



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

October 2024

Mr. Chas. Willis, Legislative Liaison

Summary:

- **Senate Bill 795, *Lifeline Scholarships/PASS*** (on page 2 of the Legislative Report), was laid on the table in the Senate on September 16 (this means it could be considered at a later date). So, vouchers are still a thing in the Senate.
 - **Senate Bill 986, along with House Bill 2011 *Removing Lead from Drinking Water in Schools*** (also on page 2), were recently discussed in a House hearing on lead in drinking water. Both bills would require schools to install filters on all drinking water sources and require maintenance programs for the filters.
 - **SB 1176, *Cash Entry at School Events***, as amended, would require school entities that charge admission fees to school-sponsored activities to accept cash as a form of payment. School entities could accept other forms of payment and could refuse to accept cash in a denomination that “significantly exceeds” the amount of the fee. The bill would take effect 60 days after enactment. It was passed by the Senate on Oct 7 47-1.
 - **HB 1990 *Seizure recognition***, as amended, would require a school nurse to complete an online or in-person course approved by the Department of Health regarding management of a student with seizures that includes information about seizure recognition, a seizure action plan and related first aid. A professional employee whose duties include direct contact with students would be required to complete an online or in-person course regarding awareness of a student with seizures that includes information about seizure recognition and related first aid. The requirement would apply beginning in the 2024-25 school year and every two years thereafter. Reported as committed from Senate Education Sept. 30, 2024.
 - **HB 2450 *PSERS membership***, would exclude new PSBA employees from PSERS membership but would not affect PSBA employees who are already PSERS members. Third consideration and passage in the House (108-94), Oct. 1, 2024.
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Full Report:

Session Information

At 12:36 p.m. on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, the House stands adjourned until Monday, October 7, 2024, at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker. At 4:21 p.m. on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, the Senate recessed until Monday, October 7, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

Session Days

House – October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23 November 12, 13

Senate – October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23 November 13, 14

Upcoming Meetings/Hearings/Press Conferences

MONDAY – 10/07/2024 11:00 AM, Smart Heart Sports Coalition on AEDs at Athletic Events Press Conference, Main Capitol Rotunda Come to support SB 375 and HB 1685 and to increase access to AEDs at athletic events and update cardiac emergency response plans in schools.

MONDAY – 10/07/24 10:00 AM, House Education Voting Meeting, Room B031, Main Capitol To consider: HB 2567 and HB 2581

THURSDAY – 10/10/2024 10:00 AM, House Education Informational Meeting, Room 140, Main Capitol Informational meeting on School Safety and Security

News and Updates

PA Begins Disbursing Millions to Student Teachers Through Stipend Program. The proverbial check is in the mail for more than 2,000 future educators seeking support from Pennsylvania’s high-demand stipend program to support student teachers. The commonwealth allocated \$30 million this year to fund the second go-round of the Student Teacher Support Program introduced by the Shapiro Administration. After an initial \$10 million allocation in 2023 lawmakers in the General Assembly agreed to raise the program’s funding by an additional \$20 million in this year’s budget. *Read the rest of the story: [“PA Begins Disbursing Millions to Student Teachers Through Stipend Program”](#)* (from The Tribune-Democrat, 9/19/24)

As Emergency Teaching Permits Rise, PA Lawmaker Seeks Incentive for Those with Lapsed Certificates. In some school districts, more new teachers have emergency permits than have traditional certifications. As Pennsylvania continues to look for solutions to the nationwide teacher shortage, a state representative has proposed a bill that could mean more teachers returning to classrooms. State Rep. Tarah Probst, a Democrat serving part of Monroe and Pike counties, along with fellow Democrat Reps. Lisa A. Borowski, Paul Friel and Jim Prokopiak, has introduced legislation to assist those who have an inactive certification but want to teach. *Read the rest of the story: [“As Emergency Teaching Permits Rise, PA Lawmaker Seeks Incentive for Those with Lapsed Certificates”](#)* (from NPR, 8/25/24)

50 School Districts in Pennsylvania Are Getting Help with Their High Property Tax Burdens. Thanks to an extra \$32 million in state funding, 50 school districts across Pennsylvania with serious property tax burdens will get some additional help. The additional funding ranges in amount from close to \$24,000 for West York Area School District in York County to more than \$5 million for East Stroudsburg Area School District in Monroe County. The supplemental money is going to school districts that have high local taxes compared to the wealth of their residents. A majority of the districts are in Allegheny (15), Delaware (7), and Montgomery (5) counties. Stroudsburg is among a dozen school districts that will receive more than \$1 million, including Pocono Mountain School District, also located in Monroe County; Penn Hills School District in Allegheny County; and Chichester School District in Delaware County. *Read the rest of the story: [“50 School Districts in Pennsylvania Are Getting Help with Their High Property Tax Burdens”](#)* (from, The Keystone, 9/11/24)

Legislative Actions

SB 232 Brooks, M. (R)

Lyme Disease Education of Parents, and Establishing Protocols for Tick Bites in Schools. Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, providing a school nurse, school physician or employee of a school district shall remove a tick from a student in accordance with guidelines set by the Department of Health (DOH). Makes technical adjustments. Replaces "district" with "entity". Adds the results of a tick test must be provided to the child's parent or guardian and that the school entity may not make copies of the results or include any information regarding the results in the child's school medical record. Adds the school entity may notate the disease as present in the tick, with no identifying or personal information of the child, for the purpose of collecting data on the presence of the disease. Adds a definition for school entity. Effective in 60 days. **Reported as committed from House Education, Sept. 30, 2024.**

SB 795 Ward, J. (R)

Lifeline Scholarship Program. This bill amends the Public School Code, establishing the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Scholarship (PASS). **SB 795** was [amended](#) on May 7. **Laid on the table in the Senate Sept. 16, 2024.**

SB 801 Aument, R. (R)

Literacy Achievement for All Pennsylvanians. Amends the Public School Code, in certification of teachers, further providing for teacher support in the structured literacy program; and providing for evidence-based reading instruction. Inserts definitions for use in the act. Establishes evidence-based reading instruction curriculum, further providing for department duties and school entity duties. Reduces years of experience required for school personnel from five to three years. Provides instructors for educator preparation programs in this commonwealth, who teach reading and literacy education programs to prospective educators, shall be trained in foundational skills and instructional interventions based on structured literacy. Defines "department." Adds and revises several definitions. Provides duties of the Department of Education (PDE). Beginning July 1, 2025, a school entity shall screen each student enrolled in kindergarten through third grade three times a year for reading competency using a universal reading screener chosen from the list of approved universal reading screeners. Provides that a school entity should provide educators time during the contractual school day to complete tasks associated with the screener, communicate with families and any other responsibility required in this section, further providing for exceptions for students. Provides students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities and gifted students are subject to the requirements of this section except if the assessment would conflict with the educational program, plan or service agreement provided in accordance with federal or state law and regulation. Requires a list of universal reading screeners and structured literacy intervention approaches be made publicly available online by the department before December 1, 2024, further provides for qualifications for universal reading screeners. Requires the department to provide professional development on reading screening and literacy intervention to a school entity or an educator. Provides the professional development shall be provided during the contractual day, inclusive of in-service days and other designated professional development days as provided for in the school entity's collective bargaining agreement. Provides if insufficient professional development days are available, the professional development shall be provided through a separate agreement between a school entity and an employee organization at no cost to the school entity or the educator. Provides for qualifications in which a student is identified to be at risk for reading failure or deficiency. Revises section on parent notification. Establishes school entities develop reading intervention plans and set up a system for parental notification for students with reading deficiencies. Allows the department to apply for grants and establishes where funding can be found. Requires school entities to submit a report on the instruction and its curriculum, further providing for accessibility of the report and to whom it should be submitted. Removes language regarding dyslexia from reporting requirements. Effective in 90 days. **Reported as committed from House Education, Sept. 30, 2024.**

SB 986 Robinson, D. (R)

Removing Lead from Drinking Water in Schools. Amends the Public School Code of 1949, in grounds and buildings, by adding a section to provide for certified point-of use filter required and detailing what each school entity shall do by Jan. 1, 2026; establishing the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund as a separate fund in the state treasury with money in the fund appropriated to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on a continuing basis for the purpose of awarding grants under this section; and making an interfund transfer. Further provides for what a school entity may do to comply with the provisions of subsection (a). Asserts that DEP shall develop a grant program for eligible school entities and provides what shall apply. Details that the department may award up to \$10 million in grants each fiscal year for three fiscal years following the effective date of this

section. Provides that DEP shall develop technical guidance for standards and regular maintenance of bottle-filling stations or drinking fountains with certified point-of-use filters. Provides that DEP, in consultation with the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Health (DOH), shall promulgate necessary rules and regulations. Specifies that DEP, PDE and DOH shall share information, databases and analyses and use risk assessment tools, data, mapping and any other information that is available to the departments to ensure that funding is targeted to school entities in this commonwealth with the most need to eliminate lead from school drinking water. Provides that nothing in this section shall be construed to place additional requirements on a school entity that, prior to the effective date of this subsection, has already taken measures which, in the judgment of the department, permanently eliminate the risk of elevated lead levels in the school entity's water at all drinking water outlets. Specifies definitions. Effective in 60 days. **Press Conference held, Sept. 4, 2024.**

SB 1176 Dush, C. (R)

Cash Entry For School-sponsored Activities. Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, providing for admission fees for school-sponsored activities. Establishes that when a school entity, nonpublic school or association collects a fee for admission to a school-sponsor activity, cash must be accepted as a form of payment for admission. Adds that in addition to accepting cash as payment for admission, a school entity, nonpublic school or association may accept other payment methods for admission to the school-sponsored activity. Provides that a school entity, nonpublic school or association may refuse to accept payment for admission that is in a denomination that significantly exceeds the amount of the fee in subsection (a). Defines "association," "cash," "interscholastic athletic activity," "nonpublic school" and "school-sponsored activity." Effective in 60 days. **Rereported as committed from Senate Appropriations, Oct. 1, 2024.**

SB 1208 Aument, R. (R)

Individualized Medication Plans in Schools. This legislation would allow school administrators to work with families, the family's physicians, and school nurses to devise an individualized plan to administer medications while at school, which could include allowing students to self-administer medication. The bill also would direct the Department of Education to create a waiver for the school and families to sign, providing liability protection for both parties. **Laid on the table in the Senate, Sept. 16, 2024.**

HB 1990 Kazeem, C. (D)

School Professional Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training. Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, further providing for seizure recognition and related first aid training. Makes technical changes to replace "may" with "shall," beginning with the 2024-2025 school year and every two years thereafter. Explains the section shall not be construed to create, establish or expand any civil liability on the part of any school entity or school entity employee. Applies the provisions of 42 PA.C.S. §§ 8332 and 83371, relating to emergency response provider and bystander good Samaritan civil immunity and civil immunity of school officers or employees relating to emergency care, first aid and rescue, to a school entity employee who provides treatment to a student experiencing a seizure in a manner consistent with the policy adopted by the school entity. Effective in 60 days. **Reported as committed from Senate Education, Sept. 30, 2024.**

HB 2011 Green, R. (D)

Removing Lead from Drinking Water in Schools. Amends the Public School Code, in grounds and buildings, providing for certified point-of-use filter required; establishing the Safe Schools Drinking Water Fund; and making an interfund transfer. Requires school entities to equip drinking water outlets with certified point-of-use filters. Requires school entities to remove and replace existing drinking water fountains without such filters with bottle-filling stations or fountains with such filters at a rate of at least one per 100 students and staff. Requires school entities to set up filter maintenance and oversight and to ensure all new drinking water outlets do not leach more than one microgram of lead for test statistic Q or R under certain conditions. Allows school entities to seek the assistance of a local board of health or public water system or apply for a grant to comply with provisions. Requires the department to develop a grant program for the replacement of current drinking water fountains and for the installation of certified point-of-use filters on drinking water outlets. Requires the department to issue guidelines on the grant program to be publicly available within three months of the effective date. Details school entities that shall receive grant preference. Establishes information to be submitted by a school entity in a grant application under this subsection. Establishes regulation to be followed by school entities receiving a grant under this subsection, especially regarding publicly available information, communication contacts for installation projects, maintenance logs and signage. It requires school entities receiving grants under this subsection to report

to the Department of Education (PDE) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) within 18 months of the completion of the work. It requires school entities to submit a report containing a plan to comply with the section to PDE and DEP by August 1, 2024. Allows the department to award up to \$10,000,000 in grants each fiscal year for the three fiscal years following the section's effective date. Directs the department to develop technical guidance, promulgate rules and regulations, and share information and risk assessment tools. Provides definitions. Transfers the sum of \$30,000,000 from the General Fund to the Safe School Drinking Water Fund. Effective in 60 days. **Press Conference held, Sept. 4, 2024.**

HB 2383 Solomon, J. (D)

Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program. The Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program Act establishes the Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program in furtherance of expanding opportunities for qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with students before, during or after school hours, in school buildings and facilities and on school grounds; and provides for duties of the Department of Education (PDE), the State Board of Education, intermediate units and public school entities. Provides legislative intent and definitions, adding a cyber charter school to the definition of "school entity." Outlines the purpose of the program and specifies that the program shall not supersede or restrict a school entity volunteer program operating outside of the program. Directs PDE, in consultation with the state board and the Department of Aging and to the extent that funding is made available, to develop guidelines for the program that ensure the development of a program that uses the wisdom and talents of older adults to enhance the personal, educational and professional experiences of students, detailing what the guidelines shall include. Requires PDE, to the extent that funding is made available, to develop and maintain, in coordination with intermediate units, a central registry of older adult volunteers to facilitate matching older adult volunteers with students, stipulating the department shall provide electronic access to the registry to intermediate units and school entities. Provides for application procedures, specifying a general rule and detailing application review. Amends the subsection providing for duties of intermediate units, school entities and state and local agencies to assert that a school entity or a state or local agency, other than an intermediate unit, that receives an application shall forward the application to the intermediate unit or intermediate units that represent the school entity or school entities for which the applicant proposes to be an MVP volunteer for reviewing and processing. Amends the subsection providing for compliance with policies to include the requirements of 23 PA.C.S. § 6344.3(G)(1) (relating to continued employment or participation in program, activity or service). Strikes out language providing for orientation and training, adding language to provide for orientation to require a school entity to furnish an MVP volunteer with the developed guidelines and any applicable policies of the school entity pertaining to the program and an MVP volunteer shall certify that they have reviewed and will comply with all applicable guidelines and policies. Provides that the department shall undertake efforts to make older adults, students and school entities aware of the existence and purpose of the program. Outlines program implementation. Effective in 60 days. **Reported as amended from Senate Education, Sept. 30, 2024. Rereferred to Senate Appropriations, Oct. 1, 2024.**

HB 2450 Webster, J. (D)

Pension System Membership Guidance. An Act amending Title 24 (Education) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions. Sponsor Rep. Joe Webster (D) Summary (PN 3401) Amends Title 24 (Education), in preliminary provisions relating to retirement for school employees, further providing for definitions. Adds to the definition of "government entity" that the term does not include an association authorized to receive membership dues from a public school entity under section 516 of the Public School Code Act. Effective immediately. **Third consideration and passage in the House (108-94), Oct. 1, 2024.**

HB 2547 Schweyer, P. (D)

Applicability of School Code to Cyber Charters. Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Revises section and article numbers to which cyber charter schools shall be subject to applicability. Effective immediately.

Introduced and referred to House Education, Sept. 6, 2024. Passed over in House Education Committee Sept. 30, 2024.

New Legislation

SB 1302 Kearney, T. (D)

School-Based Youth Courts Pilot Program. The School-Based Youth Courts Pilot Program Act provides for School-Based Youth Court Pilot Program and for awarding grants; establishes the Youth Court Program Account in the General Fund, stipulating the money in the account shall not lapse; and makes a transfer of \$9,500,000 from the General Fund to the account for awarding grants to develop youth courts. Provides definitions. Outlines why the Department of Education shall establish an Education and Justice Resource Center. Establishes the School-Based Youth Court Pilot Program within the department to operate for three full school years, beginning with the first school year that begins at least six months after the effective date, detailing guidelines and procedures and use of money. Specifies what a youth court shall consist of. Provides for training, procedures, sanctions and code of conduct relative to a youth court. allows the youth court to operate as an after-school program or be integrated within existing school curriculum. Directs the secretary of education to award up to six grants each fiscal year to help schools develop youth courts, specifying that the amount of grant may not exceed \$250,000. Outlines the procedure for awarding grants under the program. Provides for the grant application and explains the submission of applications. Requires an organizing entity that receives an award under this act to submit to the department, in a format determined by the department, an annual report at the end of each grant period with an evaluation report of program outlines, detailing what the report shall include. Directs the department to prepare an annual report on the outcomes and progress of the program and the Education and Justice Resource Center's work, providing for report publication. Effective July 1, 2025, or immediately, whichever is later. **Introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary, Sept. 5, 2024.**

SB 1318 Langerholc, W. (R)

Cursive Handwriting in Schools. Amends the Public School Code, in preliminary provisions, further providing for the definition of "cursive handwriting;" in terms and courses of study, further providing for subjects of instruction and flag code to include cursive handwriting and adding a section to provide for handwriting instruction required; and, in charter schools, further providing for provisions applicable to charter schools and for applicability of other provisions of this act and of other acts and regulations. Amends section 1511 to change "superintendent of public instruction" to "secretary of education." Each student is required to receive cursive handwriting instruction to ensure that they have the ability to read and write cursive by the end of fifth grade. Adds section 1529 to the list of sections that charter schools shall be subject to. Effective July 1, 2025. **Introduced and referred to Senate Education Sept. 13, 2024.**

HB 2567 Probst, T. (D)

Enhancing Computer Literacy Skills in Grades K-12. Amends the Public School Code in terms and courses of study, adding a section to provide for computer science education and abrogating the provisions of 22 Pa. Code § 57.31. Requires the Department of Education to develop a state strategic plan for a statewide computer science education program and present the plan to the State Board of Education no later than July 1, 2026, specifying what the plan shall include and requiring each public high school to offer at least one computer science course beginning with the 2027-2028 school year. Stipulates that the course or instruction shall be of high quality and meet or exceed the standards and curriculum requirements established by the State Board of Education. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Education, Sept. 19, 2024. Meeting scheduled (House Education) Oct. 7, 2024.**

HB 2572 Borowski, L. (D)

Incentivizing Inactive Educators to Return to Teaching. Amends the Public School Code, in the certification of teachers, adding a section to provide for tuition assistance for inactive educators. Asserts that inactive educators shall be eligible to enroll in credits of collegiate study. Directs the State Board of Education to identify and review credits of collegiate study and develop a list of credits of collegiate study and institutions of higher education offering these credits of collegiate study and make this list available to inactive educators, stipulating that the list of available credits of collegiate study shall be updated every three years. Requires each approved provider to annually report to the Department of Education (PDE) the number of credits of collegiate study taken at their institution. Provides that beginning June 1, 2025, and each June 2 thereafter, PDE shall notify the General Assembly of the total number of credits of collegiate study taken at an approved provider that is part of the State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), as well as an approved provider that is not part of PASSHE. Directs the General Assembly to appropriate sufficient money to reimburse approved providers for credits of collegiate study no later than June 30, 2025, and each June 30 thereafter, specifying that the reimbursement money shall be

distributed to each approved provider to cover the tuition charges that were waived for the credits of collegiate study. Defines “approved provider,” “credits of collegiate study,” and “inactive educator” as used in this section. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Education, Sept. 16, 2024.**

HB 2581 Takac, P. (D)

School Administrators Rights. Amends the Public School Code, in district superintendents and assistant district superintendents, further providing for manner of election or approval; and, in professional employees, further providing for compensation plans for school administrators. Revises language to provide for an agreement, which shall mean the compensation and other administrative rights plan for school administrators. Outlines what the agreement shall include at a minimum. Provides for if a school administrator has a concern about the school administrator's performance or other administrative rights as specified in an agreement, detailing the appeal process the school administrator shall be entitled to. Asserts that if a school administrator is summoned to a meeting by the school administrator's supervisor in which discipline, termination or personal working conditions may be discussed, the school administrator shall have the right to representation at the meeting. Allows the school administrator to choose to be represented at the meeting by another school administrator covered under an agreement or by a member of the school administrator's professional organization. Grants the school administrator the right to reschedule a meeting if they are summoned to attend a meeting by their supervisor in which the solicitor or another attorney is present on behalf of the school employer until the school administrator can obtain legal representation. Stipulates that a school administrator shall not be compensated at a rate less than the school administrator would receive as a teacher in a school district through appropriate placement on the school district's collective bargaining agreement and salary schedule, considering years of experience in education and level of education. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Education, Sept. 24, 2024.**
Meeting scheduled (House Education) Oct. 7, 2024.

HB 2597 Khan, T. (D)

School-based Health Centers. Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, adding a section to provide for school-based health centers. Outlines the standards in which a school-based health center shall comply with. Establishes what written information about school-based health center services a health care provider shall make available to parents and legal guardians of students, through cooperation with a participating school district. Provides for services provided by a school-based health center. Stipulates that if a school district establishes a school-based health center, the center shall be integrated into the school district environment and plans and shall coordinate health services with school district administration, teachers, nurses, support or other school district personnel and other community providers at the school district. Directs a school-based health center, in partnership with a participating school district and other service providers at the school district, to develop policies and systems to ensure confidentiality in the sharing of medical information per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. Specifies what shall apply. Imposes duties on the Department of Health to establish a school-based health center liaison position and a statewide school-based health advisory council, providing for the position and the council. Allows the department to collect demographic and utilization data on the school-based health centers to share with the General Assembly, outlining what that may include. Allows the department to research the appropriateness of developing a certification program for school-based health centers. Provides definitions. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Health, Sept. 30, 2024.**

HB 2605 Smith-Wade-El, I. (D)

School Library Restoration Pilot Program. Amends the Public School Code, adding an article to provide for School Library Restoration Pilot Program. Provides definitions. Establishes the program within the Department of Education (PDE) to provide grants to low-achieving schools for the restoration of school libraries, directing PDE to award grants of not more than \$170,000 to the extent money is available. Specifies that a grant shall be used exclusively for school library purposes and outlines the use of grants. Requires the program to operate 17 for five full school years, beginning with the school year that begins at least six months after the effective date. Details the criteria a school must meet to be eligible for a grant. Establishes guidelines for how the department shall select at least 12 eligible schools to participate in the pilot program. Directs PDE to apply for federal. Private and other non-state money and to use money appropriated or otherwise made available to the department for the pilot program. Asserts that the department shall consult with the Governor's Advisory Council on Library Development and the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association in establishing, operating and evaluating the pilot program. Requires PDE to establish guidelines and procedures for the pilot program. Provides for pilot

program evaluation, including reports by participating schools, evaluation and reports by the department. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Education, Sept. 30, 2024.**

HB 2613 Brown, M. (R)

Exemption from In-Person School Safety and Security Drills for Cyber Charter Schools. Amends the Public School Code, in school safety and security, further providing for school safety and security training to exempt all cyber charter school educators who are fully remote employees from in-person school safety and security drills. Effective in 60 days. **Introduced and referred to House Education Oct. 1, 2024.**

Co-Sponsorship Memos

HCO3565 - Incentivizing Inactive Educators to Return to Teaching. Sponsor Rep. Lisa A. Borowski. Considers allowing certified, inactive educators the option of earning six college credits at a free or reduced cost to them.

SCO2063 - Expanding Opportunities for Pennsylvania Students for Advanced Coursework Access. Sponsor Sen. Daniel Laughlin (R). Lowers the cost of college level exams for students of families earning less than 185% of the federal poverty level and establishes an Advanced Coursework Teacher Training Program to provide training for teachers in eligible schools to offer AP courses in core academic areas.

HCO3648 - Transparency and Central Oversight of PA Intermediate Units. Sponsor Rep. Barbara Gleim (R). Aims to hold harmless the full-time equivalent (FTE) instruction and service provided to a school entity from the year prior; require intermediate unit consultation with the district or private school on the services, scope, and delivery of services each school year and disclosure of vendors; create an approval process for vendors who provide both Act 89 and Title services in schools; disclose their per school entity allocations each year to the Department and the Chairpersons of the House & Senate Education Committees; after consultation, should a school entity choose, allow schools to select their service provider, whether it be their Intermediate Unit or a vendor approved by the Department of Education; and disclose any reserve funding or prior year funding carry over into the next fiscal year.

National/Federal News and Updates

The New Title IX Regulation and Legal Battles Over it, Explained. U.S. Department of Education's new Title IX regulation is getting a ton of attention lately, with lawsuits, injunctions, a U.S. Supreme Court emergency ruling, and more action to come. To help educators navigate through the twists and turns, Education Week has created a guide on the new rule, the legal actions surrounding it, and the key questions and answers about it. *Read the rest of the story:* [**"The New Title IX Regulation and Legal Battles Over It, Explained"**](#) (from, EducationWeek, 9/12/24)

Will the Supreme Court Hear Maryland LGBTQ+ Curriculum Opt-out Case? Muslim, Christian, and Jewish parents from Maryland last week asked the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) to decide whether districts violate their religious First Amendment rights when schools don't provide notice or a way to opt out of curriculum related to gender and sexuality. The ability for parents to raise their children according to their beliefs is especially important for youngsters in pre-K-5 and those with special needs "who are highly impressionable and instinctively trusting of authority figures like teachers," the parents claim in their Sept. 12 petition to the high court. *Read the rest of the story:* [**"Will the Supreme Court Hear Maryland LGBTQ+ Curriculum Opt-Out Case?"**](#) (from, K-12 Dive, 9/16/24)

Private School Choice in the 2024 Election, Explained. Voters have never approved a ballot initiative that paves the way for private school choice. But that could change this November as several states put before voters the question of public funding for private education. Colorado, Kentucky, and Nebraska will ask voters on Election Day whether they support laying the groundwork for more state-funded private school choice, and in one case, halting an existing program that offers public dollars for parents to spend on private schooling. *Read the rest of the story:* [**"Private School Choice in the 2024 Election, Explained"**](#) (from EducationWeek, 9/19/24)