



**DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
January 31, 2025**

Session Information

At 12:51 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, February 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, the Senate stands recessed until Monday, February 3, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

Session Days

| Month | House | Senate |
|-----------|--|--|
| February | 3, 4, 5 | 3, 4, 5 |
| March | 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26 | 24, 25, 26, 31 |
| April | 7, 8, 9, 22, 23, 24 | 1, 2 |
| May | 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 | 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 |
| June | 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 | 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 |
| July | | |
| August | | |
| September | 22 (NV), 23 (NV), 24 (NV), 29, 30 | |
| October | 1, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29 | |
| November | 17, 18, 19 | |
| December | 8 (NV), 9 (NV), 10 (NV), 15, 16, 17 | |

Upcoming Meetings, Hearings, and Press Conferences

- MONDAY – 02/03/2025**
 10:00 a.m., Main Capitol Room 140 and [live-stream](#)
House Education Committee Meeting
 Informational meeting on Future Ready PA Index and Student Outcomes
- TUESDAY – 02/04/2025**
 Gov. Josh Shapiro’s fiscal year 2025-2026 state budget address.
- MONDAY – 02/24/2025**
 10:00 a.m., House Appropriations
Budget Hearing, House Floor
 Budget hearing with the Department of Education (PDE)

1:00 p.m., House Appropriations
Budget Hearing, House Floor

Submitted by Rebecca Smith, Coordinator of Innovation, Partnerships, and Special Projects. Sources: PLS, PA General Assembly, Capitolwire, PASA, PSBA)

Budget hearing with the Department of Education (PDE)

- **WEDNESDAY – 02/26/2025**

9:30 a.m., Senate Appropriations

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Budget Hearing with the Department of Education (PDE)

1:00 p.m., Senate Appropriations

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Budget Hearing with the Department of Education (PDE) continued

- **THURSDAY – 03/06/2025**

9:30 a.m., Senate Appropriations

Budget Hearing, Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Budget hearing with the Governor’s Budget Office/Executive Offices

1:00 p.m., House Appropriations

Budget Hearing, House Floor

Budget hearing with the Governor’s Office of the Budget/Executive Offices

News and Updates

- **How will Trump’s order prioritizing school choice affect Pennsylvania?** Amid an ongoing flurry of executive actions, President Donald Trump signed an order Wednesday prioritizing school choice, a campaign-trail talking point aligned with conservative efforts to expand public funding for private education. Trump’s order directed the federal Department of Education to issue guidance to states on how to use federal funding to support K-12 scholarship programs. The order also directed the department to prioritize school choice programs through discretionary grant programs, and directed the defense secretary to submit a plan for how military families could use federal funds for school choice.

*Read the rest of the story: [“How will Trump’s order prioritizing school choice affect Pennsylvania?”](#) (from *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 01/29/2025)*

- **Pennsylvania denies AI cyber charter school application.** Pennsylvania Department of Education issued a scathing denial on Wednesday [January 29, 2025] for a controversial cyber charter school built around artificial intelligence. The department determined the application for Unbound Academy “provided no evidence of sustainable support” for the school and it “lacks the capability, in terms of both support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students” and “fails to substantiate that it will serve as a model for other public schools,” among other concerns.

*Read the rest of the story: [“Pennsylvania denies AI cyber charter school application”](#) (from *Chalkbeat Philadelphia*, 01/29/2025)*

- **Which Federal Programs Are Under Scrutiny? The Budget Office Named 2,600 of Them.** A Trump administration memo sent to U.S. federal agencies Monday [January 27, 2025] night ordered temporary freezes in funding for programs across the government. It caused widespread confusion among agency officials and organizations that rely on federal support, including states, schools, hospitals, and other nonprofits. The order, temporarily blocked by a federal judge as it was set to go into effect, was circulated alongside a spreadsheet of about 2,600 programs now under review, spanning virtually every federal initiative that distributes money – even some, like Medicare, that officials said would not be affected. Below is a list of all those programs, identified by the Office of Management and Budget for examination...
*Read the rest of the story: “[Which Federal Programs Are Under Scrutiny? The Budget Office Named 2,600 of Them](#)” (from *The New York Times*, 01/28/2025)*
- **Pennsylvania State Education Association: With \$13 million in student teacher stipends paid, Student PSEA members praise ‘life changing’ program.** More than \$13 million in stipends have been paid to 1,302 student teachers in Pennsylvania as of Jan. 9, and another 839 student teachers are on track to receive stipends before the end of the 2024-25 school year, according to data from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). The Student Teacher Support Program, which went into effect at the beginning of the current school year, provides \$10,000 stipends to eligible aspiring educators while they perform their full-time student teaching experience. The eligible teachers, in turn, agree to work as teachers at schools within Pennsylvania for at least three years.
Read the rest of the story: “[With \\$13 million in student teacher stipends paid...](#)” (from PSEA, 01/27/2025)
- **Pa. school test scores continue post-Covid uptick, but results are uneven.** Standardized test scores in Pennsylvania are continuing their post-Covid rebound, according to the state, although the recovery is uneven. With the 2025 tests about three months away, last year’s results show that generally math and science scores are improving from a pandemic slump, while English scores remain depressed.
*Read the rest of the story: “[Pa. school test scores...](#)” (from *Penn Live*, 01/28/2025)*
- **The poorest schools in Pa. got an extra \$500M last year. Is more money on the way?** Last summer, Pennsylvania lawmakers passed a budget that acknowledged a roughly \$4.5 billion “adequacy gap” to properly fund the commonwealth’s poorest schools, and pledged to fill it using state dollars. They put \$500 million toward the goal in that budget. Now, as a new legislative session begins, funding advocates want to make sure officials don’t drag their feet to cover the rest.
*Read the rest of the story: “[The poorest schools in Pa...](#)” (from *Spotlight PA*, 01/14/2025)*

Administrative Actions

- **Quote and Bid Thresholds:** The Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry [published](#) revised monetary thresholds, based on increases in the consumer price index, that require quotes and competitive bidding for procurement under the Public School Code. Effective January 1, 2025,

the quote threshold rose to \$12,900 and the bid threshold to \$23,800 for [purchases of supplies](#) and [construction maintenance projects](#) as defined by the School Code.

Litigation

- **Title IX:** On January 9, 2025, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Kentucky [vacated](#) the U.S. Department of Education’s 2024 final rule regarding sex discrimination under Title IX, including its provisions that sex discrimination includes discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Assuming the decision is not appealed (or that an appeal is filed by the Biden administration and withdrawn by the Trump administration), the effect of the court’s order is to restore the prior Title IX regulations regarding sex discrimination promulgated by the Trump administration in 2020. Note, however, that the [Pennsylvania Human Relations Act](#) prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in employment and public accommodations, including schools, and that Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission [regulations](#) define “sex” as including sexual orientation as well as gender identity and expression.

Legislative Actions

- **HB190: Addressing Eating Disorders in School, Rep. Jason Ortity, (R)**
Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing for eating disorder awareness and education. Requires a school entity to annually provide information regarding eating disorder awareness and education for pupils in grades six through 12 to parents, guardians and key school personnel. Mandates the information shall be consistent with the educational information and materials and recommendations established under this section. Provides the educational information to be provided to parents, guardians and key school personnel annually via email, first class mail or on the school entity’s publicly accessible website. Requires the department in conjunction with the Department of Health (DOH) to develop educational information and materials and make recommendations for providing information. Provides for the development of recommendations and for input from the Eating Disorders Advisory Committee which is established under this section. Provides duties for the secretary to establish the Eating Disorders Advisory Committee and appoint members from other entities. Mandates the members of the committee to serve without compensation. Establishes meeting times and educational information and materials and recommendations developed to be provided to school entities within one year after the establishment of the committee. Provides for the development of additions and revisions of regulations. Provides several definitions. Effective in 60 days.
01/15/2025 – Introduced
01/16/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
01/27/2025 – Voted Favorably from Committee as Amended
01/27/2025 – Reported as amended from House Education Committee
01/27/2025 – First consideration
01/27/2025 – Laid on the table
01/29/2025 – Second consideration
01/29/2025 – Recommitted to House Appropriations Committee
- **HB201: Allowing Intermediate Units to Own Facilities for Instructional Use (Formerly HB1526), Rep. Joe Ciresi (D) and Rep. Kristen Marcell (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in intermediate units, further providing for powers and duties of the intermediate unit board of directors to acquire land by purchase, lease or gift and for capital subsidy by stating all lease agreements, security agreements, loan agreements and mortgages or any other contacts to be approved by the Secretary of Education. Effective immediately.

01/23/2025 – Introduced

01/23/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

01/27/2025 – Voted Favorably from Committee

01/27/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education Committee

01/27/2025 – First consideration

01/27/2025 – Laid on the table

01/29/2025 – Second consideration

01/29/2025 – Re-committed to House Appropriations Committee

- **HR9: A Resolution designating the month of January 2025 as “School Director Recognition Month” in Pennsylvania, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)**

Resolution designating the month of January 2025 as "School Director Recognition Month" in Pennsylvania.

01/13/2025 – Introduced

01/14/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

01/27/2025 – Voted Favorably from Committee

01/27/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education Committee

01/29/2025 – Adopted (199-3)

New Legislation

- **HB17: Mandating Cursive Handwriting (Formerly HB1934), Rep. Dane Watro (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code. Provides for every elementary public and private school to teach writing in print, joined italics, and cursive handwriting. Allows the secretary of education to provide the teaching of subjects in a language other than English. Effective in 60 days.

01/08/2025 – Introduced

01/08/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB25: Extending School Budget Deadlines in State Budget Impasses, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in school finances, further provided for fiscal year and for tax levy and limitations. Revises the deadline to direct a school district that delays in the adoption of its annual budget to adopt an annual budget no later than 30 days after the enactment of legislation providing the appropriation for basic education funding to be paid as a reimbursement for the preceding year. Provides that in all school districts of the second, third, and fourth class, all school taxes shall be levied and assessed by the board of school directors therein, during the month of February, March, April, May, or June each year, extending the number of days to 25 days following the enactment of legislation providing the appropriation for basic education funding to be paid as a reimbursement for the preceding school year, for the ensuing fiscal year, except in districts of the second class where the fiscal year begins on the first day of January, in which the school taxes shall be levied and assessed during the month of October or November each year.

Effective in 60 days.

01/08/2025 – Introduced

01/08/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB46: Increasing Access to PreK for PA Kids, Rep. Tarik Khan (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for kindergartens to assert that the board of school directors in all school districts shall establish and maintain kindergartens, allowing districts to establish an age policy and directing them not to deny kindergarten to a child who is five years of age or older on the first day of the school year and adding a section to provide for pre-kindergarten programs; and, in pupils and attendance, further providing for age limits to be between the ages of five and 21 and for the definition of “compulsory school age” to mean between the ages of five and 17. Establishes that the number of kindergartens in any one district shall be fixed by the board of school directors and shall be open during the school year. Requires kindergartens to be available to all children residing in the school district who are of fixed age. Provides that kindergarten teachers shall be certified per the rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education. Asserts that the board of school directors in all school districts shall establish and maintain pre-kindergarten programs which shall be an integral part of the elementary school system and be kept open for not less than two and one-half hours each day for the full school year. Requires the board of school directors to appoint and assign teachers to the pre-kindergarten programs who shall be certified per the regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education. Effective in 90 days.

01/08/2025 – Introduced

01/10/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB51: Property Tax Pension Obligation Disclosure Act (Formerly HB215), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**

The Property Tax Pension Obligation Disclosure Act requires school districts to provide annual notice relating to certain pension and other post-employment benefit obligations; and provides for property disclosure statement for duty of State Real Estate Commission. Requires school districts to calculate the amount of unfunded pensions and other post-employment benefit obligations per \$100,000 of assessed residential property within the school district and make the information publicly available on the internet as well as in a footnote on the school district’s financial disclosures and in the notice of taxes. Specifies that a seller that intends to transfer an interest in real property shall disclose the results of the calculation as an item on the property disclosure form, which the commission will then revise the form of the property disclosure statement to include the results of the calculation as an item on the form and transmit it to the Legislative Reference Bureau for publication. Section 4 of this act shall be effective six months after publication of the notice under section 5. Section 6 shall be effective immediately. The remainder of this act shall be effective in 60 days.

01/08/2025 – Introduced

01/14/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB63: Exemption from In-Person School Safety and Security Drills (Formerly HB2613), Rep. Marla Brown (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in school safety and security, further providing for a cyber charter school to waive or provide an alternative training opportunity for any cyber charter school employee who exclusively provides instruction remotely. Repeals alternative training for cyber charter school employees that do not work within the commonwealth. Effective in 60 days.

01/09/2025 – Introduced

01/14/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB82: School Bus Driver Epinephrine Auto-injector Training and Grant Program (Former HB1950), Rep. Kristin Marcell (R)**

Amends Public School Code, in school health services, by establishing the School Bus Driver Epinephrine Auto-injector Training Grant Program within the Department of Education (PDE) in which a school entity may require a driver of a school bus or school vehicle who is employed by, or under a contract with, a school entity to transport students to complete training for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector prior to transporting students. Imposes duties on PDE. Specifies definitions. Effective in 60 days.

01/09/2025 – Introduced

01/14/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB130: Education Money to Follow the Child, Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R)**

Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution further providing for the maintenance and support of public education. Amends Article III, section 14 of the Pennsylvania Constitution requiring education spending to be allocated to individual students to attend the schools that fit the students' needs. Constitutional amendments require approval of two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

01/13/2025 – Introduced

01/16/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB158: Protect Women's Sports (Formerly HB216), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act provides for sport activities in public institutions of higher education and public school entities to be expressly designated male, female or coed; and creates causes of action for harms suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits an athletic team or sport designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Specifies that students are not restricted from participating in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designed for the student's sex or designated coed or mixed. Asserts that a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization may not entertain a complaint, open an investigation or take other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining a separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport for students of the female sex. Provides for cause of action, outlining deprivation of opportunity, retaliation, school's cause of action and limitation. Asserts that if part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Adds that if a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications. Effective in 60 days.

01/14/2025 – Introduced

01/17/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB191: Requiring AEDs at School Athletic Events, Rep. Tim Brennan (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, repealing provisions relating to cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) instructions; and, in school health services, repealing provisions relating to automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) and adding sections to provide for AED and CPR instruction and procedure, for Automated External Defibrillator Program and for availability and specifications of automated external defibrillators. Provides that a school entity shall provide certified instruction for CPR and AEDs to employees and volunteers at least once every two years and requires at least one adult certified in CPR and AED usage to be present in a school building at all times. Requires each school nurse or designee, coach of an athletic activity, marching band director, physical education teacher, athletic trainer and athletic training student aide within each school entity must participate in the instruction of and maintain certification in the use of an AED and CPR. Provides that each school entity must develop or amend existing cardiac emergency response plans to meet criteria outlined in section 1423.1(3)(e). Requires the Department of Education (PDE) to establish the Automatic External Defibrillator Program to ensure the presence of AEDs in eligible school entities under the program by issuing an invitation to bid for the cost of AEDs and other necessary equipment on a biennial basis. Provides that PDE, in consultation with the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), shall develop guidelines for the availability of AEDs at athletic activities. Provides several definitions. Effective immediately.

01/16/2025 – Introduced

01/16/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB192: Increasing Access to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses, Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in intermediate units, repealing provisions relating to psychological services; in professional employees, further providing for the definition of “professional employee” and adding a section to provide for school social workers; and, in school health services, further providing for health services and providing for school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers and school nurses. Asserts that a school entity that employs a school social worker must require the individual to hold an educational specialist certificate for school social workers issued by the Department of Education (PDE) unless otherwise specified by outlined exemptions. Requires PDE to develop an educational specialist certificate within 60 days of the effective date. Defines “school entity.” Provides that in cases where a student transfers from one school entity to another, the new school entity shall request the medical files of the student in which case the previous school entity must surrender the health record as well as provides that a school entity may not destroy health records for at least two years since the student was enrolled but may surrender health records to a parent/guardian upon request. Requires every student of school age shall be provided with school counseling, psychological, social work and school nursing services by an individual employed by the school entity who meets the qualification requirements for the position as established by the General Assembly or PDE within the appropriate specified ratios. Provides several definitions. Effective in 60 days.

01/15/2025 – Introduced

01/16/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB203: Making Veterans Day a School Holiday, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for days schools not to be kept open to include Veterans' Day and for additional holidays and vacations to remove language stating that the board of school directors shall require that each school within such district observes Veterans' Day by special exercises. Effective in 60 days.
01/16/2025 – Introduced
01/17/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB215: One Certified Librarian per Public School Building, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, providing for professional librarian. Directs each public school to employ at least one certified librarian. Effective in 60 days.
01/17/2025 – Introduced
01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB227: The Honesty in Teaching Act (Formerly HB211), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**
The Honesty in Teaching Act prohibits public school entities from engaging in certain communications and actions involving prohibited indoctrination; and provides for requirements for public contractors and for enforcement. Provides definitions. Prohibits communication and actions by public school entities to compel a person to adopt, affirm, adhere to or profess an idea in violation of Title IV or Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Provides that nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the discussion of ideas and history of the concept described in subsection (a) or public policy issues of the day or ideas that individuals may find unwelcome, disagreeable or offensive. Prohibits penalties imposed or adverse treatment against a public school entity, professional employee, contractor or student in a public school entity due to a refusal to engage in prohibited indoctrination. Provides for prohibited use of funds. Establishes teaching training with the Department of Education required to develop and make available to professional employees technical assistance, guidance and professional development. Mandates requirements for public contracts. Provides enforcement procedure and penalties. Effective immediately.
01/17/2025 – Introduced
01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB228: State Board of Education Academic Standards Review Schedule (Formally HB213), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**
Amends the Public School Code, in State Board of Education, further providing for definitions and providing for academic standards review; and making editorial changes. Revises wording throughout Section 2601 of the Public School Code referencing the "Department of Education," to department." Defines "department: to mean the Department of Education of the commonwealth. Adds Section 2607-B to provide for academic standards review, establishing the board's schedule and requiring the schedule to ensure academic standards for each content area are reviewed by the board at least every three years. Requires the board to determine if the state academic standards for each content area are age appropriate, clear, industry specific, academically

challenging, and meet the needs of the job market. Requires the board to make revisions to the state academic standards by regulation as necessary. Requires the board to submit a report of a review made to the chairpersons and minority chairpersons of the House and Senate Education Committees and outlines the contents of the report. Effective immediately.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB233: Charter Board Representation, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for powers of board of trustees. Adds that the board of trustees of a charter school shall include a member appointed by the local board of school directors and in the case of a regional school, each board of school directors for the chartering school district shall appoint a member. Adds it as an exemption for the powers of the board of trustees. Effective immediately.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB236: Removing Obscene Material from Our School Libraries (Formerly HB209), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)**

Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses), in public indecency, further providing for the offense of obscene and other sexual materials and performances to replace “political subdivision” with “municipality” under exemptions. Effective in 60 days.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB248: Parental Notification and Consent for Student Participation in School-Related Clubs and Organizations, Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for parental notification and permission for participation in clubs and organizations. Directs the governing board of a school entity to include information regarding school clubs and organizations in the student code of conduct. Provides that the information should be provided in a manner most commonly used for other communications to parents or legal guardians and should be posted to the school entity’s publicly accessible website for at least two weeks prior to the start of the school year or two weeks prior to the first meeting of the activity, club or organization.

Establishes the information provided shall include a statement that a student may not participate in the club or organization without written permission, the name of the club or organization, the mission or purpose of the club or organization with detail to describe the meetings and activities, the name of the faculty advisor, a description of past or planned meetings and activities, a statement that a parent or legal guardian has a right to attend a meeting or activity unless good cause for exclusion is provided by the governing board of the school and a statement that a parent or legal guardian has a private right of action against wrongful exclusion. Provides that the governing body cannot permit a student to participate without written permission from a parent or legal guardian, who can withdraw permission in writing at any time. Provides that the school entity shall provide a written procedure and sample consent or withdrawal form in the school administration office and on its website for a parent or legal guardian to provide or withdraw

permission for their student. Establishes the consent form should be presented so it is not more complicated to withhold consent than grant consent. Provides a club or organization created after the school year begins can only accept written permission for student participation after the information required is given to all parents and legal guardians. Provides that parents or legal guardians of a student cannot be prohibited from attending a meeting or activity of a club and can take a private right of action against the governing body of the school entity if good cause is not provided in writing for their exclusion. Defines “club or organization,” “governing board,” “school entity” and “school official.” Effective in 60 days.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB249: Establishing Uniform Criteria for School Guidance Directors, Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, providing for school counseling services. Defines “administrative activities,” “department,” “direct services,” “indirect services,” “plan” and “school entity.” Provides for a school counseling plan that provides academic and career developmental support for all students. Requires the plan to include implementation by a Pennsylvania-certified school counselor, use of national and state-recognized counselor frameworks which may not include medical guidance, social and emotional learning, critical race theory or behavioral health, annual review and updates as needed by the counselor in collaboration with the principal and other stakeholders and be systemically aligned to kindergarten through grade 12 within the school. Provides that the plan components should include a vision statement, mission statement and plan goals focused on management, delivery and accountability. Establishes the plan shall guide students in academic and career planning only limited to the guidance provided by the department. Provides that a school entity should allow sufficient time for a counselor to carry out the duties stated in the plan. Provides that direct and indirect services such as academic advisement services, career-planning processes, skills designed to address bullying and suicide, intervention with students at risk of dropping out, providing orientation programs for new or transfer students and serving as a member of decision-making teams should be provided in collaboration with other school personnel and parents or legal guardians. Establishes administrative activities such as coordinating state assessments, developing master schedules, coordination of programs and monitoring of students in common areas provided by school counselors in collaboration with school personnel. Establishes policy for school guidance and counseling programs with regard to parental notification and private right of action. Provides that the policy should include written notification to parents or legal guardians about the academic and career guidance programs available to their children, a provision prohibiting the use of counseling techniques beyond the scope of professional certification or training of school counselors, a provision requiring information on social and emotional counseling be kept confidential and separate from educational records and not disclosed to third parties without parental consent unless provided by law, a provision that states parents can elect in writing to have their child opt into social or emotional counseling noting parents must be present at all times for this type of counseling and a provision providing the inclusion of a parent when a student receives direct or indirect services from a school counselor. Provides for a private right of action for a parent or legal guardian against the governing body of the school entity if they are being

denied involvement in counseling. Effective immediately.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB252: Parental Notification and Consent for Student Access and Use of a Mental Health Services Digital Platform, Rep. Stephanie Scialabba (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, adding section 1426 to provide for parental notification of implementation of mental health services digital platform by school entity. Permits parent or legal guardian to withdraw permission in writing. Requires school entity to provide written procedures and a sample consent or withdrawal form in the school's administration office and on the school's publicly accessible website. Requires the consent or withdrawal form not to be drafted or presented in a manner that makes it more difficult to withhold or revoke consent than it is to grant consent. Provides for parent or legal guardian access upon request. Requires written notification from the school entity to the parent or legal guardian if the student is enrolled in a mental health services digital platform. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

01/17/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB332: Media Literacy (Formerly HB473), Rep. Tim Briggs (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for media literacy education. Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to establish a media literacy curriculum for Pennsylvania's students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12.

01/24/2025 – Introduced

01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB338: Cyber Charter School Attendance Accountability, Rep. Clint Owlett (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for attendance policy at charter, regional charter, and cyber charter schools. Requires cyber charter schools to regularly report the attendance of each student to their school district of residence.

01/24/2025 – Introduced

01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB339: Mental Health Check-ins in Schools, Rep. G. Roni Green (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for mental health check-ins. Requires public schools to provide daily mental health check-ins to K-12 students. Additionally requires schools to develop a process to respond to students who, through their responses to the check-in, may be experiencing stress, anxiety, or depression, or who may be at risk of suicide or self-harm.

01/24/2025 – Introduced

01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB341: Removing Lead from Drinking Water in Schools, Rep. G. Roni Green (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for certified point-of-use filter required; establishing the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund; and making an interfund transfer. Requires old drinking fountains to be replaced with lead-filtering water stations by 2026 and establishes funding to help school districts to this.
01/24/2025 – Introduced
01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB342: Teaching Mindfulness in Schools, Rep G. Roni Green (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for mindfulness techniques. Requires schools to provide mindfulness instruction in K-12 classrooms for at least 15 minutes each school day. Directs the Department of Education to develop materials and policies for the teaching of mindfulness.
01/24/2025 – Introduced
01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB354: What is Your Pennsylvania Story?, Rep. Jared G. Solomon (D)**
An Act providing for “What is Your Pennsylvania Story” guidelines for school entities; and imposing duties on the Department of Education. These guidelines will encourage students to share their personal experiences and connections to both Pennsylvania and the United States.
01/24/2025 – Introduced
01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB356: Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) Students Act, Rep. Brian Munro (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for youth suicide awareness and prevention and providing for violence prevention and social inclusion. Requires schools to annually provide at least one hour, or a standard class period, of training regarding suicide prevention, violence prevention, and social inclusion to students in grades six through twelve.
01/27/2025 – Introduced
01/27/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB370: Require School Year to Begin after the Labor Day Holiday, Rep. Jose Giral (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, further providing for dates and times of school terms and sessions and commencement. Requires schools to begin their school year no earlier than the day after Labor Day.
01/27/2025 – Introduced
01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB381: Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility Study, Rep. Jason Ortitay (R)**
Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for Keystone Exam alternative feasibility study. Directs the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Education to contract for an independent study to determine if the ACT or SAT can be used in lieu of the current

Keystone Exams for high school students in literature, algebra one, and biology.

01/28/2025 – Introduced

01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB387: Parental Notification of Students Involved in School Incidents, Rep. Keith S. Harris (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, providing for parental notification. Requires all school districts to adopt policies and procedures for timely notification to parents, guardians, or custodial parents of students involved in incidents that occur on school property. Schools would be required to provide notice when students sustain serious injuries or students inflict serious injuries on another student while on school property, on the school bus, or at a school activity.
01/28/2025 – Introduced
01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB391: School Bus Video Monitoring, Rep. Jose Giral (D)**
Amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in other required equipment, further providing for general requirements for school buses. Requires that all school buses be equipped with a video monitoring system that includes an internal camera positioned so that every seat is visible. In addition, requires that school busses be equipped with either an external camera or an internal camera positioned outward so that the road ahead can be seen.
01/28/2025 – Introduced
01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB396: Emergency Certification for CTE Educators (part of the Emergency Services Legislative Package), Rep. Seth M. Grove (R)**
Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, providing for emergency certification applicants for career and technical education certification. Creates a process for individuals that possess a certain wage-earning experience and hold valid nationally recognized accreditations or certifications to receive emergency career and technical certifications through PDE.
01/28/2025 – Introduced
01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HR18: Career and Technical Education Month in Pennsylvania, Rep. Kristin Marcell (R)**
Resolution designating the month of February 2025 as “Career and Technical Education Month” in Pennsylvania.
01/22/2025 – Introduced
01/23/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HR38: National Library Week, Rep. Jason Ortitay (R)**
A Resolution recognizing the week of April 6 through 12, 2025 as “National Library Week” in Pennsylvania.
01/28/2025 – Introduced

01/28/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **SB28: Black Studies in K-12 Curriculum, Sen. Sharif Street (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for Black history education. Requires the PA Department of Education (PDE) to develop and disseminate material and other resources for school entities to integrate the history of the Black experience in an appropriate required or elective course of study curriculum. Directs PDE to place developed materials on PDE's Equity Hub, or if discontinued, any similar type of publicly accessible Internet website maintained by the department.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB77: Mental Health Days for Students (Former SB387), Sen. Judy L. Schwank (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for excuses from attending school to add that a school district may excuse a student from school attendance for a maximum of two days each school year without an excuse in addition to the excuses from attending school. Effective in 60 days.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB116: Addressing Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Workforce Crisis (Former SB1104 and HB2115), Sen. David G. Argall (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for credit for employment at congregate care facilities requiring a student who is in grade 11 or 12 at a school entity or nonpublic school and who is employed, either on a paid or voluntary basis, at a congregate care facility may earn one elective credit toward graduation for every 250 hours worked at the congregate care facility, for a maximum of two elective credits toward graduation and the school entity or nonpublic school shall develop or modify an existing application process and form for the student seeking elective credit under this section with the appropriate criteria and requirements with deadlines of application submissions. Adds that the school entity or nonpublic school may not award the elective credit to the student unless the school entity or nonpublic school has approved the student's application and the student has satisfied all the requirements under this section. Specifies definitions. Effective in 60 days.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB127: Holocaust Education Bill (Former SB1100), Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, repealing provisions relating to Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction, and providing for Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations instruction required. Requires instruction on the Holocaust, genocide and human rights violations to begin with the 2026-2027 school year. Provides that the instruction should be age-appropriate, sequential in the method of study, communicate the connection between national, ethnic, racial or religious intolerance and the subjects described, and communicate the impact of personal responsibility, civic engagement and societal response

within the context of the subjects described. Permits the usage of public and private materials. Requires reviewing and updating existing curriculum. Requires training programs beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. Provides several definitions. The repeal of section 1554 of the act shall be effective June 30, 2026, and the remainder of this act shall be effective immediately.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB128: Improving Curriculum Transparency in K-12 Schools (Former SB340), Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for online curriculum availability. Requires that beginning with the 2025-2026 school year and each year thereafter, a school entity shall post an Internet link or title for every textbook used by the school entity, a course syllabus or written summary of each instructional course and the state academic standards for each instructional course offered by the school entity on its publicly accessible Internet website. Requires the information to be updated no later than 30 business days after each time the list of textbooks, syllabi, course descriptions or state academic standards used by the school entity is revised. Provides chief school administrator responsibility for implementation. Specifies that the requirements are not construed for a school entity to violate copyright, trademark or other intellectual property right of the creator or the owner of the curriculum. Defines “chief school administrator” and “school entity”. Effective in 60 days.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB139: Roman’s Law - Delayed School Enrollment for Children with Autism, Developmental Delays, or Intellectual Disabilities (Former SB1157), Sen. David G. Argall (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing for exception from compulsory education for certain children with disabilities. Allows a parent or guardian of a child six years of age who is required to attend school in this commonwealth for the first time to submit to the department a request for a waiver from the requirements of compulsory attendance, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Establishes requirements for the waiver. Effective immediately.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SR8: Establishing an Advisory Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for Public Education (Former SR227), Sen. Judy L. Schwank (D)**

Resolution urging the governor to develop a comprehensive legislative plan to improve basic education in the public schools of this commonwealth and to establish an advisory commission to study and make specific recommendations for components of the plan.

01/22/2025 – Introduced

01/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee