



DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
February 28, 2025

Session Information

At 1:06 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the House stands adjourned until Monday, March 17, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:33 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2025, the Senate stands recessed until Monday, March 24, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

Session Days

Month	House	Senate
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

• **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

- **Shapiro names Carrie Rowe as next education secretary.** On the first day of budget hearings, Gov. Josh Shapiro announced Carrie Rowe to lead Pennsylvania's Department of Education. Rowe currently serves as deputy secretary of elementary and secondary education at the department. [...] Rowe has worked in public education for 25 years, per a release from Shapiro's office. The governor's office said she's provided "strategic guidance on structured literacy, workforce readiness, teacher recruitment and retention and student mental health," during her time serving as Pennsylvania's

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

deputy secretary for the office of elementary and secondary education. Shapiro's administration also credited her for being a "champion for dual-credit programs, high-intensity summer learning and multicultural education to prepare students for college and career pathways."

Read the rest of the story: "[Shapiro names Carrie Rowe as next education secretary](#)" (from Pennsylvania Capital-Star, 02/18/2025)

- Pa. education department considering options – 'none of them pretty' if federal agency axed.** Pennsylvania education officials spoke with state House members Monday [Feb. 24] about the department's budget needs for the coming year. But President Donald Trump cast a long shadow over the discussion. Pittsburgh-area Democrat Emily Kinhead asked state Education Department Secretary Carrie Rowe what the state would do if Congress – on Trump's orders – axes the federal Department of Education. [...] "I can't imagine that it would be easy for the Commonwealth to absorb... \$1.6 billion in lost revenue," Rowe said. "We're absolutely looking at that and trying to come up with as many possibilities as we can, but I will say that none of them are pretty."

Read the rest of the story: "[Pa. education department considering options – 'none of them pretty' if federal agency axed](#)" (from 90.5 WESA, 02/25/2025)
- Trump's shifting federal education policies steal focus of Pa. Senate budget hearing.** Senate Democrats on Wednesday [Feb. 26] questioned Pennsylvania's Education Secretary about the state's plans to address the Trump administration's shifting public education policies. During a more than four-and-a-half-hour Appropriations Committee hearing, Education Secretary Carrie Rowe said it's difficult to write guidance to address executive orders issued by the White House since they can be overturned quicker than legislation approved by Congress. "The last thing we want to do is put out guidance that then needs to be retracted," said Rowe.

Read the rest of the story: "[Trump's shifting federal education policies steal focus of Pa. Senate budget hearing](#)" (from Lancaster Online, 02/26/2025)
- Pennsylvania changes policy to follow Trump order on transgender athletes in high school sports.** Pennsylvania's governing body for high school sports has changed its policy that allowed transgender athletes to compete in prep athletics to follow President Donald Trump's executive order. The board of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association voted last week to remove a policy that had deferred to school principals to determine an athlete's "gender" when "questioned or uncertain," and instead approved one that officials said was designed to comply with Trump's order. The new policy defers to principals to determine a student's "sex" when "questioned or uncertain," and adds a line that says that, in accordance with Trump's executive order, "schools are required to consult with their school solicitors relative to compliance with the order."

Read the rest of the story: "[Pennsylvania changes policy to follow Trump order on transgender athletes in high school sports](#)" (from Associated Press, 02/24/2025)

Litigation Updates

- Texas v. Becerra**

A group of 17 states are suing the U.S. government calling for an end to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The 1973 law bars discrimination on the basis of disability at any entity that receives federal funds. It requires schools to provide necessary accommodations to ensure students

with disabilities can participate in the learning environment. [Texas v. Becerra](#) was filed in response to a 2024 update to Section 504 regulations that added gender dysphoria as a qualifying disability under the rule. However, in challenging the regulations, the states' lawsuit asks the court to "declare Section 504, 29 U.S.C. § 794, unconstitutional" in its entirety. On February 19, the 17 plaintiff states and the President Trump Department of Justice filed a [Joint Status Report](#) intending to continue to pursue their original claims. A briefing schedule has not yet been set.

- ***Bell v. Wilkinsburg Sch. Dist.***

A grandmother of charter school students and Propel Charter Schools filed a lawsuit against Wilkinsburg School District after it announced it was switching to free public transportation passes instead of busing for students attending charter schools outside school district boundaries. State law once indicated that school districts were obligated to provide transportation to charter students "on the same terms and conditions" as that provided to traditional public school students. The "same terms and conditions" language was eliminated by the General Assembly in 2002. The [Commonwealth Court ruled last year](#) that the school districts don't need to provide busing to charter school students. The state Supreme Court announced that it will hear arguments related to this case in April. State Rep. Natalie Mihalek (R) announced plans to introduce legislation that makes it clear districts must provide busing for charter school students.

Federal Legislative Actions

- **H.Con.Res. 14: Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034, Rep. Arrington [R-TX-19]**

This concurrent resolution establishes the congressional budget for the federal government for FY2025, sets forth budgetary levels for FY2026-FY2034, and provides reconciliation instructions for legislation that increases or decreases the deficit and increases the statutory debt limit by specified amounts. The resolution includes reconciliation instructions that direct 11 House committees to submit legislation that will increase or decrease the deficit over FY2025-FY2034 and increase the statutory debt limit by specified amounts. The committees must submit the legislation to the House Budget Committee by March 27, 2025. (Under current law, reconciliation bills are considered by Congress using expedited legislative procedures that prevent a filibuster and restrict amendments in the Senate.) The resolution also requires the maximum deficit increase permitted by the reconciliation instruction for the House Ways and Means Committee (\$4.5 trillion in the resolution) to be reduced if the proposals submitted by certain committees do not achieve a total of at least \$2 trillion in net deficit reduction (or increased if more than \$2 trillion in deficit reduction is achieved). Finally, the resolution sets forth budget enforcement procedures that address issues such as adjustments to committee allocations and the budgetary treatment of the discretionary administrative expenses for the Social Security Administration and the U.S. Postal Service.

This resolution directs the committee for Education and the Workforce to cut at least \$330 billion in spending over ten years. This could require cuts to nearly half of all spending on programs that the committee can consider. The biggest category of spending for the committee is school nutrition programs. The budget document suggested some smaller cuts to school breakfasts, and to lunch programs for schools that serve low-income children. Pennsylvania school districts receive about

\$1.6B annually from the U.S. Department of Education. About \$762M is Title I funding to support low-income students and those in underperforming districts.

02/18/2025 – Submitted in House

02/18/2025 – The House Committee on Budget reported an original measure, H. Rept. 119-4

02/25/2025 – Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 161 Reported to House

02/25/2025 – Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 217-215

State Legislative Actions

- **HB190: Addressing Eating Disorders in School, Rep. Jason Ortitay, (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.

02/03/2025 – Re-repotted as committed – House Appropriations

02/03/2025 – Laid out for discussion

02/03/2025 – Third consideration and final passage (161-41)

02/04/2025 – Referred to Senate Education 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.

02/03/2025 – Re-reported as committed – House Appropriations

02/03/2025 – Laid out for discussion

02/03/2025 – Third consideration and final passage (155-47)

02/04/2025 – Referred to Senate 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.

02/20/2025 – Discussed during public hearing – House Democratic Policy

New Legislation

- **HB423: The Future Voters Act, Rep. Brandon J. Markosek (D)**

The Future Voters Act establishes the Future Voter Program to provide age-appropriate instruction to students in grades 1 through 12 on topics related to civics and civic participation; provides pre-voter registration of eligible high school students; and imposes powers and duties on the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of the Commonwealth and county commissions. Provides legislative findings and declarations. Directs September 17 be recognized as “Constitution and Citizenship Day” in schools. Directs schools to hold a voter registration event on “Constitution and Citizenship Day.” Provides for the duties of the Secretary of Education, Secretary of the Commonwealth and county commissions regarding “Constitution and Citizenship Day.” Prohibits disclosure of student information to the public until the eligible student reaches 18 years of age. Allows schools to conduct similar events on other days. Provides guidelines for a complete student voter registration application. Directs secretaries to promulgate and adopt guidelines to administer provisions. Effective immediately.

01/30/2025 – Introduced

01/31/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB447: School Vaccination and Exemption Announcements, Rep. Russ Diamond (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for immunization required and penalty. Directs public schools, nonpublic schools, political subdivisions or the commonwealth to provide information containing any existing or updated immunization requirements issued by the commonwealth. Directs entities to accept exemptions from immunization requirements, including the process by which a child may obtain exemptions. Provides definitions for “nonpublic school” and public school entity”.

01/31/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB477: Requiring Background Checks for School Board Candidates, Rep. Jeanne McNeill (D)**

Amends the Pennsylvania Election Code, in nomination of candidates, providing for background checks for candidates for school district office. Requires candidates for any school district office to file criminal history reports and certification from the Department of Human Services (DHS) child abuse investigation database to the Department of State (DOS). Provides ineligibility for office. Specifies that a candidate for any school district office deemed ineligible for office shall not appear on a ballot for school district offices in any election. Directs DOS to promulgate rules and regulations as necessary. Effective immediately.

02/04/2025 – Introduced

02/04/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB480: School District Cyber Education Programs, Rep. Ryan A. Bizzarro (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, providing for full-time cyber education program offered by school district. Provides that if a student enrolls in the full-time cyber education program offered by the school district of residence, the enrollment is subject to no tuition or fees other than the fees that the school district imposes generally. Adds that the parents or guardians of that student are responsible for paying the cyber charter school a per-student amount and the payments must be made to the cyber charter school in 12 equally monthly payments by the fifth of every month within the operating school year. Adds that a student enrolled in a cyber charter school under this clause shall not be included in the average daily membership of the student's school district of residence for the purpose of providing basic education funding payments and special education funding. Adds a definition for "full-time cyber education program". Effective in 60 days.

02/04/2025 – Introduced

02/04/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB495: Charter School Enrollment Caps, Rep. Carol Kazeem (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for enrollment. Subjects the enrollment of students in a charter school or regional charter school to a cap on students who reside in the district or districts in which the charter school is physically located or in which the regional charter school is physically located or in which the regional charter school is chartered as part of a written charter school under section 1720-A. Requires the cap to be approved by the local board of school directors of a school district or by the local boards of school directors of a school district in the case of a regional charter school. Provides that the enrollment cap shall not preclude a charter school from enrolling students from outside of the physical location of the charter school or in the case of a regional charter school, from districts outside of where the regional charter school is chartered. Effective in 60 days.

02/04/2025 – Introduced

02/05/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB581: Parental Rights in Education (Former HB319), Rep. Borowicz (R)**

The Parental Rights in Education Act provides for classroom instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity and for parental notification of student health care services; and establishing cause of action for violation. Defines "professional employee" and "school entity". Prohibits a school entity from offering instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity to a student in kindergarten through fifth grade. Requires parental notification of student health care services beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. Stipulates a school entity must provide written notice to the parent or legal guardian of the student well-being questionnaire, health care screening form or survey, publish a copy of the student well-being questionnaire, health care screening form or survey on the school entity's website or produce a hard copy upon request by the parent or legal guardian and provide an option for a parent or legal guardian to withhold consent from the student's participation in the student well-being questionnaire, health care screening form or survey. Provides prohibited actions. Establishes civil actions. Effective in 60 days.

02/11/2025 – Introduced

02/12/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB606: Early Human Life Development Education, Rep. Hamm (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, adding a section to provide for early human life development education. Directs each school entity to provide early human life development instruction to students beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, which shall be integrated within the biology courses of study required in accordance with the State Board of Education regulations. Outlines what the instruction shall include at a minimum. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

02/12/2025 – Introduced

02/12/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB653: Alyssa’s Law (Former SB1206), Rep. Brown (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in safety and security, providing for panic alerts. Requires that all public schools be equipped with silent panic alarms that directly notify law enforcement in the event of a school-based emergency.

02/14/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Communications and Technology

- **HB655: Strengthening Student Data Security (Former HB1987), Rep. Ryncavage (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for student data security. Directs the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), in collaboration with the Office for Information Technology, to develop a model student data security plan. The model data security plan will include: guidelines for access to student data and student data systems, privacy and compliance standards, privacy and security audits, procedures to follow in the event of a breach of student data, and data retention and disposition policies. Also requires PDE to designate a chief data security officer to assist school entities with the development and implementation of student data security plans and to develop best practice recommendations regarding the use, retention, and protection of student data.

02/18/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Communications and Technology

- **HB666: Learning Loss Mitigation, Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for learning loss plans. Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to develop model guidelines and best practices for schools to consider in the occurrence of an event that may cause student learning loss and results in a school closure or remote learning for five or more days. These events may include a pandemic, natural disaster, or employee strike, among other circumstances. Upon the occurrence of such an event, schools would be required to implement a remediation plan to provide enhanced instruction to students to mitigate potential learning loss effects. Enhanced instruction may include tutoring, extended and additional school days, or other remedial measures recommended by PDE.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB667: Let Teachers Teach – Regulation of Administrative Meetings, Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, providing for restrictions on

administrative meetings during instructional time or planning periods. Prohibits any teacher from being required to attend administrative meetings, including IEP meetings, during a time that they are otherwise scheduled to teach, unless they are relieved by a qualified substitute. Additionally requires that if a meeting takes place during a teacher's planning period, the teacher receives compensatory pay for the planning time that was lost, or the teacher receives additional time to replace that period.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Labor and Industry

- **HB679: Educator Professional Development Cooperation and Support, Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for professional development. Encourages collaboration within professional development programs amongst local school districts. Directs PDE to provide professional development opportunities, resources, and guidance to local schools to work together.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB681: Eliminating School BMI Screenings, Rep. Otten (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for health services, for reports and for interagency coordinating council for child health, nutrition and physical education. Eliminates BMI calculations from school height and weight measurements. Requires parental notification of school height and weight screenings and allows parents or guardians to opt children out of school height and weight screenings. Limits the state reporting of student data to aggregate data only. Requires that measurements are performed only by a school nurse or other trained healthcare professional. Additionally adds the Department of Human Services to the existing Interagency Coordinating Council for Child Health, Nutrition and Physical Education to allow the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Education program to be incorporated into discussion for child health.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Health Committee

- **HB682: Protecting the Learning Climate (AC in Every School), Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for air conditioning in student-occupied areas. Requires schools to have installed functioning air conditioning in each area where students gather for educational purposes by the start of the 2028-2029 school year. If a school fails to meet this deadline, it would be required to submit a plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education explaining the actions it will take to come into compliance as soon as possible. Further, the school would be required to implement and annually update a temperature control plan to ensure acceptable indoor temperatures until air conditioning is installed in each student area.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB683: Class Size Regulation, Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in district superintendents and assistant superintendents, further providing for duties of superintendents. Establishes maximum class sizes and student-to-teacher

ratios within K-12 education. If any class in a school exceeds the limit, the school must notify the parents of affected students, as well as the Pennsylvania Department of Education, informing these parties of their plan to reduce the number of students in the class to come back into compliance.

02/19/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB687: Ineligibility for School Directors with Tax Delinquencies (former HB2423), Rep. Moul (R)**
Amends the Public School Code, in school directors, adding a section to provide for ineligibility for office of school director for delinquent tax obligations. Allows an objection to the candidacy of an individual for office of a school director who is not eligible for office of school director as specified to be presented to the court under supervision (c) of Article IX of the Pennsylvania Election Code. Permits an objection to the title of office of school director for an individual who is not eligible for office of school director as specified to be tried by proceedings of quo warranto as provided by law. Applies this section to a candidate for the office of school director and to an individual elected to the office of school director on and after the effective date. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.
02/20/2025 – Introduced
02/21/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB688: Moratorium on New Cyber Charter Schools, Representative Probst (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, providing for a cyber charter school moratorium beginning July 1, 2025, and continuing through June 30, 2038. Effective immediately.
02/20/2025 – Introduced
02/21/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB725: Temporarily Raising Maximum School Age Due to COVID-19, Rep. Webster (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, further providing for extended special education enrollment due to COVID-19. Allows the Secretary of Education to have the authority to authorize exceptions to the age cap in public education programs for students who turn 21 through the 2035-2036 school year. To qualify, a student would have to have been enrolled consistently since the 2020-2021 school year.
02/24/2025 – Introduced
02/25/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB726: Survey on School Infrastructure Capital Costs, Rep. Webster (D)**
Amends the Public School Code, providing for capital investment needs. Creates a one-time survey for school districts to report their deferred, current, and anticipated capital needs. Requires the Department of Education to compile the information and report the total capital and infrastructure requirements of the schools to the General Assembly.
02/24/2025 – Introduced
02/25/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee
- **HB727: Replacement of Keystone Exam with the American College Testing (ACT) Test, Rep. Webster (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for definitions, for Keystone Exams and graduation requirements and for special provisions applicable to the Keystone Exams, graduation requirements and alternative competency assessment. Requires that the Pennsylvania Department of Education approve the ACT, without the essay portion, as the state standardized assessment for high school students and subsequently cease the administration of the Keystone Exam.

02/24/2025 – Introduced

02/25/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HR80: School Meal Quality and Quantity Study, Rep. Cepeda-Freytiz (D)**

Resolution urging the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to collaborate on conducting a statewide study of school cafeteria services provided to every district.

02/14/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HR91: Designating March 2025 as “Music in Our Schools Month”, Rep. Pashinski (D)**

Resolution designating the month of March 2025 as “Music in Our Schools Month” in Pennsylvania.

02/21/2025 – Introduced

02/24/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HR92: School Transportation Consolidation Study, Rep. Webster (D)**

A Resolution directing the Joint State Government Commission to conduct a comprehensive study of the viability, benefits, and costs of establishing consolidated, county-led busing of all private and public school students.

02/24/2025 – Introduced

02/24/2025 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **SB9: Fairness in Women’s Sports Act, Sen. Judy Ward (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 for action for harm suffered by designation. Provides definitions. Prohibits athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls from being open to students of the male sex. Allows students to participate in an interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic team or sport designated for the student’s sex or designated coed or mixed. Prohibits a government entity, licensing or accrediting organization or an athletic association or organization from entertaining a complaint, opening an investigation or taking any other adverse action against a school or institution of higher education for maintaining separate interscholastic, intercollegiate, intramural or club athletic teams or sports for students of the female sex. Permits a student who is deprived of an athletic opportunity or suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a known violation to bring a cause of action for injunctive relief, damages, psychological, emotional and physical harm suffered, attorney fees and costs and any other relief available under law against the school or institution of higher education. Allows a student who is subject to retaliation or other adverse action by a school, institution of higher education or athletic association or organization as a result of reporting a violation to an employee or representative of the school, institution or athletic association or organization or to any federal or

state agency with oversight of schools or institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania to bring a cause of action. Permits a school or institution of higher education that suffers direct or indirect harm as a result of a violation to bring a cause of action. Prohibits a person from bringing a civil action later than two years after the day on which the harm underlying the cause of action occurs. Provides that if a part of this act is found invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part shall remain in effect. Effective in 60 days.

02/03/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

02/18/2025 Discussed during budget hearing with PASSHE & PHEAA, Senate Appropriations

- **SB220: Changes to Teacher Certification Levels, Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, adding a section to provide for instructional certificate grade spans and age levels; and making an editorial change to revise the heading of section 1202.1 to be Special Education Certificate Grade Spans and Age Levels and Duties of Department. Establishes certification levels for new teachers, specifying that certificates issued shall remain valid for the term of the certificate. Provides for an individual holding Elementary/Middle Certificates. Effective immediately.

02/03/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB227: PSBA to be Considered a State-affiliated Entity, Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, further providing for state convention or association, delegates, expenses and membership to add that the Pennsylvania School Boards Association shall be considered a state-affiliated entity under the Right-to-Know Law. Effective in 60 days.

02/03/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB229: Limiting Access to Smartphones and Social Media in Schools, Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in school safety and security, adding a section to establish the Cell Phone Lockable Bag Pilot Program to provide funding to cover the costs of purchasing secure cell phone lockable bags. Specifies that the number of applicants chosen shall be contingent upon the amount of funding allocated. Outlines the duties of a school entity participating in the program. Requires a report to the governor and the General Assembly, prohibiting the report from containing any identifiable information regarding a student and providing for confidentiality. Permits aggregate data to be released at the committee's discretion. Expires the added section on Dec. 1, 2026. Defines "cell phone lockable bag," "program," and "school entity." Effective in 60 days.

02/03/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB230: Parental Control of Student Exposure to Sexually Explicit Content in Schools, Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for parental control relating to instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content. Requires a governing body

of a school entity to develop a public policy that provides parental control of instructional materials and books containing sexually explicit content and includes information, guidance, procedures and standards. Provides for opt-in forms and alternative nonexplicit instructional materials and related activities. Provides requirements of the opt-in forms. Mandates a governing body of a school entity to seek input at a public forum to ensure that the policies are consistent with this section and adopted no later than August 30, 2025. Provides what the construction is not construed to. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days.

02/03/2025 – Introduced

02/03/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB239: Mandate Waivers for Public Schools, Sen. Coleman (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, providing for mandate waiver program. Permits a governing body to adopt a resolution to apply to the Department of Education for a waiver of one or more provisions of this act, regulations of the State Board of Education, standards of the Secretary of Education, policies or guidance of the department, or any other provisions of law permitted to be waived under this section to enable the school entity to improve instructional programs or operate in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner. Requires waiver application and its contents. Provides department restrictions. Lists provisions of the act that are not subject to the waiver. Stipulates nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede or preempt any provisions of a collective bargaining agreement in effect on the effective date of this subsection. Provides several definitions. Effective in 60 days.

02/13/2025 – Introduced

02/13/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB246: Weapons in Schools: Providing for the notification of parents, guardians, and school employees, Sen. Coleman (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in student supports, adding a section to provide for parental and employee notification of weapon incidents. Outlines the violations in which a school entity shall notify parents and guardians and school employees of an incident involving the possession of a weapon on any school property and establishes what shall apply. Specifies what nothing in the section shall be construed to do. Asserts that the school entity's notification to parents or guardians or school employees under this section shall not contain personally identifiable information about a student in compliance with 20 U.S.C. § 1232g (relating to family educational and privacy rights), providing exceptions. Defines "school entity" and "school property". Effective in 60 days.

02/13/2025 – Introduced

02/13/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB254: Pennsylvania STEM Partnership Program, Sen. Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, providing Article XV-O for the STEM Grant Program; and making an appropriation of \$1 million from the General Fund to the Department of Education (PDE) for the purposes of this article. Provides definitions. Requires PDE to issue a request for applications for an intermediate unit to administer the program within 30 days of the selected effective date and directs the selected administrator to develop an application process for the program. Mandates notification of all educators employed by the school districts or nonpublic schools within the commonwealth of

the program and shall submit a list of all eligible educators to express interest in participating in the program to PDE by January 15 of each year. Provides that the selected administrator shall be responsible for the distribution of awards.

02/13/2025 – Introduced

02/13/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB259: Carbon Monoxide Detectors, Sen. Fontana (D)**

An Act providing for standards for carbon monoxide alarms in schools; and imposing penalties.

02/20/2025 – Introduced

02/20/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB304: Education Opportunity Accounts for Military Families (Former SB263), Sen. Mastriano (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, providing for military education scholarship account; and imposing penalties. Creates Educational Opportunity Accounts (EOA) for military families. These restricted use accounts, funded by a percentage of the existing state per pupil education subsidy, can be used for education-related expenses, including tuition, tutoring, textbooks and curriculum, and testing related fees. Military EOAs will be available to children residing in Pennsylvania whose parent or guardian is on full-time active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces, a member of the National Guard and reserve on active duty or was killed in the line of duty.

02/25/2025 – Introduced

02/25/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB315: Career and Technical Education Equipment Grant Funding Fix (Former SB1342), Sen. Culver (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in career and technical education, further providing for career and technical education equipment grants. Requires the Pennsylvania Department of Education to use the most recent available data, fixing it as of June 1 before the school year when allocations occur. If errors in the data are later identified, the department must revise the calculations accordingly.

02/26/2025 – Introduced

02/26/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB354: Special Education Cyber / Charter School Funding, Sen. Brown (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools, for provisions applicable to charter schools, and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. This legislation implements the bipartisan 2013 Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation for applying the same special education funding principles used to distribute state special education funding to school districts, in the calculation used to determine a school district's tuition payment for a special education student enrolled in a charter school.

02/26/2025 – Introduced

02/26/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

- **SB378: The Student Data Privacy and Protection Act (Former SB565), Sen. Phillips-Hill (R)**
Amends 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. cy, and the designation and responsibilities of a chief data privacy officer within the Department of Education. Moreover, the bill provides policies and protections for the collection, use and safeguarding of student data; specific prohibitions on collection, reporting, and use of certain data; disclosure guidance; procedures to follow in case of a security breach; third party responsibilities; and enforcement and penalty provisions.
02/26/2025 – Introduced
02/26/2025 – Referred to Senate Education Committee

Previously Introduced Legislation with No New Action

- HB17:** Mandating Cursive Handwriting (Formerly HB1934), Rep. Dane Watro (R)
- HB25:** Extending School Budget Deadlines in State Budget Impasses, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- HB46:** Increasing Access to PreK for PA Kids, Rep. Tarik Khan (D)
- HB51:** Property Tax Pension Obligation Disclosure Act (Formerly HB215), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- HB63:** Exemption from In-Person School Safety and Security Drills (Formerly HB2613), Rep. Marla Brown (R)
- HB82:** School Bus Driver Epinephrine Auto-injector Training and Grant Program (Former HB1950), Rep. Kristin Marcell (R)
- HB130:** Education Money to Follow the Child, Rep. Milou Mackenzie (R)
- HB158:** Protect Women's Sports (Formerly HB216), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- HB191:** Requiring AEDs at School Athletic Events, Rep. Tim Brennan (D)
- HB192:** Increasing Access to school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and nurses, Rep. Manuel Guzman (D)
- HB203:** Making Veterans Day a School Holiday, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- HB215:** One Certified Librarian per Public School Building, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- HB227:** The Honesty in Teaching Act (Formerly HB211), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- HB228:** State Board of Education Academic Standards Review Schedule (Formally HB213), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- HB233:** Charter Board Representation, Rep. Joe Ciresi (D)
- HB236:** Removing Obscene Material from Our School Libraries (Formerly HB209), Rep. Barbara Gleim (R)
- HB248:** Parental Notification and Consent for Student Participation in School-Related Clubs and Organizations, Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R)
- HB249:** Establishing Uniform Criteria for School Guidance Directors, Rep. Stephenie Scialabba (R)
- HB252:** Parental Notification and Consent for Student Access and Use of a Mental Health Services Digital Platform, Rep. Stephanie Scialabba (R)
- HB332:** Media Literacy (Formerly HB473), Rep. Tim Briggs (D)
- HB338:** Cyber Charter School Attendance Accountability, Rep. Clint Owlett (R)
- HB339:** Mental Health Check-ins in Schools, Rep. G. Roni Green (D)

- HB342:** Teaching Mindfulness in Schools, Rep G. Roni Green (D)
- HB354:** What is Your Pennsylvania Story?, Rep. Jared G. Solomon (D)
- HB356:** Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) Students Act, Rep. Brian Munro (D)
- HB370:** Require School Year to Begin after the Labor Day Holiday, Rep. Jose Giral (D)
- HB381:** Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility Study, Rep. Jason Ortity (R)
- HB387:** Parental Notification of Students Involved in School Incidents, Rep. Keith S. Harris (D)
- HB391:** School Bus Video Monitoring, Rep. Jose Giral (D)
- HB396:** Emergency Certification for CTE Educators (part of the Emergency Services Legislative Package), Rep. Seth M. Grove (R)
- HR18:** Career and Technical Education Month in Pennsylvania, Rep. Kristin Marcell (R)
- HR38:** National Library Week, Rep. Jason Ortity (R)
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- SB28:** Black Studies in K-12 Curriculum, Sen. Sharif Street (D)
- SB77:** Mental Health Days for Students (Former SB387), Sen. Judy L. Schwank (D)
- SB116:** Addressing Pennsylvania's Long-Term Care Workforce Crisis (Former SB1104 and HB2115), Sen. David G. Argall (R)
- SB127:** Holocaust Education Bill (Former SB1100), Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
- SB128:** Improving Curriculum Transparency in K-12 Schools (Former SB340), Sen. Doug Mastriano (R)
- SB139:** Roman's Law - Delayed School Enrollment for Children with Autism, Developmental Delays, or Intellectual Disabilities (Former SB1157), Sen. David G. Argall (R)
- SR8:** Establishing an Advisory Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Plan for Public Education (Former SR227), Sen. Judy L. Schwank (D)