



PAGE Legislative Updates February, March, and April 2022

Note: The content and links in this PAGE Legislative Update are for informational purposes only.

Update - PA Education Funding Lawsuit

The PA Education Funding Lawsuit trial began on November 12, 2021. For seven years, since the case was filed in 2014, clients--school districts and parents from under-funded communities across the state--have persisted to address the hundreds of thousands of students who have been continuously denied the resources they need for a quality education. Six school districts, including the William Penn School District in Delaware County, sued state lawmakers in 2014 for what they say is a severe underfunding of the public school system.

The [lawsuit](#) alleges the state has failed to ensure all students receive an adequate and equitable education, as guaranteed by the state constitution. It claims inadequate funding has placed an unfair burden on students from low-income districts and created a disparity in access to quality education.

The trial was held in Courtroom 3002 of the Pennsylvania Judicial Center in Harrisburg and continued through December 2021. [Sign up at Fund Our Schools PA for the latest updates.](#)

The parties in PA's historic school funding lawsuit will meet in Commonwealth Court once more in July, according to a new scheduling order from Commonwealth Court. The four-month trial concluded on March 10, 2022, and parties are currently preparing required post-trial filings.

Source: [News — FundOurSchoolsPA.org](#)

Source: [Court Sets July 26 Date for Oral Argument on Legal Issues in School Funding Case — FundOurSchoolsPA.org](#)

Update - Senate Bill 506

Pointing to a rise in anxiety disorders and depression in school children, Pennsylvania lawmakers have proposed legislation that would allow K-12 students two mental health days per semester. The change is needed now more than ever, some officials argue, in the wake of the pandemic and all its attendant disruptions. State Senator Judith L. Schwank (D-Berks County) wrote in a co-sponsorship memorandum that, "This urgently requires further examination and immediate intervention." The bill is currently with the Education Committee, where it was referred to on April 9, 2021. No new movement to date.



Source: [Bill Information - Senate Bill 506; Regular Session 2021-2022 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](#)

Update - PA House Bill 1893

A bill that would make more state reporting on COVID-19 and other diseases available to the public was passed by the Pennsylvania House of Representatives in a party-line vote on October 4, 2021.

The [Republican-backed bill](#), sponsored by Bucks County's Rep. Craig Staats, would amend the 1950s-era Disease Prevention and Control Act to allow the public access to all state reports on diseases and any records of actions taken in response to those reports. This bill was referred to the House and Human Services Committee on October 25, 2021. No new movement is to date.

Source: [Bill Information - House Bill 1893; Regular Session 2021-2022 - PA General Assembly \(state.pa.us\)](#)

Office for Civil Rights Reaches Resolution Agreement with Nation's Second Largest School District, Los Angeles Unified

The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) resolved an investigation of the Los Angeles Unified School District in California with an agreement requiring it to take steps necessary to ensure that students with disabilities receive educational services, including compensatory services, during and resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source: [Office for Civil Rights Reaches Resolution Agreement with Nation's Second Largest School District, Los Angeles Unified, to Meet Needs of Students with Disabilities during COVID-19 Pandemic \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Act 1 of 2022

Pennsylvania's Department of Education has issued [new guidance](#) to school district superintendents regarding [Act 1 of 2022](#), a recently adopted law that provides additional support to students who experience "education instability" due to homelessness, involvement in the foster care or juvenile justice systems, or court-ordered placements.

The law removes barriers to fully participating in school and ensures that students are not penalized due to lost or unrecognized credits or the inability to take a course required by their current school.



To learn more about Act 1, join Education Law Center and Juvenile Law Center for a webinar on May 10 at 4 p.m. EDT to learn how to help students benefit from the law this school year. To register, sign up at [Implementing Act 1 Tickets, Tue, May 10, 2022 at 4:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Schools must assign a “Point of Contact” to assist these students in assessing full and partial credits, determining whether certain courses may be waived, and developing an individualized graduation plan. Education Law Center’s [new fact sheet](#) provides details on the provisions of the new law.

Source: [ELCs-Act-1-Fact-sheet-May-2022-Final.pdf \(elc-pa.org\)](#)

Additional Articles and Resources:

Article: https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/what-do-schools-owe-students-with-disabilities-feds-plan-to-update-regulations/2022/05?utm_source=fb&utm_medium=soc&utm_campaign=edit&fbclid=IwAR0S722qgMBGEmztXOqNG1fh9RCQ-DErPJkRVnDWI39eB5_SeKtLgVudPpM

Article: <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-principals-asked-the-education-secretary-face-to-face/2022/04>

Article: [Inflation, shortages make districts pivot on ESSER spending plans | K-12 Dive \(k12dive.com\)](#)

Article: [Fair funding fallout - City & State Pennsylvania \(cityandstatepa.com\)](#)

May is Mental Health Month the following is a great resource on many mental health initiatives: [Newsletters - Minding Your Mind](#)

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