

DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 30, 2026

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News and Updates

[Demand for student teacher stipends outstrips supply as Shapiro proposes boosting program](#) by Katie Meyer of *Spotlight PA* on March 4, 2026

A stipend aimed at getting more student teachers into Pennsylvania schools and easing the commonwealth’s educator shortage is working, education advocates and experts say. But demand for the \$30 million program is outstripping available funds. In his latest budget proposal, Gov. Josh Shapiro asked lawmakers to increase the appropriation by \$5 million – an amount that would likely still leave many applicants unserved. Meanwhile, schools across the state still don’t have enough teachers. [...] Education advocates say the program has been genuinely beneficial to the state. Giving student teachers a wage “really does help schools have a just more steady flow of new and qualified educators entering their doors,” said Emily Sagor, who works with the education coalition PA Needs Teachers.

[Pa. education secretary says positive signs as state continues to put more money in education](#) by Jim Melwert on March 5, 2026

Pennsylvania has put more than \$1 billion into K-12 funding in the past two years, after a state court ruled the funding model was unconstitutional. During Wednesday’s budget hearings in the state House, Pennsylvania’s Education Secretary Carrie Rowe said her department was seeing positive signs. Rowe said graduation rates went up for the third consecutive year and regular attendance increased for the second consecutive year. “The vast majority of the indicators that we look at and the future-ready index are indicating that we are moving in the right direction, and that this money is having a positive effect on student outcomes,” she said.

Submitted by Rebecca Smith, Coordinator of Innovation, Partnerships, and Special Projects. Sources: PA General Assembly, Capitolwire, Bill Track 50)

State Updates

Session Schedule

Month	Senate	House
March	16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25	23, 24, 25
April	20, 21, 22	13, 14, 15, 27, 28, 29
May	4, 5, 6	4, 5, 6
June	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 29, 30	1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30
July		
August		
September		28, 29, 30
October		5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21
November		9, 10
December		

PDE Testimony Before the House and Senate Appropriations Committee

On March 3, 2026 and March 5, 2026, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) testified about the Governor’s budget before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees respectively. Testimony centered around how Pennsylvania plans to close the school funding adequacy gap and whether current investments are sufficient, with PDE acknowledging that recent increases will not fully close the gap and will require sustained funding over roughly a decade. Legislators raised concerns about how dollars are being used and tracked. There was also significant attention to operational challenges including transportation shortages, rising costs, staffing gaps (especially nurses, psychologists, and teachers), and aging or insufficient school and CTE facilities. Members also raised questions about literacy efforts, access to dual enrollment, and waitlists in career and technical programs, with discussion of both funding and structural barriers to expanding capacity. Finally, the testimony also discussed student access and supports, including libraries, school meals, health services, and strategies to address absenteeism and poverty-related barriers, alongside concerns about federal finding delays and administrative impacts on state education programs.

State Legislative Update

Curriculum and Instruction

Legislative Actions

- SB128: Improving Curriculum Transparency in K-12 Schools, Sen. Mastriano (R)**
 Requires school entities, beginning in the 2027-2028 school year, to publicly post on their website links or titles of all textbooks, course syllabi or summaries, and State academic standards for each instructional course. The information must be updated within 30 business days of any changes.

03/23/2026 – Reported as amended from House Education

03/23/2026 – First consideration



- **HB1752: Keystone Exam Alternative Feasibility Study, Rep. Curry (D)**

Requires the Department of Education to commission an independent feasibility study on replacing Keystone Exams with alternative assessments such as the SAT, ACT, or Smarter Balanced assessments. The study must evaluate alignment to standards, comparability of results, accessibility for diverse learners, costs, and implementation considerations, with findings and recommendations reported to state leadership within one year.

03/24/2026 – Reported as amended

03/24/2026 – First consideration



Student Supports, Services, and Special Education

Legislative Actions

- **HB2218: Increasing Student Success with More School Counselor Support, Rep. Steele (D)**

Requires all school entities to develop, implement, and publicly post a comprehensive school counseling plan aligned to academic, career, and social-emotional development for students. It establishes requirements for program structure, counselor duties (including a goal of 80% of time spent in direct and indirect student services), and mandates Department of Education oversight, guidance, and monitoring for compliance.

03/24/2026 – Reported as committed

03/24/2026 – First consideration



Newly Introduced Legislation

- **HB2275: Allowing More Time for an IEP Evaluation, Rep. Probst (D)**

Requires school entities to complete an initial evaluation to determine if a child has a disability within 60 consecutive school days (rather than the current 60 calendar day timeframe) after receiving parental consent and to provide the evaluation results to the child's parents within that timeframe.

03/10/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education

- **HB2307: Special Education Contingency Fund Reform, Rep. Kinkead (D)**

Increases the portion of the state special education appropriation allocated for the extraordinary special education expenses from 1% to 2% beginning in the 2026-2027 school year. The bill also establishes a structured distribution process prioritizing funding for high-cost students, particularly those newly enrolled in a district, and sets limits on how funds are allocated and capped per district or charter school.

03/23/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education

Student Health & Wellness

Legislative Actions

- **SB375: Greg Moyer’s Law, Sen. Brown (R)**

Establishes new statewide requirements for AED access, CPR/AED training, and cardiac emergency response planning in schools. It requires schools to offer training and defines who must be trained, mandates that trained personnel be present in school buildings, requires AED access at athletic events, and establishes a statewide program, reporting requirements, and dedicated funding through the School Safety and Security Fund to support equipment and training.

02/04/2026 – Reported as amended and first consideration

03/24/2026 – Second consideration, with amendments and re-referred to Appropriations

03/25/2026 – Re-reported as amended



- **SB402: Volunteer Training for the Administration of Emergency Seizure Treatment in Schools, Sen. Argall (R)**

Allows school districts and charter schools to establish programs enabling trained, volunteer nonmedical staff to administer emergency anti-seizure medication to students with epilepsy when a nurse is not available, upon parent request. It outlines training requirements, parental consent, liability protections, and coordination with 504 plans or IEPs, and requires the Department of Education to develop implementation guidelines and best practices.

03/23/2026 – Reported as amended

03/23/2026 – First consideration



- **HB1077: Providing Glasses to Help Our Student Succeed, Rep. Cepeda-Freytiz (D)**

Establishes a Commission on Children’s Vision within the Departments of Education and Health to develop statewide strategies for improving student access to vision screenings, eye examinations, and eyeglasses. The commission is tasked with coordinating programs, analyzing data and needs, and issuing annual reports with recommendations to expand access to vision care services for students.

03/25/2026 – Reported as amended

03/25/2026 – First consideration



Newly Introduced Legislation

- **HB2267: Supporting Students with Pancreatic Conditions, Rep. Khan (D)**

This bill requires school entities to adopt policies allowing students with cystic fibrosis or pancreatic conditions to possess and self-administer prescribed pancreatic enzyme replacement therapy (PERT) in school, provided specific medical documentation, parent authorization, and student competency requirements are met.

03/09/2026 – Referred to House Education Committee

- **HB2285: Health Services Reimbursement Reform and School Nurse Staffing Ratios, Rep. Borowski (D)**

This bill reduces the maximum student-to-school nurse ratio from 1,500:1 to 750:1, requiring additional nursing staff in school buildings. It also increases the state reimbursement rate for school health services beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and requires (rather than allows) the Department of Health to allocate up to \$3 million annually for grants to provide free feminine hygiene products to students.

- **SB1234: Codifying Scoliosis Screenings for School Children, Sen. Brooks (R)**

Requires scoliosis screening to be included in school health programs and mandates screenings for students in grades 5, 6, 7, and 9, as well as age-appropriate students in ungraded settings. It directs the Department of Health to issue guidelines for implementation, requires results to be included in student health records, and allows exemptions for students already under medical care or with parent opt-out.

03/20/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education

School Safety

Legislative Actions

- **HB830: Parental Notification of Bullying in Schools, Rep. O'Mara (D)**

Requires school entities to investigate all reported bullying incidents and establish formal procedures for those investigations. It also mandates that within 24 hours of determining that bullying occurred, schools must notify the parents of guardians of both the target and the aggressor, while maintaining existing requirements for parent notification and privacy compliance.

03/24/2026 – Reported as amended

03/24/2026 – First consideration



School Governance & Finance

Legislative Actions

- **SB835: Display of the POW/MIA Flag at Schools, Sen. Pennycuik (R)**

Requires school districts to display the official POW/MIA flag alongside the United States flag at public school buildings where it can be reasonably accommodated. The requirement applies during times when the U.S. flag is displayed in accordance with existing law.

03/23/2026 – Reported as committed

03/23/2026 – First consideration



- **SB378: The Student Data Privacy and Protection Act, Sen. Phillips-Hill (R)**

Establishes a comprehensive framework for student data privacy and security, including limiting the collection and use of student data, requiring parental consent for disclosure, and prohibiting the sale or use of data for targeted marketing. It mandates that the Department of Education designate a Chief Data Privacy Officer, requires school entities to adopt data governance and security policies, and sets notification requirements and penalties for data breaches.

03/23/2026 – Reported as amended from Senate Education
03/23/2026 – First consideration

