

DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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News and Updates

[Adequacy funds are at the center of PA ed budget debates. See how your school district uses them by Jillian Forstadt of WESA on April 6, 2026](#)

Top Pennsylvania lawmakers say they want to see school districts show improved results before guaranteeing additional rounds of adequacy dollars, set aside for historically underfunded school districts in the commonwealth. This year’s budget proposal would bring schools a third round of adequacy funding, introduced after a [2023 Commonwealth Court ruling](#) mandated an overhaul of the state’s school funding system. New data released by the state last month show school districts used the initial round of funds, allocated for the 2024-2025 school year, to boost student academic performance, address increases in charter school tuition, expand full-day kindergarten offerings, and add STEM-related programming. School districts must adhere to a [list of acceptable uses](#) outlined by the legislature.

[Pa. House greenlights Gov. Shapiro’s proposed budget on bipartisan vote by Whitney Downard on April 14, 2026](#)

Three weeks after introducing an identical \$53.2 billion spending plan to Gov. Josh Shapiro’s proposal, state House lawmakers passed the unaltered budget Tuesday, sending the bill over to the Senate for further consideration. A handful of Republicans joined all 102 Democrats to advance the measure on a

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

107-94 vote, which calls for funding part of the 5.4% increase over last year's plan through taxes on legalized recreational cannabis and electronic skill games – which have been included in previous budgets and rejected annually by Senate Republicans.

**[House committee advances Rep. Steele bill to restrict cellphones in schools](#) by *Pennsylvania Press*
Releases on April 29, 2026**

A bipartisan bill by Rep. Mandy Steele, D-Allegheny, to restrict cellphone use in Pennsylvania schools cleared a key legislative hurdle today. House Bill 1814 advanced out of the House Education Committee and now heads to the full House. The bill would prohibit students in public schools from using or possessing a cellphone during the school day. Students would be required to secure their phones in a way that prevents access until the end of the day, with exceptions in certain emergency and medical needs approved by school authorities.

**[Lawmakers push for fairness in high school sports with new playoff system](#) by *John Finnerty of State Affairs*
Affairs on April 30, 2026**

The state House approved legislation Wednesday empowering the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association to establish one post-season tournament for traditional public schools and another for private and charter schools. House Bill 41 passed with bipartisan support from lawmakers who said they've grown weary of watching their local schools beat their neighboring competitors in the regular season only to get quickly eliminated from post-season tournaments from schools that are able to attract students without being limited by school district boundaries.

Federal Budget Update

The President's Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2027 again requests a decrease in funding for the U.S. Department of Education and its related education programs. The proposed budget includes:

- Eliminating funding for:
 - Professional development (currently \$2.2 billion)
 - English learner services (currently \$890 million)
 - Academic enrichment and student supports (currently \$1.4 billion)
 - Before- and after-school programs (currently \$1.3 billion)
 - Rural schools (currently \$220 million)
 - Support for students experiencing homelessness (currently \$129 million)
- The budget proposes to consolidate the above programs and 11 others into a \$2 billion block grant to states called Make Education Great Again (MEGA) grants (\$4.6 billion short of current value)
- Title I – flat funding at \$18.4 billion
- IDEA – a \$489 million increase to \$16 billion

It is noted that, like in the FY2026 federal budget, the funding legislation ultimately enacted by Congress may bear little resemblance to the President's proposal.

State Updates

Session Schedule

Month	Senate	House
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		

State Budget Update

On April 14, 2026, the PA House passed (107-94) a \$53.3 billion budget (HB2400), mirroring Governor Shapiro’s budget proposal. This budget is considered to be a “placeholder” measure for the final budget agreement.

The bill has been sent to the Senate, where Republicans immediately raised concerns about the proposed spending. There appears to be little agreement currently between House and Senate leaders about the 2026-2027 budget; however, June is expected to be a highly active month for budget negotiations.

State Legislative Update

Curriculum and Instruction

Legislative Actions

- 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.

04/29/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations



- HB2176: Social Media Literacy, Rep. Prokopiak (D)**
 Requires the State Board of Education to incorporate social media literacy into academic standards, including instruction on the impacts of social media use, online safety, and identifying risks such as cyberbullying and predatory behavior. The Department of Education must develop instructional materials and make professional development opportunities available to support implementation.

04/15/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations

04/27/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/27/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (115-85)



- HB1877: Enhancing our Workforce by Recognizing the Skill of Biliteracy, Rep. D’Orsie (R)**
 Establishes a Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy to be awarded to graduating students who demonstrate proficiency in English and at least one additional world language, with criteria set by the Department of Education. School entities that award the seal must note it on transcripts and report annual data on recipients, while the Department is required to publish ongoing reports on program outcomes.

04/28/2026 – Reported as amended

04/28/2026 – 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.

04/28/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations

04/29/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/29/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (106-95)



- HB2307: Special Education Contingency Fund Reform, Rep. Kinhead (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.

04/28/2026 – Reported as committed

04/28/2026 – First consideration



Student Health & Wellness

Legislative Actions

- SB375: Greg Moyer’s Law, Sen. Brown (R)**
 Establishes comprehensive requirements for automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and CPR training in schools, including mandating that school entities provide CPR/AED instruction to employees and volunteers every two years and ensure trained personnel are present in each

building during the school day. It requires schools participating in interscholastic athletics to maintain accessible AEDs, develop cardiac emergency response plans, conduct annual drills, and report AED inventory and status annually. The bill also creates a statewide AED program, directs funding through the School Safety and Security Fund for equipment and training, and allows grants to support implementation.

04/27/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (141-59)



- HB1706: Mental Health Awareness – Students and Coaches, Rep. Daley (D)**
 Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the Departments of Health and Human Services, to develop and publish guidance on student mental health awareness, particularly for students involved in athletics and extracurricular activities. It mandates that schools notify students and families twice annually about available mental health services, requires referrals to student assistance programs for certain behavioral indicators, and directs updates to coaching education requirements to include mental health training.

04/14/2026 – Second consideration and re-referred to Appropriations

04/15/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/15/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (107-94)

In the Senate

04/17/2026 – Referred to Education



- 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.

04/29/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations



- HB1045: School Professional Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training, Rep. Kazeem (D)**
 Requires school nurses and school staff with direct student contact to complete Department of Health-approved training on seizure recognition and related first aid at least every three years. It shifts prior optional training to mandatory and includes provisions clarifying civil immunity for staff who provide care consistent with school policies.

04/28/2026 – Reported as amended

04/28/2026 – First consideration



- HB2117: Ensuring Lifesaving Asthma Medication is Available for Students, Rep. Hill-Evans (D)**
 Expands existing school health policies to include short-acting asthma medications alongside

epinephrine delivery systems, requiring school entities to allow student self-administration and maintain supplies for emergency use. It authorizes trained school staff, including non-medical personnel under certain conditions, to administer these medications, establishes training requirements, and extends protections to school bus drivers and crossing guards who provide emergency care.

04/28/2026 – Reported as committed

04/28/2026 – First consideration



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.

04/28/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations

04/29/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/29/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (136-65)



- **HB2042: Safety in Youth Sports, Rep. Briggs (D)**

Expands concussion and traumatic brain injury requirements to include additional youth athletic activities beyond interscholastic athletics and strengthens existing protocols. It requires adoption of a return-to-learn protocol, annual acknowledgement of concussion information, updated coach training requirements, and allows municipalities to require compliance as a condition for use of public athletic facilities.

04/15/2026 – Second consideration, with amendments, and re-committed to Appropriations

04/27/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/27/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (121-79)



- **SB1262: Enhancing School Bus Safety, Sen. Pennycuik (R)**

Adds sentencing enhancements for certain DUI offenses, including cases involving refusal of chemical testing, repeat high-level offenses, and violations involving school bus or school vehicle drivers operating with illegal levels of alcohol or controlled substances while on duty. It directs the Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing to incorporate these enhancements into sentencing guidelines.

04/06/2026 – Introduced and referred to Transportation

04/21/2026 – Reported as committed

04/21/2026 – First consideration

04/22/2026 – Second consideration



Newly Introduced

- HB2438: School Mapping Requirements, Rep. Sanchez (D)**
 Establishes requirements for school mapping services contracts funded with state dollars, including standards for interoperability with emergency response systems, detailed building and campus mapping features, and data security. It also requires school districts to obtain approval from their primary law enforcement agency before entering into a mapping contract to ensure maps meet emergency response needs.
04/21/2026 – Introduced and referred to Veterans Affairs & Emergency Preparedness

Cyber and Charter Schools

Newly Introduced

- HB2358: Ensuring High-Quality Cyber Education Options for Students, Rep. Rivera (D)**
 Allows school districts with approved online learning programs to be exempt from paying cyber charter tuition for resident students attending an external cyber charter school, provided the district program meets state-established criteria. The Department of Education, in collaboration with statewide administrator and business official associations, must develop criteria that include elements such as attendance tracking, student support, and program quality requirements.
04/06/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education
- HB2375: Prohibiting Consideration of Charter and Cyber Charter School Applications that Provide Direct Instruction via AI, Rep. Rivera (D)**
 Prohibits charter schools, cyber charter schools, and other public-school entities from using instructional models that rely on artificial intelligence in place of professional educators to provide direct instruction. It also bars approval of new charter or cyber charter applications using such models and allows for charter revocation or nonrenewal if a school adopts them.

School Governance & Finance

Legislative Actions

- SB1014: Phone Free Schools, Sen. Robinson (R)**
 Requires school entities to adopt a “bell-to-bell” policy prohibiting student use of personal mobile devices during the school day while on school property, but allows local discretion in establishing the manner in which a student’s possession of a mobile device is to be restricted. The bill includes defined exceptions for medical needs, IEP/504 accommodations, English learners, or specific instructional use. It also details requirements for parent communication, policy enforcement, and public posting, including submission of policy documentation to the Department of Education.
04/28/2026 – Re-reported as amended by House Education
04/28/2026 – First consideration



- HB1814: Cell Phones in Schools, Rep. Steele (D)**
 Requires school entities to prohibit use of student personal mobile devices during the school day

and establish methods to physically restrict access, such as lockboxes or locked pouches. It includes limited exceptions for medical needs, IEP/504 accommodations, English learners, or specific instructional use. The bill also requires schools to adopt and enforce policies aligned to these requirements.

04/28/2026 – Reported as amended

04/28/2026 – First consideration



- **SB1293: School Sports Designations by Sex, Sen. Ward (R)**

Requires athletic teams and sports in public schools and public institutions of higher education to be designated as male, female, or coed based on a student's sex as defined at birth. It prohibits students of the male sex from participating on teams designated for females. It also establishes legal protections for schools that maintain separate teams and creates a private right of action for individuals who claim harm or loss of athletic opportunity due to violations.

04/17/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

04/20/2026 – Reported as committed

04/20/2026 – First consideration

04/21/2026 – Second consideration

04/22/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (30-17)

In the House

04/23/2026 – Referred to Judiciary



- **HB41: Athletic Playoff Process, Rep. Conklin (D)**

Allows the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) to establish separate playoffs and championships for public (boundary) and nonpublic (non-boundary) schools, but requires a formal public process before doing so. The process includes holding public hearing across regions, collecting testimony, conducting an open deliberation meeting, and issuing a written decision with justification. The bill also limits legal challenges once a determination is made.

04/28/2026 – Second consideration, with amendments, and re-committed to Appropriations

04/29/2026 – Re-reported as committed

04/29/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (178-23)



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

04/20/2026 – Second consideration and re-referred to Appropriations

04/20/2026 – Re-reported as committed



- **SB250: Displaying the Preamble of the Constitution of Pennsylvania in Schools, Sen. Dush (R)**
Requires each school entity to display the Preamble of the Pennsylvania Constitution at the entrance of every school building, such as through a mounted plaque.

04/20/2026 – Reported as committed

04/20/2026 – First consideration

04/21/2026 – Second consideration and re-referred to Appropriations



- **SB598: Displaying the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States in Schools, Sen. Dush (R)**

Requires each school entity to display the Preamble of the United States Constitution at the entrance of every school building, such as through a mounted plaque.

04/20/2026 – Reported as committed

04/20/2026 – First consideration

04/21/2026 – Second consideration and re-referred to Appropriations



- **SB698: Requiring an Appraisal Before School Districts Purchase Real Estate, Sen. Coleman (R)**

Requires school districts to base real estate purchases on formal appraisals, prohibiting payment above the appraised value and, if multiple appraisals are obtained, limiting the purchase price to the average of those appraisals. It also mandates that appraisal documents be publicly accessible under the Right-to-Know Law and extends these requirements to charter and cyber charter schools.

04/20/2026 – Reported as amended

04/20/2026 – First consideration



Newly Introduced

- **HB2338: Safeguarding Personal Expression at K-12 Schools (SPEAKS) Act, Rep. Gleim (R)**
Requires school entities to adopt or revise policies to protect students' rights to engage in religious, political, or ideological expression in class, assignments, and student organizations, provided the expression meets standard academic and behavioral expectations. It prohibits schools from penalizing students or discriminating against student organizations based on their viewpoints while allowing schools to restrict unprotected speech (e.g., threats, substantial disruptions). The bill also establishes a private right of action, allowing students to sue school entities for violations, including for damages and legal fees.

03/30/2026 – Referred to House Education

- **HB2325: Educator Expenses Tax Credit, Rep. Inglis (D)**

Establishes a state tax credit of up to \$500 annually for professional educators who purchase classroom supplies or instructional materials out-of-pocket. The Department of Revenue, in consultation with the Department of Education, is responsible for defining eligible expenses,

issuing guidance, and reporting annually on program usage and total credits awarded.

03/30/2026 – *Introduced and referred to House Finance*

- **SB1253: Athletic Playoff Structure, Sen. Flynn (D)**

Allows the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) to establish separate playoffs and championships for public (boundary) and nonpublic (non-boundary) schools but requires a formal public process before doing so. The process includes holding public hearing across regions, collecting testimony, conducting an open deliberation meeting, and issuing a written decision with justification.

03/30/2026 – *Introduced and referred to Senate Education*

Teacher and Staff Certification

Legislative Actions

- **HB2436: Talent Recruitment Account, Rep. Tiburcio (D)**

Directs certification fee revenue collected by the Department of Education into the Talent Recruitment Account to support educator workforce efforts except for professional educator discipline fees.

04/21/2026 – *Introduced and referred to Education*

04/28/2026 – *Reported as committed*

04/28/2026 – *First consideration*



Newly Introduced

- **Teacher Certification Six Bill Package, Rep. Ortitay (R)**

- **HB2352: Prioritizing Student Teacher Stipends for High-Need Areas**

Amends the Pennsylvania Student Teacher Stipend Program to prioritize stipends for candidates who commit to teaching in rural or low-income districts and high-demand STEM fields.

03/31/2026 – *Introduced and referred to Education*

- **HB2353: Eliminating Redundant Testing for Out-of-State Teachers**

Requires PDE to automatically waive the testing requirements for any out-of-state application who has successfully completed a nationally recognized licensure exam.

03/31/2026 – *Introduced and referred to Education*

- **HB2354: Merit-Based Praxis Retest Fee Waiver**

Waives the retest fee for candidates who miss passing the Praxis exam by three points or fewer on their first attempt.

03/31/2026 – *Introduced and referred to Education*

- **Bill 4 (not yet introduced): Expedited Certification for Military Veterans**

Provides a streamlined pathway for military veterans with teaching experience to enter the classroom and begin teaching while continuing to work towards their certification.

- **Bill 5 (not yet introduced): Expanding CTE Teacher Pathways**
Expands certification pathways for industry professionals seeking to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses by eliminating some pedagogy coursework.
- **Bill 6 (not yet introduced): STEM Certification Flexibility for Industry Professionals**
Allows professionals with industry certifications to teach STEM subjects while completing education coursework on the job.
- **HB2441: Creating an Experience-Based Certification Pathway for Student Services Professionals, Rep. Inglis (D)**
Creates an experience-based certification pathway for school counselors, social workers, and nurses, allowing individuals to qualify based on professional credentials, exams, and supervised clinical experience rather than completing all traditional preparation program requirements upfront. The certification is temporary (up to five years) and allows individuals to work while completing required coursework toward full certification.
04/22/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

Career and Technical Education

Legislative Actions

- **HB2425: CTE Curriculum Modernization Grant Program, Rep. Rusnock (D)**
Establishes a Career and Technical Education Curriculum Modernization Grant Program to provide funding for school entities to purchase and implement updated digital or print CTE curriculum materials. It sets a formula-based distribution of funds, requires a streamlined application process, and outlines required features of supported curriculum, including instructional resources, hands-on activities, and pathways to industry-recognized credentials.
04/18/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education
04/28/2026 – Reported as committed
04/28/2026 – First consideration

Newly Introduced

- **SB366: Removing Barriers to Career and Technical Education, Sen. Williams (D)**
Authorizes the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive the requirement that career and technical education (CTE) programs must conclude in 12th grade, allowing programs to end earlier if approved. The waiver authority is limited to three years or until final regulations are promulgated, and does not impact students already enrolled in programs prior to expiration.
03/30/2026 – Introduced and referred to House Education
- **SB1280: The S.H.I.P. Act, Sen. Boscola (D)**
Directs the Department of Education to establish a statewide career and technical education program of study in shipbuilding and maritime trades, aligned with industry credentials and apprenticeship pathways. It also creates a competitive grant program to support schools in implementing these programs, funding for equipment, professional development, and work-based learning opportunities, and requires annual reporting on participation and outcomes.
04/14/2026 – Referred to Senate Education