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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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February 11, 2025

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Dear Member,  
We're excited to introduce the **PA Principals Association** *Weekly Legislative Update*—your go-to source for key policy updates that impact school leaders across Pennsylvania.



Each week, we'll bring you the latest news from Harrisburg and Washington, D.C., keeping you informed about state and federal legislation, policy changes and advocacy efforts that affect your role as a principal. Our goal is to ensure you have timely, relevant information to navigate the evolving educational landscape with confidence.

Stay tuned for updates, and as always, we welcome your feedback and engagement in our advocacy efforts. *Thank you for your dedication to Pennsylvania's students and schools!*

**Pennsylvania Principals Association**

## ***Position Statement on State and Federal Education Issues***

The **Pennsylvania Principals Association (PA Principals Association)** stands in solidarity with national organizations such as the **National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)** and the **National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)** in advocating for equitable, well-funded and inclusive education policies at both state and federal levels. In light of ongoing challenges and critiques directed at the education sector, we reaffirm our commitment to the following principles:

### **1. Equitable and Adequate Funding**

We advocate for robust federal and state investments in education to ensure that all students, regardless of their socioeconomic status or geographic location, have access to high-quality learning opportunities. This includes full funding of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) to support historically marginalized students and fulfilling Congress's obligation of funding 40% of the excess cost of educating students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

### **2. Support for Educators**

Recognizing the critical role of educators in student success, we call for increased funding for professional development programs, such as Title II, Part A of the ESEA, which provides resources to strengthen teacher and principal preparation programs. Additionally, we support initiatives aimed at addressing teacher shortages, particularly in high-need subject areas and underserved communities, by improving recruitment, preparation and retention strategies.

### **3. Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

We are dedicated to promoting racial justice and educational equity within our schools. This involves implementing anti-racist policies, supporting culturally responsive practices and ensuring that all students feel valued and supported. We also emphasize the importance of diversifying the educator workforce to better reflect the student populations we serve. As noted in our PA Principals Association Diversity and Equity Statement adopted by the PA Principals Association Board of Directors: *"The PA Principals Association respects, values and celebrates the unique characteristics and perspectives of the diverse populations within schools of our commonwealth. We believe equity-driven leadership seeks to create more humane, just, safe, inclusive and culturally responsive school communities through a commitment to welcoming the unique voices of all stakeholders."*

### **4. Safe and Supportive Learning Environments**

The safety and well-being of students are paramount. We advocate for policies that ensure safe school facilities, support mental health services and promote trauma-informed practices. This includes adequate funding for school infrastructure and resources to address students' social-emotional needs.

### **5. Opposition to Diverting Public Funds to Private Entities**

We firmly oppose any initiatives that divert public funds from public schools to private entities, including voucher programs or tax credits for private schooling. Public funds should be utilized to strengthen public education systems, ensuring that all students have access to quality education.

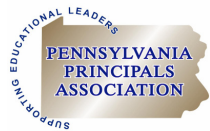
## 6. Addressing Educator and School Personnel Shortages

The Pennsylvania Principals Association recognizes the urgent need to address shortages in both professional and support staff within schools. We support collaborative efforts with state officials to analyze the root causes and develop comprehensive solutions to this staffing crisis. This includes removing barriers to entry into teacher preparation programs and enhancing the appeal of educational careers to prospective candidates through improved compensation, mentorship and career growth opportunities.

## 7. Advocating for Public Education

We are committed to increasing public awareness about the successes and challenges of public schools. Our organization seeks to promote careers in public education positively, foster fact-based and civil discourse on education issues and ensure respect for those dedicated to public schooling. We urge policymakers, educators and the public to join in reinforcing the foundational role of public education in our democracy. In conclusion, the PA Principals Association remains steadfast in its commitment to advocating for policies that support equitable, inclusive, and well-resourced education systems. We call upon state and federal policymakers to collaborate with educational leaders to address these pressing issues and to uphold the promise of quality education for every student.

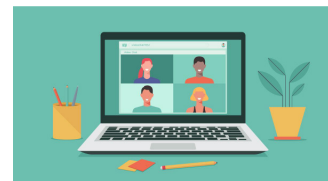
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# News from the PA Principals Association Office

## Get Involved: Join the PA Principals Association Legislative Committee!

Are you passionate about advocating for Pennsylvania's principals, schools, and students? The *PA Principals Association Legislative Committee* is looking for dedicated members to help strengthen our advocacy efforts!



As a committee member, you'll play a key role in shaping our legislative priorities, staying informed on key policy issues and supporting outreach efforts to policymakers. The time commitment is minimal—just a **one-hour virtual meeting each month** while the legislative session is in progress.

This is a great opportunity to make an impact, connect with fellow school leaders and ensure our voices are heard at the state and federal levels.

For more information or to get involved today, contact Dr. Lauren Holubec at [holubec@paprincipals.org](mailto:holubec@paprincipals.org).

## ***State Legislative Update***

### **GOV. SHAPIRO PRESENTS HIS 2025-2026 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Gov. Josh Shapiro held his third annual budget address today in the House Chamber. Gov. Shapiro thanked Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, House Speaker Johanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia), Senate President Pro Tempore Kim Ward (R-Westmoreland) and Republican and Democratic leadership of both chambers for convening a special session and for the honor to address the General Assembly.



[Click here](#) for more. *(A weekly report on legislative and executive actions on education-related legislation in Pennsylvania state government.)*



## ***Federal Legislative Update***

The **NAESP Federal Relations Coordinators** met on **February 3, 2025**, to discuss key federal education policy updates, upcoming advocacy events, and the latest developments impacting public schools. Below is a summary of the meeting for PA Principals Association members.

### **National School Leaders Advocacy Conference (NSLAC)**

- Scheduled for **March 9-12, 2025**, at the Mayflower Hotel.

### **Federal Policy & Trump Administration Education Priorities**

- **Immigration Enforcement in Schools: Rescission of the ban on enforcement in “sensitive areas” such as schools.**

[NAESP guidance](#) is available.

[Click here](#) for more.



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