



**DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT**  
**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**  
**June 4, 2025**

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## Session Information

As of May 14, the House stands adjourned until Monday, June 2, 2025, unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

As of May 13, the Senate stands recessed until Monday, June 2, 2025, unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

### Session Days

Month	House	Senate
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	8, 9, 10
October	1, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29	20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
November	17, 18, 19	17, 18, 19
December	8 (NV), 9 (NV), 10 (NV), 15, 16, 17	8, 9, 10

## Upcoming Meetings, Hearings, and Press Conferences

### MONDAY – 06/02/2025

10:00 a.m., House Education

State Capitol, Room 60, East Wing (live streamed)

Voting meeting to consider HB1500 and any other business that may come before the committee.

### WEDNESDAY – 07/09/2025

TBA, State Board of Education Board Meeting

333 Market Street, Harrisburg

## News and Updates

[Pa. cyber charter school sees unprecedented growth, pushes back against critics](#) on May 16, 2025 from *PennLive*

The largest cyber charter school in Pennsylvania – Commonwealth Charter Academy – currently has 33,551 students enrolled, its leaders announced at its monthly board meeting this week. That’s a 250% increase over the past five years. No school district in the state has ever grown this quickly. District leaders said they have been adding the equivalent of a new school district every year. “That’s over 6,350 students greater in enrollment this year than we were last year – which is a large school district,” said Roberto Datorre, the executive vice president and Chief Operating Officer of Commonwealth Charter Academy (CCA). “Or three average size school district,” said CEO Thomas Longenecker. Five years ago, CCA wasn’t even the largest *cyber* district in Pennsylvania. Now it’s the second largest district of any kind behind only the School District of Philadelphia. CCA’s leaders said at the meeting this growth is expected to continue, as the school already has around 1,800 additional students in the process of enrolling for the fall, more than twice as many who were enrolling in CCA at the same time last year. The growth at CCA is unique even among cyber schools saw enrollment growth during the first two years of the pandemic, that

growth has since decreased or leveled off. CCA, on the other hand, has been growing even faster since the COVID pandemic ended.

[Parents left in the dark? Senate bill aims to shed light on school violence](#) on May 19, 2025, from *Capitol Wire*

State law requires that school officials notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education when students are caught with weapons or committing acts of violence. The law does not require that parents and school staff get the same notice. Legislation passed by the Senate last week would change that. Senate Bill 246 would require schools to alert staff and “parents and guardians of the students involved” within 24 hours after incidence involving harassment, bullying, weapons or assaults with serious bodily injuries. “There is broad agreement from both Republicans and Democrats that schools need to inform parents or guardians and staff about situations that impact the safety of children,” said Sen. Jarret Coleman, R-Lehigh, the prime sponsor of SB246. The bill, which covers public and private schools, was approved by a 45-4 vote. It is now in the House Education Committee. More than 2,500 incidents of students being caught with weapons were reported during the 2023-24 school year, state data shows. There were 36 cases in which students brought handguns to school, and seven incidents in which students brought rifles or shotguns in 2023-24.

[40 state attorneys general call on GOP to cut AI moratorium](#) on May 19, 2025, from *Capitol Wire*

State attorneys general across the country decried a provision in the House Republicans’ proposed budget reconciliation bill that would bar states from regulating artificial intelligence for the next decade. The bipartisan group of 40 state attorneys general in a letter addressed to House Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate Majority Leader John Thune and their Democratic counterparts, House Minority Leader Hakim Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, called the motion “irresponsible” and said it “deprives consumers of reasonable protections.” “The impact of such a broad moratorium would be sweeping and wholly destructive of reasonable state efforts to prevent known harms associated with ai,” the letter reads. “This bill will affect hundreds of existing and pending state laws passed and considered by both Republican and Democratic state legislatures. Some existing laws have been on the books for many years.”

[GOP Tees Up Lifeline Scholarship Bill for Shapiro](#) on May 28, 2025 from *Delaware Valley Journal*

State House Republicans are trying to give Gov. Josh Shapiro another chance to make good on a campaign promise and fund Lifeline Scholarships – the same scholarships he killed with a line-item veto in 2023. [...] Now, Reps. Martina White (R-Philadelphia) and Clint Owlett (R-Tioga) have reintroduced the Lifeline Scholarship proposal that would help students leave failing schools. House Bill 1489 would establish the Lifeline Scholarship to provide K-12 students and qualified families with the resources they need to pursue high-quality educational alternatives. Families who either have a household income below 350 percent of the federal poverty guidelines or who reside in the attendance areas of the state’s lowest-performing schools would be eligible.

## Federal Updates

### Legal Challenges and Court Rulings

#### Attempt to Dismantle the Department of Education Blocked

A federal judge halted President Trump's executive order aimed at dismantling the Department of Education, ruling that such an action requires congressional approval. The court also ordered the reinstatement of over 1,300 employees who were laid off as part of the downsizing efforts.

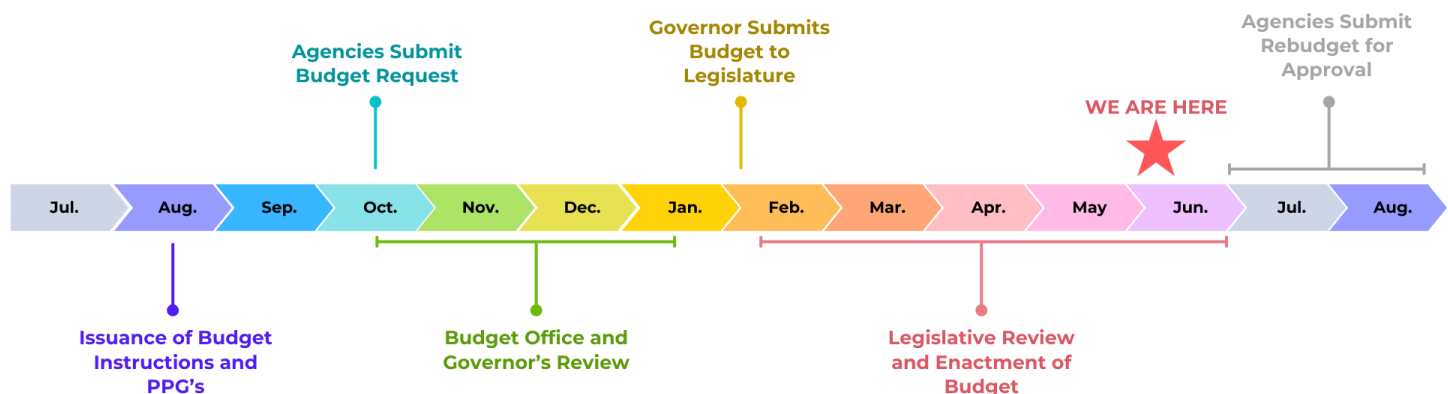
## Legislation

### H.R.1 One Big Beautiful Bill Act

*Federal K-12 Education Scholarship Tax Credit:* H.R.1, Section 25F and related sections, establishes a federal tax credit for contributions to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) that fund K-12 education expenses for eligible students. Taxpayers may receive a credit of up to \$5,000 or 10% of their adjusted gross income, whichever is greater, for qualified contributions made to approved SGOs. The national program is capped at \$5 billion annually (2026–2029) and allocations are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible students are those from households earning no more than 300% of the area median income, and scholarships may be used for a wide range of qualified K-12 education expenses, including private or religious school tuition, curricular materials, tutoring, special education therapies, and homeschool supports.

## State Budget Update

# Budget Process in Pennsylvania



### Pennsylvania's 2025-26 budget negotiations remain ongoing:

- Budget negotiations are actively underway between the Governor's office and leadership in the House and Senate, with discussions centered on finalizing spending levels and policy priorities.
- As part of the process, education-related policy provisions are being negotiated for potential inclusion in the Education Code bill, which serves as a companion to the main budget and determines how education funds are implemented and regulated. This code bill is typically drawn from previously introduced legislation or emerging compromises.

## State Legislative Actions

### SB9: Fairness in Women's Sports Act, Sen. Judy Ward (R)

The Fairness in Women's Sports Act requires all athletic teams at Pennsylvania public school entities and public institutions of higher education to be explicitly designated as male, female, or coed based

on biological sex assigned at birth. The bill prohibits students of the male sex from participating on teams designated for females and establishes legal avenues for students or institutions to seek damages or injunctive relief if they feel they suffer harm or retaliation due to violations or reporting of the law.

05/06/2025 – *Third consideration and final passage*

05/07/2025 – *Referred to House Education*



- **SB10: Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Program, Sen. Ward (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, establishing the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success (PASS) Program and the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship Fund. The program would provide publicly funded scholarships for eligible students to attend participating nonpublic schools. Eligibility is limited to students living within the attendance boundaries of low-achieving public schools and whose household income is below 250% of the federal poverty level. The bill creates scholarship accounts administered by the State Treasury, with funding amounts based on grade level and special education status, and defines allowable expenses. It also includes administrative oversight, reporting requirements, and limitations on state regulation of nonpublic schools that participate in the program.

05/06/2025 – *Reported as committed from Education and first consideration*



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

Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, making instruction on the Holocaust, genocide, and human rights violations mandatory for all Pennsylvania school entities beginning in the 2026-27 school year. The instruction must be age appropriate, sequential, and integrated into social studies and language arts curricula. The bill requires the Department of Education to update curriculum guidelines, provide in-service training, and ensure public transparency by having school entities post curriculum summaries or resource links online. It repeals the previous optional Holocaust education provision and replaces it with these mandatory requirements.

05/06/2025 – *Reported as committed from Education and first consideration*



- **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, to officially designate the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) as a “State-affiliated entity” under Pennsylvania’s Right-to-Know Law. The bill also reaffirms that school boards may appoint delegates to PSBA conventions, pay related expenses, and use school funds for PSBA membership dues and activities.

05/06/2025 – *Reported as committed from Education and first consideration*

05/07/2025 – *Second consideration and re-referred to Appropriations*

05/12/2025 – *Re-reported as committed*

05/12/2025 – *Third consideration and final passage (29-21)*

05/13/2025 – *In the House and referred to Intergovernmental Affairs & Operations*



- **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, requiring all Pennsylvania school entities, private schools, and nonpublic schools to notify parents, guardians, and school employees within 24 hours of specific incidents, including weapon possession, bullying, harassment, serious bodily injury, or property damage occurring on school property or during school activities. Notifications must be appropriately targeted to those affected, comply with student privacy laws, and not conflict with law enforcement reporting or emergency response plans.

05/06/2025 – Reported as amended by Education and first consideration

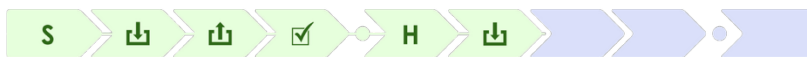
05/07/2025 – Second consideration

05/12/2025 – Referred to Appropriations and re-reported as committed

05/12/2025 – Amended on third consideration (48-2)

05/13/2025 – Third consideration and final passage (45-4)

05/13/2025 – In the House and referred to House Education



- **SB700: Literacy Achievement for All Pennsylvania Students, Sen. Robinson (R)**

Amends the Public School Code, in evidence-based reading instruction, mandating all school entities adopt approved reading curricula by the 2030-2031 school year and implement universal reading screenings for students in grades K-3 starting in 2026-2027. The bill requires targeted intervention plans for students with reading deficiencies, parental notification of deficiencies, and structured professional development for educators. It establishes a grant program and restricted state account to fund implementation and mandates annual public reporting on student progress and curriculum adoption.

05/06/2025 – Reported as committed by Education

05/06/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1401: Teacher Certification GPA Requirement, Rep. Young (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, setting a statewide minimum admission standard for Pennsylvania teacher preparation and alternative certification programs. It requires a 2.8 GPA for entry into initial or advanced educator preparation programs, with exceptions for up to 10% of candidates who may be admitted under alternative criteria.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as amended from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1402: Teacher Certification Fees, Rep. Schweyer (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, capping fees charged by the

Pennsylvania Department of Education for issuing teaching certificates and conducting professional educator discipline reviews at no more than \$50. This applies to both certification eligibility reviews under Section 1201 and discipline-related fees under Section 1216.1 of the Public School Code.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as amended from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1403: Professional Development for Teachers, Rep. Borowski (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, modifying continuing education requirements for inactive teaching certificates. It removes fees for obtaining inactive certification and allows educators to reactivate their certification either by completing 30 hours of continuing education within 18 months or by accepting a job offer from a school entity that commits to ensuring completion of those hours within the educator's first two years of employment.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as amended from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1404: Second Career Certification, Rep. Curry (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, renaming Pennsylvania's "intern certificates" as "second career certificates" and expands the eligibility and issuance criteria for instructional and career and technical education (CTE) certification pathways. The bill allows certain certificates to be issued on credential review and work experience even without occupational competency exams and extends the validity of postbaccalaureate second career certificates from three to five years.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1405: Veteran's Service Experience for CTE Certification, Rep. Munroe (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, expanding eligibility for Pennsylvania's Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching certificates to include veterans with at least 8,000 hours (equivalent to four years full-time) of military experience in a relevant occupational area. This applies to both the Career and Technical Intern Certificate and the Instructional I Certificate.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration





- **HB1407: Updated Teacher Certification Levels, Rep. Nelson (D)**

Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, revising Pennsylvania's instructional certification structure by consolidating grade spans beginning in the 2027-28 school year. New certifications will be issued in three categories: Primary (PreK-6), Secondary (6-12), and Specialized Areas (PreK-12), replacing the current narrower grade band model.

05/05/2025 – Introduced

05/05/2025 – Referred to House Education

05/12/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education

05/12/2025 – First consideration



- **HB1500: Cyber Charter School Reform, Transparency, and Accountability, Rep. Isaacson (D)**

Makes extensive reforms to Pennsylvania's cyber charter school laws. It creates a Cyber Charter School Funding and Policy Council, establishes a flat statewide tuition rate of \$8,000 (adjusted annually), and sets tiered special education reimbursements. It limits fund balances, prohibits financial incentives for enrollment, mandates student wellness checks, adds residency and reporting requirements, and imposes a five-year moratorium on new cyber charter applications. It also increases the extraordinary special education reimbursement allocation to 2% of the state special education appropriation.

05/30/2025 – Introduced

05/30/2025 – Referred to House Education

06/02/2025 – Reported as committed from House Education

06/02/2025 – First consideration

06/03/2025 – Second consideration and re-referred to House Appropriations

06/03/2025 – Reported as amended from House Appropriations

06/04/2025 – Third consideration and final passage (104-98)



## New Legislation

### Student Health & Wellness

- **SB180: School Meals for All, Sen. Williams (D)**

Establishes the *Universal School Meal Program* in Pennsylvania, requiring schools to provide two free meals per school day (breakfast and lunch) to all students, regardless of household income. It prohibits stigmatizing practices related to meal debt and creates the Universal School Meal Fund, initially funded with \$360 million and supplemented with an additional \$25 million to reimburse schools for existing unpaid meal debt. Schools are required to maximize federal reimbursements and comply with federal nutrition and reporting standards.

05/22/2025 – Introduced

05/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education



- **SB781: Student Mental Health Days, Sen. Kane (D)**

Requires all public and private schools in Pennsylvania to recognize “mental health days” as excused absences starting in the 2026-27 school year. Students may take up to two consecutive days without a formal diagnosis, with additional days subject to existing illness/excusal policies. The Department of Education must issue model policies and evidence-based guidelines for implementation, with a focus on integrating mental health supports and engaging diverse student perspectives in policy development.

*05/22/2025 – Introduced*

*05/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education*

## School Safety

- **SB749: Parental Notification of Students Involved in School Incidents, Sen. Kim (D)**

Requires all Pennsylvania school entities to adopt and implement a parental notification policy for incidents involving students that must be reported to the state or that result in serious injury on school property, school buses, or at school events. Schools must maintain updated contact preferences, make reasonable efforts to use parents’ preferred notification methods, and train staff on recognizing and responding to incidents requiring notification. Noncompliance may result in the withholding of state funds.

*05/22/2025 – Introduced*

*05/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Education*

## Facilities and Transportation

- **SB759: Lead-Free School Drinking Water, Sen. Robinson (R)**

Requires all Pennsylvania school entities to install certified point-of-use filters on all drinking water outlets by January 1, 2027. Schools must replace unfiltered fountains with filtered bottle-filling stations at a ratio of at least one per 100 students and staff, maintain a filter oversight schedule, and ensure all new outlets meet strict lead standards. The bill establishes the *Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund* and a grant program, prioritizing older schools and those with pre-K students. Annual funding of \$10 million would be authorized for three years.

*05/22/2025 – Introduced*

*05/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Institutional Sustainability and Innovation*

- **SB760: Radon Testing in Schools, Sen. Robinson (R)**

Requires all Pennsylvania school buildings to undergo radon testing beginning in the 2026-27 school year. If radon levels meet or exceed 4 picocuries per liter, the school must implement certified mitigation and continue testing every two years until levels are reduced. All testing and mitigation must be conducted by certified professionals, with results publicly reported and submitted to state and local agencies. New school buildings must follow radon-resistant construction standards.

*05/22/2025 – Introduced*

*05/22/2025 – Referred to Senate Institutional Sustainability and Innovation*

## Charter and Cyber Schools

- **SB799: Cyber Charter School Reimbursement Reform, Rep. Boscola (D)**

Modifies charter school funding by capping payments to unaffiliated cyber charter schools. Specifically, if a school district or intermediate unit operates its own cyber charter school, any

payment to an unaffiliated cyber charter school for a resident student is limited to the highest amount the affiliated cyber charter would have received for that student. This change applies to both general and special education student funding formulas.

*05/28/2025 – Introduced*

*05/28/2025 – Referred to Senate Education*

## School Choice and Vouchers

- **HB1489: Lifeline Scholarship Program, Rep. Owlett (R)**

Establishes the *Lifeline Scholarship Program*, which provides state-funded scholarships for eligible students to attend participating nonpublic schools. Students must reside within the attendance boundaries of low-achieving schools or meet income eligibility criteria. Scholarship funds, ranging from \$2,500 to \$15,000, can be used for tuition, school-related fees, and special education services. The bill creates dedicated scholarship accounts administered by the State Treasury and sets procedures for applications, renewals, reporting, and oversight.

## Sports and Extracurricular Activities

- **HB1462: Helping Local Broadcasters by Keeping Sports Coverage Fair, Rep. Struzzi (R)**

Mandates that visiting school teams in interscholastic athletic competitions must be granted the same broadcasting rights as home teams. This includes rights to radio broadcasting, video streaming, or telegraphic play-by-play accounts, provided the visiting team either has a valid media agreement approved by its school board or a curricular program for students that typically provides such coverage.

*05/14/2025 – Introduced*

*05/14/2025 – Referred to House Education*

## Early Childhood Education

- **HB1505: Protecting Access to Pre-K Counts, Rep. Hanbidge (D)**

Amends the definition of “eligible provider” under Pennsylvania’s early learning programs to include intermediate units as authorized Pre-K Counts providers, provided they meet all quality program standards established by the Department of Education. This change aligns intermediate units with other entities, such as school districts, Head Start programs, and qualifying child care centers participating in the Keystone STARS system.

*05/27/2025 – Introduced*

*05/28/2025 – Referred to House Children and Youth*

## Career & Technical Education

- **HB1461: CTE Investment Incentive Program, Rep. Anderson (R)**

Establishes the Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program, which offers tax credits to businesses that contribute to nonprofit organizations supporting career and technical education (CTE). Contributions may be used for program-related costs, enrollment expansion, or in-kind services and equipment. The Department of Community and Economic Development will oversee the program, which caps total tax credits at \$15 million annually and requires annual reporting on participation, expenditures, student outcomes, and industry engagement.

*05/14/2025 – Introduced*

*05/14/2025 – Referred to House Finance*