretary and State Librarian Susan Banks.

[Click here](#) for full article.

**Source:** *PA Department of Education Newsroom, Press Release, May 22, 2026.*

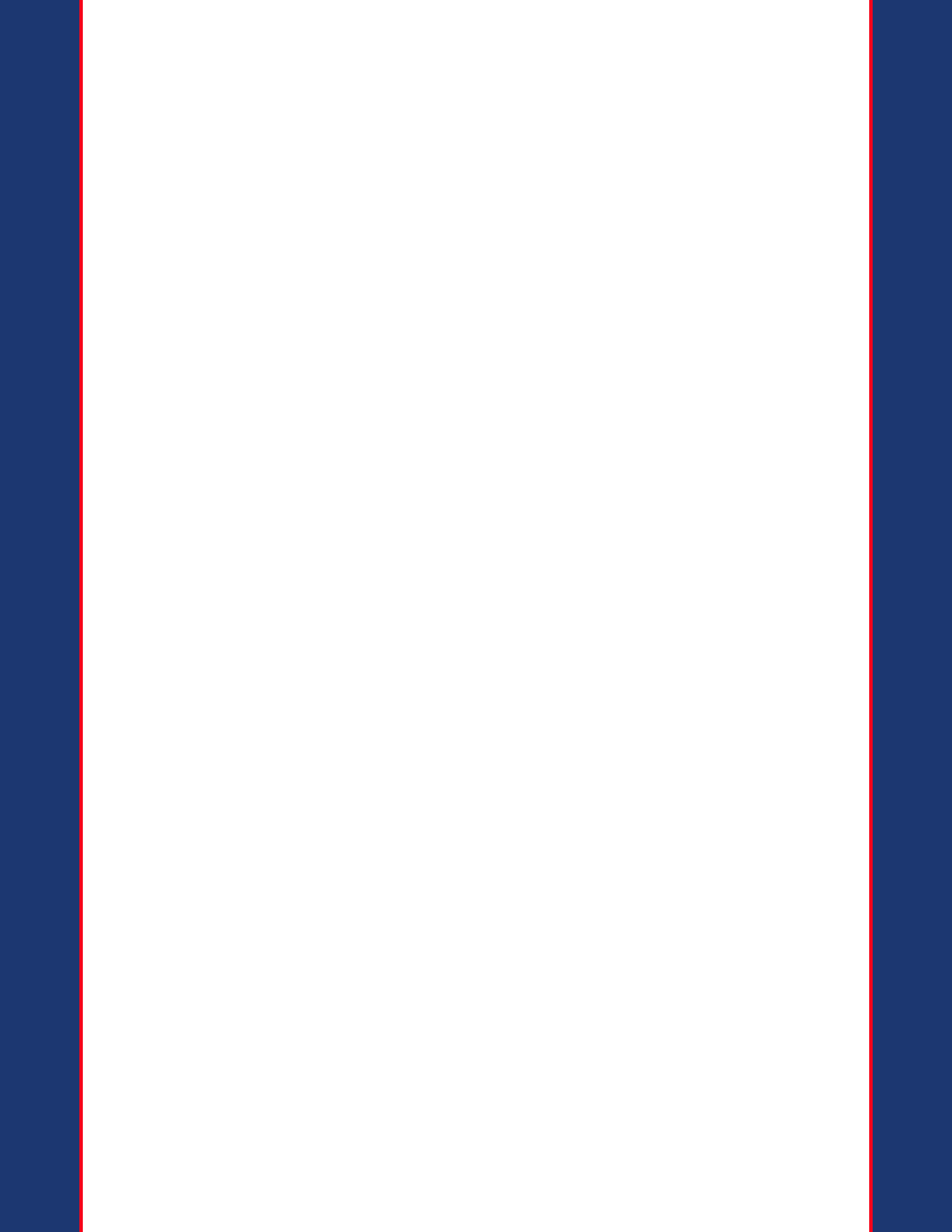
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## ***House Bill 41 Playoffs and Championships Update and Call to Action***

**[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.

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## ***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.**

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## **BASIC BILL ACTIONS**

- **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:** 05/20/2026 - Referred to House Finance

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- **HB2523** - *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. Ann Flood (R)
  - **Action Taken:** 05/20/2026 - Referred to House Finance

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- **HB2527** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in early learning programs, further providing for definitions.*
  - **Sponsor:** Rep. Justin C. Fleming (D)
  - **Action Taken:** 05/21/2026 - Referred to House Children and Youth

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- **SB1340** - *An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for publication of rules,*

regulations and policies; and, in pupils and attendance, further providing for home education program.

- **Sponsor: Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/20/2026 - Referred to Senate Education**

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- **SB1341** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for community-engaged schools; establishing the Community-Engaged School for Success Pilot Program; and imposing duties on the Department of Education.
  - **Sponsor: Sen. Wayne Langerholc (R)**
  - **Action Taken: 05/20/2026 - Referred to Senate Education**

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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**

### ***Pressure mounts for Ed Dept to release research funds***

The U.S. Department of Education is under pressure from K-12 and college groups, as well as a bipartisan group of U.S. senators to release nearly \$300 million in funding for education research.



**[Click here](#)** for the full article.  
**Source: K-12 DIVE, May 22, 2026.**

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### ***The U.S. Education Department fired thousands of workers. Now, it's on a hiring spree***

President Donald Trump's plans to close the U.S. Department of Education have run headlong into an awkward reality: The agency does important work that still needs doing.

**[Click here](#)** for the full article.  
**Source: NPR, May 21, 2026.**

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### ***White House Blocks \$2 Billion for Education: See All the Affected Programs***

The Trump administration is using an obscure and typically routine federal budget procedure to withhold more than \$2 billion for education that Congress approved in February.

**[Click here](#)** for the full article. *(Subscription may be required.)*

Source: *Education Week*, May 21, 2026.

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## ***National Assessment Governing Board to restore previously cut NAEP exams***

The National Assessment Governing Board is restoring part of its original schedule for the National Assessment of Educational Progress after cuts that were made last year due to a pared down staff and shifting resource allocations.

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

Source: *K-12 DIVE*, May 21, 2026.

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## ***Supreme Court to determine if school employees can sue under Title IX***

The 11th U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in 2024 that Title IX's right to sue doesn't apply to college staff, diverging from similar rulings by at least eight other appeals courts.

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

Source: *K-12 DIVE*, May 19, 2026.

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## ***Senate Days Are Numbered for Top Republican Charged With Ed. Dept. Oversight***

The Republican who leads the U.S. Senate panel that oversees the U.S. Department of Education is entering his final months in office after losing his primary election battle this past weekend.

[Click here](#) for the full article. (*Subscription may be required.*)

Source: *Education Week*, May 18, 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.\*\*](#)

[\*\*FIND YOUR STATE LEGISLATORS\*\*](#)

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



The Pennsylvania Principals Association - 122 Valley Road - Enola, PA 17025  
717-732-4999 - [www.papprincipals.org](http://www.papprincipals.org)

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