



DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
October 1, 2025

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News and Updates

A big transit deal is off the table, but Pa.’s budget still isn’t done. What gives? On Sept. 18, 2025 by Stephen Caruso and Katie Meyer of *Spotlight PA*

More than a week ago, Gov. Josh Shapiro took off the table what he called the biggest budget obstacle to a finished Pennsylvania budget. [...] But even with the transit conundrum kicked down the road, the budget isn’t done. [...] State Senate Republicans feel they’re still being asked for too much spending, and need concessions to get their members on board. And state House Democrats, who feel like they’ve already conceded a lot by backing off on recurring transit funding, don’t want to walk away empty handed. Neither side appears ready to make the next move.

Pennsylvania school facilities continue to be ‘in crisis’ on September 23, 2025 by Christina Lengyel of *The Center Square*

One of the major conclusions of Pennsylvania’s 2024 Basic Education Funding Commission findings was that damaged and outdated school buildings pose huge health risks and learning obstacles to Pennsylvania schoolchildren in both rural and urban parts of the state. A year on, legislators are still struggling to find solutions. Meanwhile, facilities are falling further into disrepair. [...] Insurmountable structural problems sank Pennsylvania’s old program, PlanCon, where districts spent a decade in line waiting for grants to fund new buildings or extensive renovations. There was also no focus on maintenance for HVAC repairs, roof replacement, and other smaller projects that could extend the lives of existing facilities. PlanCon 2.0 already exists in state law, but has never been funded.

Federal Updates

USDOE Ends National Blue Ribbon Schools Program

On August 29, 2025, the US Department of Education (USDOE) announced it is ending the decades-old National Blue Ribbon Schools program, which for years recognized both high-performing schools and those making significant strides in closing achievement gaps among student groups. In a letter announcing the change, federal officials framed the decision “in the spirit of returning education to the

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

states.” Pennsylvania has announced a statewide program to continue recognizing schools in the Commonwealth. 13 schools in the Commonwealth have been selected as inaugural [Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon Schools](#).

Federal Budget Update: Potential Shutdown

The federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution (CR) for Fiscal Year 2025. Because Congress has been unable to pass a full budget, the government has been operating under a series of continuing resolutions (CRs) that have temporarily extended government funding. The latest CR was passed on March 14, 2025, and funds the government through September 30, 2025.

The Administration has proposed a budget for the new fiscal year beginning October 1. While holding overall discretionary spending flat, the plan proposes deep cuts to State and International Programs, Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Education, and Health and Human Services (HHS), while significantly increasing funding for the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security. The proposal has already sparked strong pushback in Congress.

The House passed a continuing resolution (H.R. 5371) on September 19 to extend government funding through November 21, 2025. However, it failed in the Senate by a 44-48 vote. It would have kept funding mostly at FY2025 levels, with a few minor additions (notably extra security funding for lawmakers, the Supreme Court, and executive branch). Democrats put forward their own version of a CR to extend funding through October 31, which included extensions of certain health care provisions from the ACA, reversals of cuts to Medicaid in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, and other program restorations.

Unless either one of the proposed CRs (or a new compromise) is passed by both chambers and signed by the President before October 1, 2025, the government faces a partial or full shutdown.

In a memo released on September 24th, the Office of Budget Management has directed federal agencies to consider mass layoffs in the event of a government shutdown.

Session Information

The House added three non-voting session days and to the schedule in September. The House is scheduled to be in session for 7 days in October.

The Senate added one non-voting and three voting days and is scheduled to be in session 10 days in October.

Session Days

**Additional days added (in red)*

Month	House	Senate
September	9 (NV), 10 (NV), 11 (NV), 22 (NV), 23 (NV), 24 (NV), 29, 30	8, 9, 10
October	1, 6, 7, 8, 27, 28, 29	3 (NV), 6, 7, 8, 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 Committee Meetings and Events

MONDAY – 09/29/2025

12:00 p.m., Press Conference

Harrisburg Capitol Complex

Local Governments and School Leaders to Discuss the Budget Impasse

TUESDAY – 09/30/2025

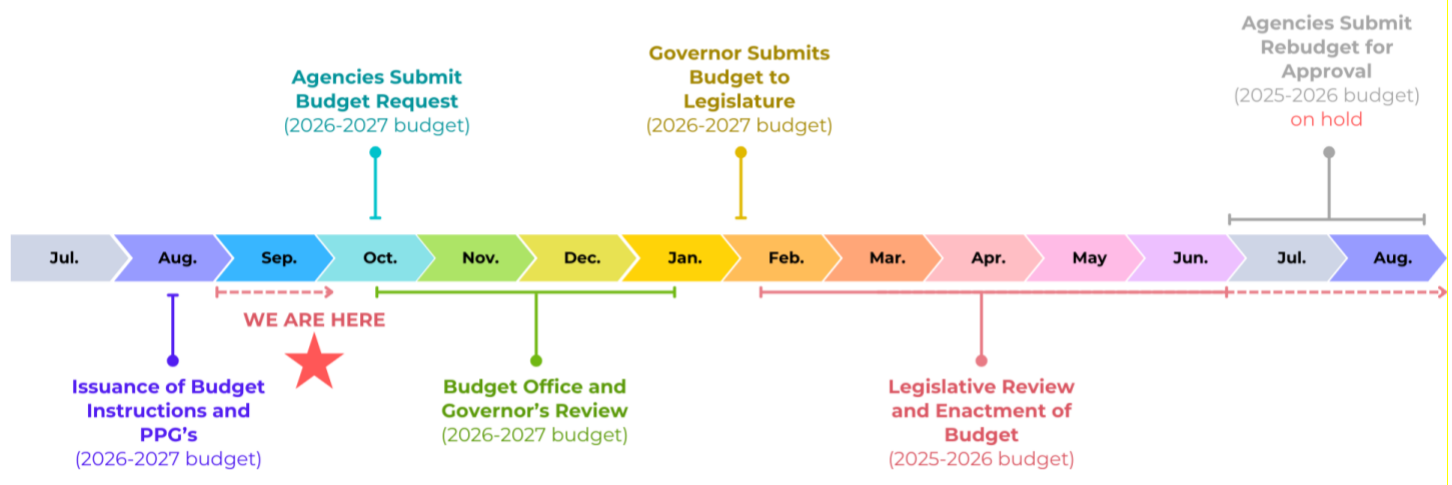
10:00 a.m., House Education

*140 Main Capitol Building and Live Streamed*Voting Meeting to consider [HB1701](#) and any other business that may come before the committee.**TUESDAY – 10/07/2025**

9:30 a.m., House Education and House Agriculture & Rural Affairs

*Room 515, Irvis Office and Live Streamed*Joint public hearing on [HB1768](#) – The Keystone Fresh Act.**State Budget Update**

Budget Process in Pennsylvania



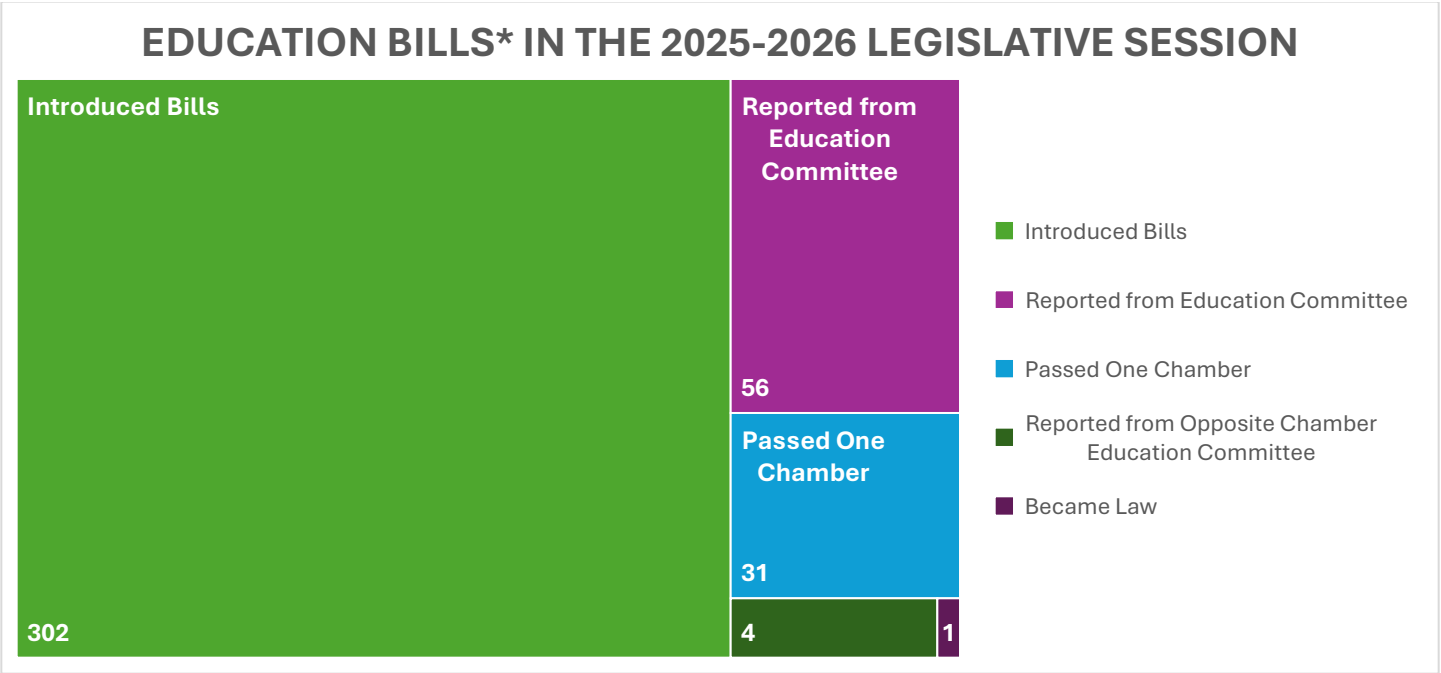
There is still no final agreement on the 2025-2026 state budget. This is the latest budget since 2020-21 (enacted Nov. 23, 2020) and the second latest budget in 10 years. Key sticking points that remain are overall spending and the use of reserves, skill games regulation, and cyber charter regulation.

On September 10th, the House Appropriations Committee advanced SB160 (the Senate-approved version of the budget) to the full House Chamber, but Chairman Jordan Harris (D-Philadelphia) was quick to stress that the move was only procedural, not a sign of progress. “Don’t read anything into this,” he cautioned, calling it simply a placeholder until a true compromise emerges.

State Legislative Update

Most bills introduced in the General Assembly will not advance to become law. Many stall in committee or never reach a final vote. This month’s report, like last month’s, highlights predominantly newly

introduced legislation, making it a good reminder of how few proposals complete the full legislative process.



*Bills referred to the Education Committee of either chamber.

Curriculum & Instruction

Newly Introduced Legislation

- HB1861: Fire/EMS Credit Courses, Rep. Dan Moul (R)**
Authorizes school districts to offer credit-earning firefighter and emergency medical services (EMS) training for students age 16+ who are bona fide members of a fire company or EMS agency explicitly including Firefighter I and EMT training. Districts may provide transportation and must provide supervision for off-campus training as an out-of-school program; districts are not responsible for course fees or materials.
09/12/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education
- HB1877: Seal of Biliteracy, Rep. Joseph D’Orsie (R)**
Establishes a Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, to recognize students who demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one other language on their high school diploma. PDE must set the criteria for English and foreign language proficiency, while students must also meet all graduation requirements. The State Board of Education must report annually on completion rates, efficacy, and recommendations for improvements.
09/25/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

Student Health & Wellness

Newly Introduced Legislation

- HB1849: Dads Defending Daughters Act (Gender-based Sports Teams), Rep. Clint Owlett (R)**
Requires all athletic teams or sports in Pennsylvania public schools and public institutions of higher education to be expressly designated as male, female, or coed based on sex assigned at

birth. Teams designated for females may not include male students. The bill also creates causes of action allowing students (or schools) to sue for harms or retaliation related to violations, with remedies including damages, injunctive relief, and attorney fees.

09/09/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

- **SB999: Seizure Training Mandate, Sen. Lisa Boscola (D)**

Requires all school nurses to complete Department of Health-approved training on seizure management, recognition, and first aid every two years. It also mandates that all school employees with direct student contact complete seizure recognition and first aid training. The bill clarifies that schools and employees are protected under existing civil immunity laws when providing seizure-related emergency care.

09/12/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

School Governance & Finance

Legislative Actions

- **SB160: General Appropriations Act (FY 2025-26), Sen. Martin (R)**

The Senate state budget proposal for July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. For K-12 education: \$8.16B for basic education; \$1.49B for special education; \$821.5M Ready-to-Learn; \$317.3M Pre-K Counts and \$90.9M Head Start; and \$100M for school safety and student mental health. Also, \$3.089B for PSERS and \$644.5M for school employees' Social Security, plus \$702.3M for pupil transportation, \$100M for cyber charter reimbursement, and \$100M for public school facility grants.

08/12/2025 – Reported as committed from Appropriations

08/12/2025 – Third consideration and final passage (27-22)

In the House

08/13/2025 – Referred to House Appropriations

08/13/2025 – Failed in Committee (15-22)

09/10/2025 – Reported as committed from House Appropriations (37-0)



Newly Introduced Legislation

- **HB1829: Athletic Equity Report, Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D)**

Requires all Pennsylvania school entities to conduct an annual evaluation of compliance with federal Title IX athletic regulations and publish the findings online by November 1 each year. The Department of Education must create and annually update an A-F letter grade report card assessing each school entity's equity in athletic participation and spending by race and gender. School entities must publish this report card on their website and notify parents or guardians of the results.

09/04/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

- **SB922: Private School Licensure, Sen. Scott Martin (R)**

Updates the Private Academic Schools Act by allowing applications for licensure to be submitted before security a facility or hiring staff, as long as planning statements and staffing projections are included. It authorizes the State Board of Private Academic Schools to grant conditional approval of licensure for up to six months while schools finalize leases, inspections, or staffing. The bill also

requires the board to establish new rules on qualifications for teachers, staff, and directors, including processes for emergency and substitute permits.

09/17/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

- **HR318: Study on Property Tax Pooling, Rep. Paul Friel (D)**

Directs the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a one-year study on the financial impacts of pooling all school district property tax revenue at the intermediate unit level and redistributing funds based on average daily membership. The study must analyze tax revenue by district, calculate mean and median tax rates regionally and statewide, model revenue pooling at the IU level, and determine how redistribution would affect funding equity. Findings and recommendations must be reported publicly to the General Assembly.

09/17/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education

Charter and Cyber Schools

Newly Introduced Legislation

- **HB1864: Cyber Charter Wellness Checks, Rep. Melissa Shusterman (D)**

Strengthens enrollee wellness check requirements for cyber charter schools. It requires that each student be seen and communicated with in real time at least once per week during instructional weeks via electronic means (e.g., webcam during synchronous instruction). In addition, cyber charters must ensure in-person communication with each student at least once every three weeks to verify well-being and educational participation.

09/17/2025 – Introduced and referred to Education