

DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

August 5, 2026

Table of Contents

<i>DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</i>	<i>1</i>
State Updates	1
<i>Budget.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Omnibus School Code Bill</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Session Schedule.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>State Legislative Update</i>	<i>9</i>
Curriculum and Instruction.....	9
Student Supports, Services, and Special Education.....	10
Student Health and Wellness	11
School Safety	13
Facilities and Transportation.....	14
School Governance and Finance	15
Teacher and Staff Certification.....	17
Career and Technical Education	17

State Updates

Budget

The 2026-2027 State Budget, House Bill 2400, was approved by the House (167-35) and Senate (44-6) before being signed into law by Governor Shapiro on July 12, 2026 ([Act. No. 1A of 2026](#)). At \$50.85 billion, this year’s budget package showed an increase of \$750 million from the \$50.09 billion allocated for the previous year. Education (40.4%) and Health & Human Services (41.3%) received majority funding while sectors like recreation and cultural enrichment (0.5%) and transportation (0.0%) received less than one percent combined.

2026-2027 Education Budget Allocation

- **Basic Education Funding:** Received \$8,320,444,000, an increase of \$58 million (0.70%) over the previous year’s allocations to continue sustained investment in school district basic education programs.
- **Ready to Learn Block Grant:** Received \$1,948,481,000, an increase of \$565 million (40.84%) over the previous year’s allocations. The enacted appropriations include:
 - *Ready to Learn Block Grant Foundation:* \$1,383,402,000
 - *Additional Adequacy Investment for K-12 Education:* \$526,440,000
 - *Additional Minimum Adequacy Supplement for K-12 Education:* \$6,437,000

Submitted by Danielle Chung, Marketing & Communications Specialist. Sources: PA General Assembly, Bill Track 50, and PSBA Under the Dome.

- *Additional Tax Equity Supplement for K-12 Education: \$32,202,000*
- **Special Education Funding:** Received \$1,581,815,000, an increase of \$55 million (3.60%) over the previous year's allocations. This includes approximately \$120 million allocated for components included in the School Code bill such as; Special Education Contingency Fund, core services funding to Intermediate Units, Institutionalized Children's Program funding, special education for wards of state students, and special education for students placed out of state.
- **Secondary Career and Technical Education:** Received \$141,722,920, an increase of \$10 million for Secondary Career and Technical Education subsidies established in the Pennsylvania Public School Code. This provides reimbursements for the following programs: agriculture, distributive, health occupations, home economics, business, technical, trade and industrial education, or any other occupational-oriented program approved by the Secretary of Education.
- **Early Childhood Education:**
 - **Head Start Supplemental Assistance:** Received \$91.9 million, an increase of \$1.0 million (1.15%) over the previous year's allocations.
 - **Pre-K Counts:** Received \$330.6 million, an increase of \$3.8 million (1.15%) over the previous year's allocations.
 - **Early Intervention:** Received \$494.5 million, an increase of \$41.2 million (9.09%) over the previous year's allocations.

Omnibus School Code Bill

[House Bill 1505](#) passed the House (172-30) and Senate (45-5) before being signed by Governor Shapiro on July 12, 2026 (act No. 20 of 2026). The Annual School Code Bill includes a broad range of policy changes affecting school entities, with updates related to student health and wellness, school safety, charter schools, career and technical education, instructional requirements, and school operations.

Standardized Testing Study

The committee will conduct a comprehensive study on standardized tests and accountability requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). By June 9, 2027, the committee will submit their report to the Administration and General Assembly for review and make it available for viewing on a publicly accessible website. The study shall include the following information:

- Review of the Commonwealth's current compliance with the requirements set forth by ESSA, including a review of participation and opt-out rates disaggregated by each school entity
- Review of the types of assessments used in other states in compliance with ESSA
- A summary of administrative changes to the assessment system between the 2014-2015 and 2025-2026 school years, including the reduction in the amount of time dedicated to federally required assessments and if testing time can be reduced without jeopardizing the validity of the results
- The amount of time necessary to administer standardized tests each year
- An evaluation of testing accommodations for standardized and higher education assessments that permit students with disabilities, English learners, and students who qualify for free and reduced lunch the opportunity to participate in each assessment and receive comparable benefits
- The total cost to the Commonwealth and schools to administer each year from 2014-2015 to 2025-2026.

Lead Testing

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, and annually to follow, school facilities where children attend may be tested for lead levels in drinking water. School facilities found to have an excess of 0.005 milligrams per liter, shall immediately implement a plan to ensure no child or adult is exposed to lead contamination and provide alternate sources of drinking water. School facilities that do not test their water will still be required to hold a public meeting discussing lead issues at the school.

School Facilities: Public School Facility Inventory

Requires the Department of Education to collect information related to each public school facility. By April 1, 2027, PDE will develop a form and electronic process for a school entity to submit the required information. By December 31, 2027, school entities will submit the required information in a form and manner determined by PDE. Every five years following this date, the school entity should review, update, and report this information to the Department of Education, including substantial changes in public school facility use, occupancy, ownership, damage to, or closure of the public school facility. The department will collect the following information:

- Basic information on the school entity and public school facility (name, address, ownership)
Grades served, if applicable
- Number of students enrolled and a projection for student enrollment growth over the next 10 years
- Building capacity limits
- Public School Entity designation – administrative, instructional, athletic, maintenance
- Number of stories, approximate square footage, and acreage of the public school facility
- Whether the public school facility is owned or leased
- The age of the public school facility, including dates and brief descriptions of any major renovations or additions

Continuing Professional Education

Allows the Department of Education to use its discretion to award credits to educators who have completed professional development activities in other states while employed in that state. It also allows educators who are moving out of state to maintain an active teaching certificate in Pennsylvania. Expands the terms school or system leader to include director or assistant director of an area career and technical school, intermediate unit executive director or assistant intermediate executive director, including those serving on a commission qualification letter issued by the Department of Education.

Permit for Classroom Monitors

Clarifies that assignments given to students by classroom monitors must be developed by a professional employee assigned to that classroom. Classroom monitors are not permitted to develop lesson plans, grade student work, or serve in a single assignment for longer than 20 cumulative days. School entities receiving the permit must satisfy all the requirements:

- Completed at least 60 semester hours or the equivalent of courses at a college/university located in the Commonwealth or have at least three years' experience as a paraprofessional and is currently employed by a school entity as a paraprofessional
- Be at least 25 years old
- Has completed a PDE approved training on classroom management provided by an intermediate unit

- Individuals that receive a permit and are already employed by the school entity as a paraprofessional shall receive the higher of the individual's existing contractual compensation or the compensation established by the school entity for day-to-day substitute teachers

Each school will submit a report to PDE by June 30, 2027 and annually to follow. The report should include the number of classroom monitors, the number of days classroom monitors were used, and day-to-day substitute teacher compensation. Extends authorization to June 30, 2029.

Cyber Charter Residency Verification

Improves residency verification requirements for cyber charter school students. Parents or guardians must periodically provide proof of a student's residency to both the cyber charter school and the student's school district of residence. The bill also revises the residency dispute process, extends response timelines from seven to ten days, exempts homeless students from the continued verification requirement, and prohibits retaliation against cyber charter employees who report suspected residency violations in good faith.

Cyber Charter Student Truancy

Before enrolling a student who seeks to transfer after the start of the school year, cyber charter schools must contact the student's former school entity for the attendance records and to ensure that student is not habitually truant during the current school year. No later than five days passed receiving the written request, the former school entity must provide the student's attendance records and habitual truancy status to the cyber charter school. Cyber charter schools are not permitted to enroll a student who is habitually truant during the current school year and may not receive payment for a student who is habitually truant unless a judge determines that the transfer is in the best educational interest of the student.

Procedure When a Child is Truant

Requires school entities to provide written notice to the parent or guardian of the student within ten days of the student's third unexcused absence. The notice must be provided in the parent or guardian's preferred mode and language of communication and include the following:

- A description of the consequences of the student becoming habitually truant
- Notice that a student who is habitually truant may not transfer to a cyber charter school during the school year, unless a judge determines it is in the best interest of the student
- Resources available to support the student and parent or guardian in getting the student back to compliant compulsory school attendance
- Opportunities for further academic recovery in response to truant behavior
- Notice that details the right to request the court hold an educational best interest hearing

Wellness Checks for School District Cyber Programs and Cyber Charter Schools

Requires school districts to establish a wellness check policy by March 1 of each year for the following school year and conduct weekly wellness checks for all enrolled students who receive academic instruction exclusively through a full-time district virtual instruction program for the full school year. The policy must be posted on the district's publicly accessible website. During any week consisting of three full or partial days of academic instruction, districts must ensure that each student is visibly seen and communicates in real time, either in

person or via electronic means by a teacher, administrator, or other district representative. Within one day of a missed wellness check, the district will:

- Make documented, ongoing efforts to complete the check and get in contact with the student's parent or guardian through at least two different modes of communication.
- Provide written notice to the parent or guardian in their preferred language that the wellness check has not been completed.
- If the wellness check has not been completed within three days after the written notice, the following shall apply:
 - The district will schedule a wellness review conference to occur within one school day. It may be held virtually or in-person.
 - The district will complete the wellness check through a visual interaction with the student, reestablish communication, and identify interventions to ensure future participation in wellness checks.
 - If a student does not participate in the wellness review conference, the district will conduct an in-person wellness check within 24 hours of the scheduled conference.
- Cyber charter schools must submit their wellness check policy to PDE for approval, once approved, post the policy on their publicly accessible website.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

Requires school entities to adopt or amend a policy relating to bullying and cyberbullying. The policy must require all alleged incidents of bullying or cyberbullying to be promptly investigated by the school entity. After determining whether bullying or cyberbullying has occurred, the school entity must immediately notify the parents or guardians of any students involved in the incident.

- Defines cyberbullying as bullying carried out through electronic technology or communication, including data, computer software, or online platforms regardless of their origin, using a device, system, network, internet device, email, social media, or other digital means, including artificial intelligence generated or modified media.
- School entities must review their bullying and cyberbullying policy at least once every three years.
- School entities must annually review bullying and cyberbullying reporting procedures with students.
- No later than December 31, 2026, the School Safety and Security Committee must develop the minimum training standards for school employees on suicide awareness and prevention and bullying and cyberbullying awareness and prevention.
- School safety coordinators must coordinate training and resources for students and staff on bullying and cyberbullying awareness and prevention.
- Chief School Administrators must report to the Department by July 31 of each year all incidents involving acts of violence, possession of a weapon, or possession, use or sale of controlled substances. The report should include the total number of incidents that were determined to be bullying or cyberbullying, including the number of cyberbullying incidents that involved the use of artificial intelligence-generated or modified media.

School Safety and Mental Health Grants

School districts will receive \$100,000 and intermediate units, area career and technical schools, charter schools, regional charter schools, and cyber charter schools will receive \$70,000. School entities are eligible for school safety and mental health grants to help meet the Level 1 Baseline criteria for physical security or behavioral health and school climate. School entities that meet the applicable Level 1 Baseline Criteria become eligible for expanded grant funding. Grant applications will be made available by the School Safety and Security Committee no later than 45 days after the effective date of this subsection.

School Mapping

School entities using state funds for school mapping services must ensure the contract meets the following requirements:

- In formats that integrate with and are viewable within software used in federal, state, and municipal public safety agencies and law enforcement agencies that provide services to the school entity or nonpublic school without requiring the purchase of additional software or payment of fees to access the data.
- Made for print and electronic sharing
- Viewable and printable from open-source document or image viewers
- Oriented to true north and include a fixed grid with consistent “X” and “Y” coordinates
- Produced from data verified for accuracy through an on-site walkthrough of the school buildings and grounds depicted on maps
- Must include accurate floor plans overlaid on current, verified aerial imagery of the campus
- Maps and floor plans must include site-specific labeling for school structures
- Created, stored, and maintained exclusively within the United States for the duration of the mapping process and duration of the term of the contract to ensure the security of the data

School entities must receive written approval from each law enforcement agency with whom they have a signed Memorandum of Understanding, prior to entering into a contract for school mapping services to ensure that data used under the contract complies with the requirements listed. The maps and the data used to develop the maps will remain confidential and are not subject to Right to Know Law if the disclosure of such information is reasonably likely to result in substantial and demonstrable risk of physical harm or the personal security of students or staff.

Student Body Mass Index (BMI)

Each school-age student will be given a measurement of height and weight by a school nurse or other healthcare practitioner. The information will be collected in a manner that protects student confidentiality and will be used to calculate BMI and track student growth patterns. A student shall be exempt from measurement of height and weight if the student’s parent or guardian submits a written exemption. School entities will report the recorded height and weight measurements and BMI calculation to the Secretary of Health in a manner that protects the student’s confidential data. This information may not be shared with the student or the student’s parent/legal guardian unless a written request has been made.

Eating Disorder Awareness Education

School entities will annually make available educational information and materials to parents, relating to eating disorder awareness and education for students in grades 6 through 12. The Department of Health, in collaboration with the Department of Education, will be responsible for developing and circulating educational information and materials related to eating disorder awareness and education. The Eating Disorder Advisory Committee has been established to offer recommendations concerning topics like eating disorder awareness and education, different types of eating disorders, and warning signs. The educational materials shall:

- Be developed with consideration of the recommendations made by the Eating Disorder Advisory Committee
- Be posted on the Department of Education's publicly accessible website
- Explain the importance of eating disorder prevention education and provide resources to school entities and key personnel
- Be updated every five years

Funds for Later School Start Times

School districts are permitted to use basic education, special education, transportation, state social security contributions, and any unreserved or unassigned fund balance to offset costs associated with planning, implementing, and operating a later start time. Before adopting a later start time, districts will post the proposal on their publicly accessible website and solicit public comments on the change at two advertised public meetings of the board of school directors. Upon adopting a later start time, the district will report the new start time and provide PDE with an accounting of the money used under this section to implement the change.

Flexible Instructional Periods

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, and annually thereafter, public school entities will be required to submit the following information for each school building to PDE:

- Number of flexible instructional days used
- Number of remote or virtual instructional days used by an entire school building that were not approved flexible instructional days
- Whether each flexible instructional day or remote or virtual instructional day used by a school building was a full day or a half day
- Reason for each flexible instructional day or remote or virtual instructional day
- Legal authority for remote or virtual instructional days
- Information must be submitted to PDE by July 31, 2027, and July 31 of each year thereafter.
- Before finalizing the academic calendar, school entities must discuss the use of flexible instructional days and remote or virtual instructional days that apply to an entire school building at a public meeting of the governing board.

Mandatory Recess Periods

School entities shall provide at least 30 minutes of recess during full-day kindergarten through grade 5 and at least 15 minutes of recess during each half-day. The term "recess" specifically refers to a period during the regular school day where students are given a break from structured classroom instruction and an opportunity to engage in physical activity, unstructured play, or social interactions with peers.

- This does not include lunch or physical education classes.
- School entities are not permitted to reduce a student's lunch time to provide sufficient recess time.
- School entities may adjust or reduce the required recess time when the school day has a delayed start or adjusted dismissal time.
- School entities may not reduce instructional time in subjects that are not assessed by a state assessment in order to provide recess time, unless instructional time is also proportionally reduced in subjects assessed by a state assessment.
- This does not restrict school entities and their employees' ability to withhold recess as a disciplinary measure.
- When possible, recess will be held outside without the use of electronic devices.

Social Media Literacy Education

Requires the social media literacy education standards adopted by the State Board of Education to include:

- Effects of social media and mobile device usage on students, including potential mental, psychological, and physical impacts
- Potential impacts of social media and mobile device usage on academic growth and learning
- How to use social media safely, including how to identify suspicious online behavior (cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and potential human trafficking)
- How to maintain personal security on mobile devices

The State Board of Education may review and revise the existing health, safety, and physical education standards as necessary to implement the social media literacy education standards. PDE will be responsible for the following:

- Develop and make available materials on social media literacy with school entities and nonpublic schools
- Make available social media literacy programming in the continuing professional education hours

Temporary Waiver for Career and Technical Students

Authorizes the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive the requirement that career and technical education programs must conclude in the 12th grade. The flexibility may allow students to complete their end-of-program occupational competency assessments before 12th grade. The temporary waiver authority expires three years after the effective date or when final regulations are officially adopted, whichever occurs first. Students enrolled in a program operating under an approved waiver before the authority expires may continue in the program under the waiver.

Session Schedule

**Newly added session days*

Month	Senate	House
August		
September	28, 29, 30	9, 28, 29, 30
October	5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21	5, 6, 7, 19, 20, 21
November	17, 18	9, 10

December

State Legislative Update

Curriculum and Instruction

Became Law

- **Act. No 19 of 2026 (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 earns a high school diploma and demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one additional world language, using criteria established by PDE. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, PDE is required to establish criteria and a toolkit for school entities that choose to award the seal. 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. Specifically, **by October 31, 2027, and annually thereafter**, participating school entities must report:

- the number of graduates awarded the seal
- the number of English learners awarded the seal
- the list of languages for which the seal was awarded
- any other information required by PDE

PDE will compile the data and prepare an annual report on the effectiveness of the Pennsylvania Seal of Biliteracy program.

06/09/26 – Reported as committed

06/09/26 – First consideration

06/10/26 – Second consideration

06/10/26 – Re-referred to Appropriations

06/22/26 – Re-reported as committed

06/22/26 – Third consideration and final passage (50-0)

06/23/26 – Signed in House

06/23/26 – Signed in Senate

06/23/26 – Presented to the Governor

06/29/26 – Approved by the Governor, Act No. 19 of 2026



Newly Introduced

- **SB1418: Hunting and Trapping Education in Schools, Sen. Malone (D)**

Directs the Pennsylvania Gaming Commission, in consultation with the Department of Education, to develop a model program for age-appropriate hunting and trapping education, including firearm safety instruction for kids grades 6-12. The program will cover topics including proper usage and handling of firearms, safe cleaning and maintenance, different types of firearms, safe hunting practices, and the history of wildlife and conservation. Firearms and/or ammunition may not be brought into a school building as part of the firearm safety instruction.

07/09/2026 – Introduced and Referred to Education

Legislative Actions

- **HB2460: Hunting and Trapping Education in Schools, Rep. Kulik (D)**

Directs the Pennsylvania Game Commission, in consultation with the Department of Education to develop and provide a model program for hunting and trapping education and firearm safety for students in grades 6-12. The program must include the following topics: proper use of handling firearms, safe cleaning and maintenance of firearms, different types of firearms, safe hunting practices and techniques, and the history of wildlife conservation and hunting. Firearms and ammunition will not be permitted into a school building as part of instruction.

06/15/26 – Second consideration

06/15/26 – Re-committed to Appropriations

06/16/26 – Re-reported as committed

06/26/26 – Re-committed to Appropriations

06/29/26 – Re-reported as amended

06/30/26 – Third consideration and final passage (180-22)

In the Senate

007/09/26 – Referred to Education



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

Requires school entities, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, to provide age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust, other genocides, and human rights violations. The instruction is designed to help students understand the historical causes and consequences of these events, including the connection between national, ethnic, racial, and religious intolerance and the Holocaust, other genocides, and human rights violations. Directs the Department of Education to develop recommended instructional resources and professional development while allowing school entities to use instructional materials of their choosing, provided they meet the bill's instructional requirements. Requires school entities to publicly post the instructional materials and curriculum used for this instruction on their website.

06/23/2026 – Second consideration



Student Supports, Services, and Special Education

Newly Introduced

- **HB2697: Burden of Proof in Special Education Due Process Hearings, Rep. Webster (D)**

Expands the burden of proof for exceptional children during due process hearing. The local education agency has the burden of proof with an exception made for cases involving a determination of appropriateness of a private school placement unilaterally selected by a parent or guardian of the exceptional child. In this case, the parent or guardian has the burden of proof.

07/15/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

Legislative Actions

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

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to reform the Extraordinary Special Education Program Expenses. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the bill increases the amount available for extraordinary expenses from 1% to 2% of the annual Special Education appropriation and establishes two finding pools to support districts and charter schools serving students with exceptionally high-cost special education needs. The bill prioritizes funding based on either financial impact on a school district or charter school or the highest individual student costs and establishes limits on annual rewards.

06/15/2026 – Second consideration

06/15/2026 – Re-committed to Appropriations

06/16/2026 – Re-reported as committed

06/16/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (202-0)

In the Senate

06/22/2026 – Referred to Education



- **HB2527: Increasing Access to High-Quality Child Care and Pre-K for Working Pennsylvania Families, Rep. Fleming (D)**

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 by revising the definition of an eligible student under the Early Learning Programs article. To be eligible, a child must be at least three years of age, younger than the kindergarten entry age in the resident school district and reside in a household with an annual income not greater than 400% of the Federal poverty level.

06/24/2026 – Reported as committed

06/24/2026 – First consideration

06/24/2026 – Re-committed to Rules



Student Health and Wellness

Newly Introduced

- **SB1362: Expanding Whole Milk Consumption in Pennsylvania Schools, Sen. Argall (R)**

Establishes the Milk Dispensary School Pilot Program within the Department of Agriculture of the Commonwealth to provide grants to eligible schools to install milk dispensary systems. In collaboration with the Center for Dairy Excellence, the department will administer a pilot program, award grants, develop program standards, coordinate with PDE and DOH to ensure the program meets Federal and State-level standards, and evaluate outcomes. The pilot program will operate for a 10-year period beginning with the 2027-2028 school year and include at least 20 schools representing urban, suburban, and rural communities and varying enrollment sizes. Priority will be given to schools that reduce packaging waste, serve high percentages of low-income students, source locally processed whole milk, and agree to share data and best practices. Grant funds may be used for equipment purchase or leasing, installation and maintenance costs, staff training and food certification, and measurement and reporting costs.

06/05/2026 – Introduced and referred to Agriculture & Rural Affairs

- **HB2698: Student Safety and Violence Education (SAVE) Act, Rep. Munroe (D)**

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to expand student mental health and school safety education. Beginning within 24 months of the effective date of this subsection, school entities serving students grades six through twelve will provide at least one hour or one standard class period of evidence-based, age-appropriate, suicide awareness and prevention education and youth violence prevention education each school year. School entities serving students in kindergarten through grade twelve must also provide annual evidence-based, age-appropriate social isolation awareness education. Within one year of this act's effective date, PDE must develop and publish lists of evidence-based, age-appropriate, educational materials, including no-cost programming, to support the instructional requirements of this act.

07/15/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

Legislative Actions

- **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.

In the Senate

06/05/2026 – Referred to Education



- **SB720: Increasing the Effectiveness of Student Vision Examinations, Sen. Gebhard (R)**

Requires children entering school or instructional support services for the first time in Pennsylvania to have a comprehensive eye examination performed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist within one year before the start of school or within 120 days after the start of the school year, whichever comes first. Parents will be notified and provided with a list of vision resources and a form to be completed by the medical practitioner to be used for reporting the results of the examination.

06/09/2026 – Reported as amended

06/09/2026 – 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.

06/03/2026 – Re-reported as committed

06/03/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (192-9)

In the Senate

06/05/2026 – Referred to Education



- **SB1293: Athletic Team Designation Based on Sex, Sen. Ward (R)**

Requires athletic teams sponsored by public school entities and public institutions of higher education to be expressly designated as male, female, or coeducational based on sex at birth. Prohibits students whose sex at birth is male from participating on athletic teams designated for females. Creates a civil cause of action for individuals who are deprived of athletic opportunities or otherwise harmed by violations of the act.

06/17/2026 – Reported with request to re-refer to Education

06/17/2026 – Re-referred to Education



- **HB681: Eliminating School BMI Screenings**

Requires school entities to measure the height and weight of school-age students in accordance with Department of Health requirements to calculate body mass index (BMI). A student is exempt if a parent or guardian submits a written exemption. School entities must report recorded height and weight measurements and BMI calculations to the Secretary of Health in a manner that protects student confidentiality and does not identify individual students. Height, weight, and BMI information may not be shared with a student or the student's parent or guardian unless requested in writing.

06/10/2026 – Second consideration, with amendments

06/10/2026 – Re-committed to Appropriations

06/11/2026 – Re-reported as committed

06/11/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (158-45)

In the Senate

06/18/2026 – Referred to Education

06/23/2026 – Reported as committed

06/23/2026 – First consideration

06/24/2026 – Second consideration

06/24/2026 – Re-referred to Appropriations



School Safety

Legislative Actions

- **HB1919: Protecting Public School Employees Injured on the Job, Rep. Mehaffie (R)**

Clarifies language to state that if the injury was caused by a student or a student's parent or guardian and occurred in the performance of the public school employee's duties authorized by public school policy, the governing body of the public school shall grant the employee student-related injury leave. From the first date of leave continuing until the employee can perform their responsibilities, or until one year after the date of the injury, the employee should be paid full salary and maintain. During this period, the employee shall be considered in daily attendance and will continue to accrue sick leave and other paid leave. Within 15

days of the beginning of student-related injury leave, the employee will provide the public school with documentation from a licensed medical provider.

06/02/2026 – Reported as amended

06/02/2026 - First consideration

06/02/2026 – Re-committed to Rules



- **HB2602: Cyber Student Safety Act, Rep. Schweyer (D)**

Requires cyber charter schools to adopt and implement a Child Protection and Support Plan to identify and respond to suspected child abuse, self-harm, and other urgent student safety concerns. It expands requirements for student wellness checks including mandatory follow-up meetings, parent notifications, and procedures to verify student safety when contact cannot be established. This bill also establishes penalties for schools that fail to comply with the new requirements.

06/10/2026 – Reported as amended

06/10/2026 – First consideration

06/10/2026 – Re-committed to Rules



Facilities and Transportation

Newly Introduced

- **HB2633: Open PlanCon 2.0, Re. Rusnock (D)**

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to repeal the School Maintenance Program and Building Condition Assessment requirements established under Act 70 of 2019. The bill updates the Commonwealth's school construction and renovation reimbursement process by modifying reimbursement calculations, project eligibility, and transition provisions for eligible projects. The legislation removes maintenance program and building assessment requirements for school entities while revising the school construction reimbursement process.

06/12/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

06/16/2026 – Reported as committed

06/16/2026 – First consideration

06/16/2026 – Re-committed to Rules



Legislative Actions

- **SB835: POW/MIA Flag Display Requirement, Sen. Pennycuik (R)**

Amends the Public School Code to require the display of the POW/MIA flag alongside the United States flag at public school buildings when the U.S. flag is displayed and where it can be reasonably accommodated.

06/08/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (50-0)

In the House

06/09/2026 – Referred to Education



School Governance and Finance

Became Law

- **Act No. 6A of 2026 (HB2407): Annual Appropriations for the Public School Employees' Retirement Board, Rep. Harris (D)**

Makes appropriations from the Public School Employees' Retirement Fund and the PSERS Defined Contribution Fund to support the administrative expenses of the Public School Employees' Retirement Board for the 2026-2027 fiscal year and to pay outstanding obligations from the previous fiscal year. The bill provides annual operating funding for PSERS and does not make changes to retirement benefits, employer contribution rates, or pension policy.

06/02/2026 – First consideration

06/03/2026 – Second consideration

06/09/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (49-0)

06/10/2026 – Signed in House

06/10/2026 – Signed in Senate

06/11/2026 – Presented to the Governor

06/12/2026 – Approved by Governor



Newly Introduced

- **HB2594: Public School Choice: Restoring Parents' Rights, Rep. Gleim (R)**

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to prohibit school districts from adopting attendance policies that assign unexcused absences or tardies to students due to district-provided carrier transportation issues or delays in district-provided common carrier transportation, convert accumulated unexcused tardies into an unexcused absence, or assign an unexcused absence because a student is tardy or absent to an individual class. This bill also requires school districts to establish an appeal process for unexcused absence or tardy determinations through the superintendent, school board, or neutral third party. Districts must share the appeal process with parents and guardians annually in their preferred mode and language of communication and post it on the districts publicly accessible website.

06/03/2026 – Introduced and Referred to Education

- **HB2659: Advanced Teaching Roles and Evidence-Based Strategic Staffing Program, Rep. Curry (D)**

Establishes the Advanced Teaching and Evidence-Based Strategic Staffing Program within the PDE. Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the department will request proposal submissions by September 15 with a due date of December 1 of each year. This program would award grants to participating districts to implement advanced teaching roles, teacher-led staffing models, differentiated compensation, and evidence-based staffing strategies to improve student outcomes and educator retention. Participating districts would be

required to submit implementation plans, report program outcomes, and demonstrate long-term financial sustainability.

06/22/2026 – Introduced and Referred to Education

- **HB2632: Closing EITC Reporting Gaps, Rep. Rivera (D)**

Terminates approval of new tax credits under the existing Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) program beginning with the 2027-2028 fiscal year. The bill establishes a new Education Options Tax Credit program, creates the Accountability for Diverted Tax Dollars Restricted Account, and establishes new framework for scholarship granting organizations, scholarships, educational improvement programs, and State oversight. It also modifies tax credit allocation limits under the existing program during the transition to the new Education Options Tax Credit program.

06/12/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

06/16/2026 – Reported as committed

06/16/2026 – First consideration

06/16/2026 – Re-committed to Rules

06/17/2026 – Second consideration

06/17/2026 – Re-committed to Appropriations

06/22/2026 – Amended in House Committee on Appropriations

06/22/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (105-97)

In the Senate

06/26/2026 – Referred to Education



- **HB2634: Charter School Funding Reform, Rep. Prokopiak (D)**

Amends the Public School Code of 1949 to revise the funding methodology used by school districts to calculate tuition payments for charter schools and cyber charter schools. The bill establishes new calculations for regular and special education tuition, modifies the expenditures included in calculating chartered school and cyber charter school tuition payments, and establishes revised funding calculations for cyber charter schools. Requires school districts to report per-student funding data to the Department of Education, which must publish the information annually.

06/12/2026 – Introduced and referred to Education

06/16/2026 – Reported as amended

06/16/2026 – First consideration

06/16/2026 – Re-committed to Rules



Legislative Actions

- **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.

In the Senate

06/05/2026 – Referred to Education



- **HB2544: Supporting Pennsylvania Principals, Rep. Takac (D)**

Redefines and expands provisions related to compensation agreements for school administrators “compensation plans” to “compensation agreements” and requires school employers to meet and discuss in good faith with school administrators compensation, performance evaluations, and benefits before adopting an agreement that lasts for at least one and up to five school years. Agreements must detail salary determination programs, salary schedules, fringe benefits, performance evaluation, complaint procedures, and mediation process. The bill also clarifies that once an agreement is approved, it is binding.

06/17/2026 – Second consideration and re-committed to Appropriations

06/22/2026 – Re-reported as committed

06/22/2026 – Third consideration and final passage (141-61)

In the Senate

06/25/2026 – Referred to 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.

In the Senate

06/05/2026 – Referred to Education



Career and Technical Education

Newly Introduced

- **HB2461: Building and Construction Trades Pre-Apprenticeship Initiative, Rep. Fielder (D)**

Amends the Public-School Code of 1949 by establishing the Commission for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Excellence which will develop guidelines for awarding credit between secondary and postsecondary CTE programs and certain pre-apprenticeship programs. The commission will recommend periodic revision of the guidelines, and report annually on the trends and needs of CTE training and the building and construction trades industries. The bill also expands the use of career and technical education grants to purchase equipment for building and construction trades youth camps or pre-apprenticeship programs. To raise awareness for CTE, this amendment requires community colleges to offer a youth camp in partnership

with the department, the Department of Labor and Industry, the State Board of Higher Education, the Pennsylvania Workforce Development Board and secondary career and technical schools.

06/08/26 - Introduced and referred to 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.

06/02/26 – Third consideration and final passage (201-0)

In the Senate

06/05/26 – Referred to Education



- **SB366: Remove Barriers to Career & Technical Education, Sen. Williams (D)**

Requires the Secretary of Education to temporarily waive the current requirement that career and technical education (CTE) programs end in twelfth grade. The waiver authority would expire three years after the effective date or upon adoption of final regulations, whichever occurs first. Students already enrolled in affected CTE programs could complete their programs under the waiver.

06/09/2026 – Reported as committed

06/09/2026 – First consideration

06/10/2026 – Second consideration

06/10/2026 – Re-referred to Appropriations

