

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

State Update

Education policy remained a focal point during the first week of June as lawmakers in both chambers advanced a number of legislative initiatives. The House Education Committee approved several noteworthy proposals and sent them to the full House for further consideration. Meanwhile, the House also passed multiple education-related measures, continuing their progress through the legislative process.



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. On June 2, **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.

The bill was recommitted to the House Rules Committee last week.

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

PA Cellphone ban legislation

- ***PA law would restrict cellphones in schools. Pittsburgh already bans them***
- If Pennsylvania sees statewide **restrictions on cellphones** in schools, would anything change in Pittsburgh? It's too early to say for sure. On June 1, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives passed legislation that would require school districts to adopt phone restrictions, leaving the details of the exact policy's implementation up to individual districts, according to **USA TODAY**.
- **Click here** for full article.
- **Source: USA Today Network, June 5, 2026.**

- ***PA House passes school cellphone ban***
- The bill, sponsored by Rep. Mandy Steele (D-Allegheny), applies to both public and private schools, and allows exceptions for students with individualized learning plans, medical needs, language barriers or family members with documented medical conditions.
- **Click here** for full article.
- **Source: PA Capital-Star, June 1, 2026.**

Budget talks underway as PA annual deadline approaches

Pennsylvania's annual budget deadline approaches, and leading lawmakers say negotiations are ongoing. Whether a budget for 2026-27 is adopted by the June 30 deadline remains to be seen. Each of the past four budgets has been adopted late, and a missed budget deadline is something that has occurred more often than not across the past two decades.

Click here for full article.

Source: Allied News/CNHI News, June 4, 2026.

House greenlights AI safety education effort

Legislation to direct the Office of Attorney General to conduct a public education campaign about artificial intelligence and to improve AI consumer literacy in Pennsylvania overwhelmingly passed the House today (198-3), said the bill's prime sponsors, House Communications & Technology Committee chairs Reps. Joe Ciresi, D-Montgomery, and Jason Ortitay, R-Washington/Allegheny.

Click here for full article.

Source: PA House Democrats, Southeast Delegation, June 3, 2026.

Pa. House unanimously approves Rusnock bill to modernize Career and Technical Education programs

State Rep. Jacklyn Rusnock, D-Berks, announced that her bill to help schools update and strengthen their workforce training opportunities for students unanimously passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives today.

[Click here](#) for full article.

Source: *PA House Democrats*, June 3, 2026.

Preparing Today's Students for Tomorrow's Jobs: Shapiro Administration Awards \$4.3 Million in Grants to 54 Pennsylvania Schools Offering Career and Technical Education Programs

Building on the Shapiro Administration's track record of helping more Pennsylvania students discover their passions and earn valuable credentials before graduating from high school, **Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe** today announced **\$4.3 million** in grants to **54 Pennsylvania schools** through the Competitive Equipment Grants program to help with the purchase of new equipment for approved career and technical education (CTE) programs that prepare students for in-demand jobs.

[Click here](#) for full release.

Source: *PA Department of Education Newsroom, Press Release*, June 2, 2026.

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:** 06/01/2026 - Third consideration and final passage

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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. Mandy Steele (D)**
 - **Action Taken:** 06/01/2026 - Third consideration and final passage
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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: 06/02/2026 - Re-committed to House Rules**
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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: 06/03/2026 - Third consideration and final passage**
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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: 06/03/2026 - Third consideration and final passage**
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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: 06/02/2026 - Third consideration and final passage**
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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: 06/02/2026 - Third consideration and final passage**
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- **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 - Re-committed to House Rules**
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- **HB2552** - 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 temporary waiver.
 - **Sponsor: Rep. Aerion Abney (D)**
 - **Action Taken: 05/29/2026 - Referred to House Education**
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- **HB2556** - An Act amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in general provisions relating to traffic-control devices, providing for automated road safety monitoring systems.

- **Sponsor:** Rep. Gina H. Curry (D)
- **Action Taken:** 05/29/2026 - Referred to House Transportation

- **HB2594** - 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 attendance policy at charter, regional charter and cyber charter schools, for excuses from attending school, for procedure when child is truant, for procedure by school when child habitually truant and for penalties for violating compulsory school attendance requirements.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/03/2026 - Referred to House Education

- **HB2602** - 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 attendance policy at charter, regional charter and cyber charter schools; in charter schools, further providing for cyber charter school requirements and prohibitions and for enrollee wellness checks and providing for child protection and support plan; and imposing penalties.
- **Sponsor:** Rep. Peter Schweyer (D)
- **Action Taken:** 06/04/2026 - Meeting Scheduled - 06/10/2026, 9:30 AM - Voting Meeting (House Education), Room 140, Main Capitol

- **SB9** - An Act providing for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creating causes of action for harm suffered by designation.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. Judy Ward (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/02/2026 - Re-referred to House Health

- **SB128** - 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 online curriculum availability.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/03/2026 - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

- **SB378** - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions, providing for student data privacy and protection; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department of Education; and imposing penalties.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/03/2026 - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

- **SB402** - An Act amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, providing for administration of emergency anti-seizure medication.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. David G. Argall (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/03/2026 - Laid on the table (Pursuant to Senate Rule 9)

- **SB982** - An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, providing for basic education and bullying and cyberbullying prevention and response.
- **Sponsor:** Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
- **Action Taken:** 06/03/2026 - Press Conference Held - Rally for Jonny's Law

Click on the link below for the full Education Recap.

EDUCATION RECAP

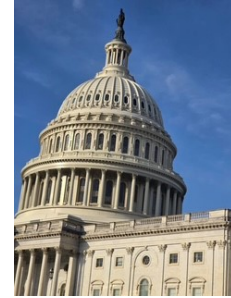
Click here for more.

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

Federal Update

Chairman Cassidy, Hassan Colleagues Introduce Historic Bill to Improve Child Literacy

U.S. Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Chairman of the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jim Banks (R-IN), John Hickenlooper (D-CO), Tim Scott (R-SC), and Mark Kelly (D-AZ) introduced the Reading Excellence and Achievement for Development (READ) Act to improve all children's ability to read, empowering them to achieve the American Dream.



Click here for the full release.

Source: U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP), News Release, June 8, 2026.

Congress is working on a new K-12 budget. See what's proposed for key programs

Congress has kicked off negotiations over the federal budget, and lawmakers are poised to clash over whether and how much to cut education investments for the 2027-28 school year.

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

Source: Education Week, June 5, 2026.

FCC announces 'top-to-bottom' review of E-Rate

The U.S. Federal Communications Commission announced Wednesday that it is conducting a "top-to-bottom" evaluation of its \$3 billion annual E-Rate program that supports internet access for schools and libraries. The FCC is considering reforming or ending the three-decade program altogether as part of its review, according to Reuters.

Click here for the full article.

Source: K-12 DIVE, June 3, 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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