

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

Both the House and the Senate returned to Harrisburg on Monday, June 1, to begin work on the state budget ahead of the June 30 deadline.



Act 93 Bill Advances Through House Education Committee After Years of PA Principals Association Efforts

After five years of diligent advocacy by the PA Principals Association, legislation to amend Act 93 has reached a major milestone. Yesterday, **HB 2544 (Rep. Paul Takac, D)** was passed by the House Education Committee with a vote of 25-2. HB 2544 amends the Public School Code of 1949 and updates provisions related to compensation plans for school administrators.

The bill's advancement from committee reflects years of dedicated work by the PA Principals Association, which played a key role in both advocating for these changes and formulating the key language of the legislation.

Stay tuned for further updates as HB 2544 continues through the legislative process.

Pennsylvania House passes school cellphone ban

A cellphone ban in Pennsylvania schools looks more likely next year.

On Monday, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed [a bill](#) banning cellphones in all K-12 schools across the state. Schools will get to decide how the policy looks at the classroom level, but the bill requires a bell-to-bell ban, meaning students can't use their phones on school grounds the entire day, including during homeroom, lunch and recess, except in some circumstances.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *ABC27 WHTM*, June 1, 2026.

Lawmakers return to Capitol with state budget deadline looming

Lawmakers return to the Capitol Monday to begin the June session, leading up to the end of the month deadline to pass a state budget.

The state's financial condition has improved slightly since Gov. Josh Shapiro released his \$53.2 billion budget but not enough to overcome concerns of Republican lawmakers who say Shapiro's plan spends far more than it brings in and would force the state to raid its savings.

[Click here](#) for full article. (*Free State Affairs signup is required.*)

Source: *State Affairs / Capitol Wire*, June 1, 2026.

While more Pennsylvania students are completing teacher-prep programs, educator shortages persist

The number of students completing teacher-preparation programs in Pennsylvania has modestly increased since 2019, although those gains aren't spread equally across the state.

A [new analysis of state data](#) from the coalition PA Needs Teachers looks at the number of students completing teacher prep programs in each county.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *90.5 WESA*, June 1, 2026.

Thousands of retired Pennsylvania educators receive frozen pensions

State workers and school district employees got huge increases to their pensions thanks to Act 9 of 2001, but there was no bump for those who retired before then.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *ABC27 WHTM*, May 28, 2026.

PA districts receive thousands in state grants to encourage special ed careers

Education Secretary Carrie Rowe announced the awards as part of the Developing Future Special Educators program. The Shapiro administration awarded more than \$1.4 million to 77 school groups in 2024.

[Click here](#) for full article.

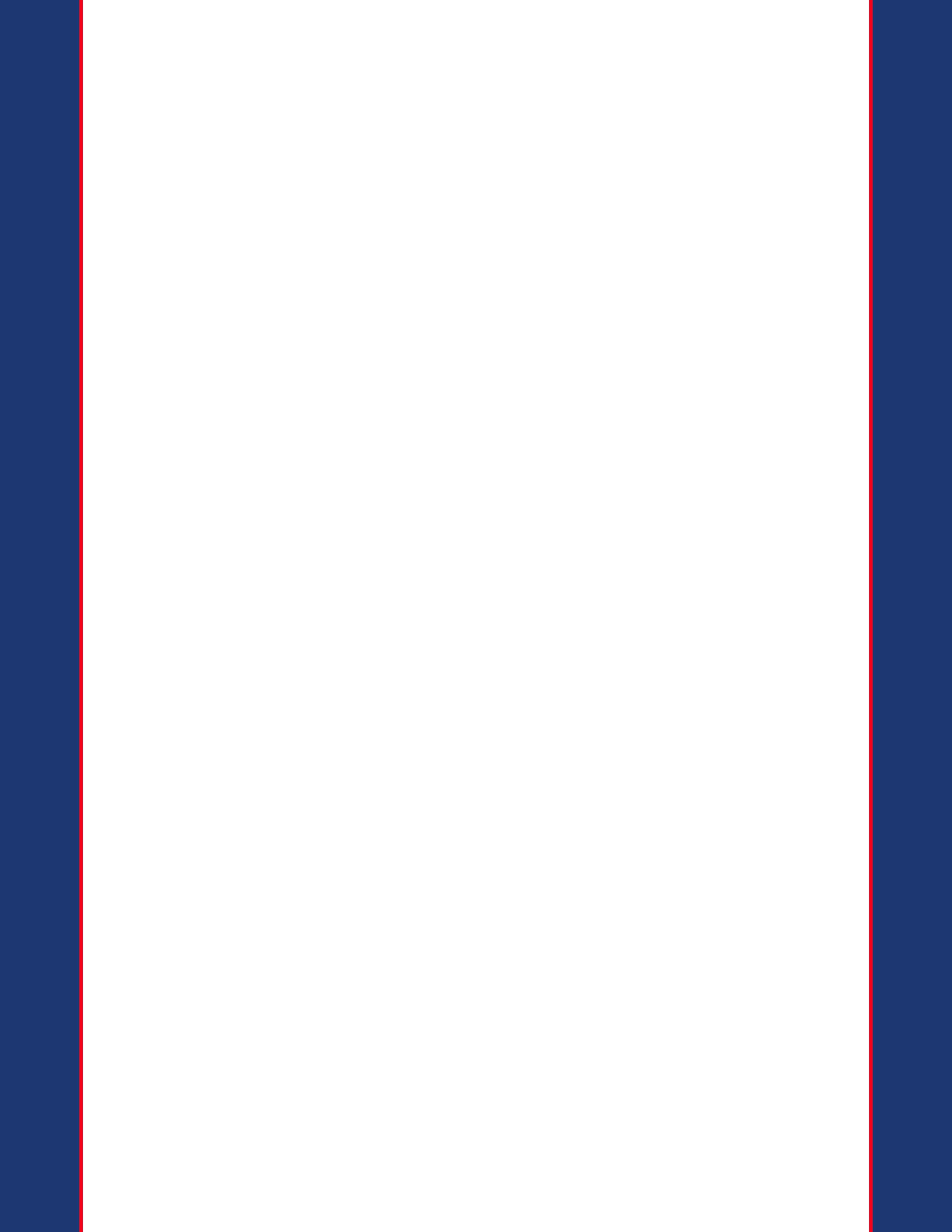
Source: *PennLive*, May 22, 2026.

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.

BASIC BILL ACTIONS

- **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:** Meeting Scheduled - 06/02/2026, 10:00 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 205, Ryan Office Building
-
- **HB2531** - An Act amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in obstructing governmental operations, further providing for disarming law enforcement officer.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Marc S. Anderson (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/27/2026 - Referred to House Judiciary
-
- **HB2541** - An Act amending the act of March 4, 1971 (P.L.6, No.2), known as the Tax Reform Code of 1971, in tax credit and tax benefit administration, further providing for definitions; and providing for Keystone Literacy Investment Tax Credit.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Jason Ortity (R)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/27/2026 - Referred to House Education
-
- **HB2544** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, in professional employees, further providing for compensation plans for school administrators.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Paul Takac (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 06/02/2026 - Voted Favorably From Committee House Education 06/02/2026 - Re-committed to House Rules
-
- **HR543** - A Resolution directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to carry out a performance audit on public school policies and procedures related to the amount of screen time students are allowed during the school day.
 - **Sponsor:** Rep. Mandy Steele (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/28/2026 - Referred to House Education
-
- **SB1343** - 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, establishing the Commission for Career and Technical Education Excellence and further providing for career and technical education equipment grants; and, in community colleges, providing for building and construction trades pre-apprenticeship initiatives and establishing the Building and Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Grant Program.
 - **Sponsor:** Sen. Lisa M. Boscola (D)
 - **Action Taken:** 05/26/2026 - Referred to Senate Education
-
- **SB1348** - 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 work to be done under contract let on bids and

exception; and, in books, furniture and supplies, further providing for purchase of supplies.

- **Sponsor: Sen. Daniel Laughlin (R)**
- **Action Taken: 05/26/2026 - 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

Education is no longer a 'professional degree.' What will the ripple effects be?

When Azaria Cunningham was pursuing a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction at Pennsylvania State University almost two years ago, she said she had to visit food pantries even as she relied on federal student loans to attain her advanced education degree.



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

Source: K-12 DIVE, May 29, 2026.

Feds Issue a Slimmed-Down Data Release on U.S. Schools

U.S. states spent on average \$20,000 per student in 2024, according to the latest federal data, one of the top findings in a significantly pared-down annual compendium of education data released by the U.S. Department of Education [this week].

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

Source: Education Week, May 29, 2026.

School meal participation at risk from SNAP cuts, FRAC reports

Nearly three quarters — 74% — of school districts are concerned about the effect on school meals from looming federal budget cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid, according to a report released May 27 **[by the Food Research & Action Center](#)**.

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

Source: K-12 DIVE, May 29, 2026.

Ed Dept wants to end some IDEA data collections. How did stakeholders respond?

A U.S. Department of Education proposal to remove certain data collections for racial disparities in special education has drawn opposition from special education organizations, disability rights advocacy groups and a coalition of state attorneys general.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *K-12 DIVE*, May 28, 2026.

GOP advances legislation barring 'discriminatory equity or gender ideology'

The House advanced two bills last week that would restrict schools nationwide from classroom discussions and materials related to LGBTQ+ identities and race. If they become laws, they would codify President Donald Trump's controversial executive orders.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *K-12 DIVE*, May 28, 2026.

Both sides of the political aisle are now calling for screen time limits

President Donald Trump and American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten rarely agree, but both leaders are now advising against excessive screen time among children. These warnings echo a common worry among superintendents and parents.

[Click here](#) for the full article.
Source: *District Administration*, May 26, 2026.

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

Too much screen use among kids and teens – including endless social media scrolling, nonstop texting and hours of video games – can be harmful, and it has become a public health concern in the United States, according to a surgeon general's advisory released [Wednesday].

[Click here](#) for the full article. (*Subscription may be required.*)
Source: *Education Week*, May 21, 2026.

New surgeon general's advisory raises alarm about screen time risks for kids and teens

Too much screen use among kids and teens – including endless social media scrolling, nonstop texting and hours of video games – can be harmful, and it has become a public health concern in the United States, according to a surgeon general's advisory released [Wednesday].

[Click here](#) for the full article. [Click here](#) for the issued advisory.
Source: *CNN*, May 20, 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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