

Education Recap



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Co-Sponsor Memos

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| N HCO1071 | Turzai, Mike | Reduces the number of children on waiting lists for charter schools by requiring an increase in available charter school seats in school districts of the first class and first class A. |
| N HCO1075 | Masser, Kurt | Allows school districts or municipalities that currently impose an occupation tax to eliminate the occupation tax and instead enact an earned income tax that is revenue neutral. |
| N HCO1088 | Briggs, Tim | Requires media literacy be added to the social sciences curriculum for grades 1 through 12. |
| N HCO1093 | DiGirolamo, Gene | Creates a 3.2% severance tax, or drilling tax as we prefer to call it, on unconventional natural gas extraction and will be in addition to the existing Act 13 impact fee. |
| N HCO1099 | Bloom, Stephen | Changes the unnecessarily burdensome certification requirements for vocational teachers by reducing the number of required credits from 78 to 40. |
| N HCO1116 | Costa, Dom | Exempts from public access the home address of any public school teacher or other public school employee. |
| N HCO1132 | Sturla, Mike | Provides substantial school property tax relief and gives our municipalities an additional revenue tool to improve core services that are beneficial to our communities. |
| N HCO1166 | Dush, Cris | Allows public schools in Pennsylvania to display the nation's motto, "In God We Trust" if they wish to do so. |
| N HCO1170 | Neilson, Ed | Increases penalties for motorists who fail to stop for school buses with flashing red lights. |
| N HCO1171 | Neilson, Ed | Creates education savings accounts for students with disabilities. |
| N SCO 553 | Folmer, Mike | Introduces a bipartisan package to address financial transactions that led to the fiscal distress of Harrisburg, other municipalities, and school districts. |
| N SCO 569 | Browne, Patrick | Applies good Samaritan civil immunity to school bus drivers who administer epinephrine auto-injectors ("epi-pens") to students. |
| N SCO 580 | Dinniman, Andrew | Requires school entities to incorporate child opioid awareness education into their curriculum for students in 6th through 12th grades. |
| N SCO 586 | Browne, Patrick | Places the burden of proof on school districts, rather than on the party seeking the relief, in special education hearings. |
| N HCO1099 | Bloom, Stephen | Changes the unnecessarily burdensome certification requirements for vocational teachers by reducing the number of required credits from 78 to 40. |

- [N HCO1103](#) [Deasy, Daniel](#) Establishes a Community College Education Assistance Program with the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA).
- [N HCO1107](#) [Deasy, Daniel](#) Requires the establishment of a "Combat to College" program at state education institutions.
- [N SCO 569](#) [Browne, Patrick](#) Applies good Samaritan civil immunity to school bus drivers who administer epinephrine auto-injectors ("epi-pens") to students.

Basic Education Bill Actions

- [N HB 25](#) [Mackenzie, Ryan](#) (PN 188) The CareerBound Act provides for the creation and implementation of up to seven school-to-work pilot programs in the Department of Labor and Industry, to be known as CareerBound, and provides a tax credit to businesses that participate in the program. A school-to-work pilot program shall expire at the end of the fourth school year of operation and the department shall issue a report on the programs following their expiration. Requires program partners to set objectives and measurable goals; requires Department of Labor and Industry to set outcome-based metrics used to evaluate all programs in annual and final reports; allows contributing businesses to designate which program their contributions would support; enumerates and allows Pennsylvania institutions of higher learning to participate in CareerBound; includes "soft skills" in curriculum requirements; gives priority to programs targeting middle school and early high school students; and clarifies that the Department of Labor and Industry and the Pennsylvania Department of Education must provide program partners with informational resources. Requires additional consideration be given to a pilot program which is integrated into a school partner's curriculum as a credit course. Effective Immediately.

Bill History:

01-25-17 H Filed
 01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

- [N HB 116](#) [Kaufer, Aaron](#) (PN 242) Amends Title 40 (Insurance), in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, requiring insurers to provide consumers with an emergency insurance addendum explaining the coverage for addiction treatment services provided under their purchased plan. The addendum must be no more than two pages, be written in nontechnical language, explain how to access coverage, and how to file an appeal. This bill is part of a legislative package intended to address the ongoing opioid epidemic. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

01-31-17 H Filed
 02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

- [N HB 117](#) [Kaufer, Aaron](#) (PN 243) Amends Title 40 (Insurance), in regulation of insurers and related persons generally, requiring insurers to disclose to the Insurance Department the number of insureds, the number of insureds receiving addiction treatment and a breakdown of the treatment, including denials based on types of treatment in order for the Department to prepare a public report further reviewed by the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs for compliance with the federal parity law and other laws of the Commonwealth. This bill is part of a legislative package intended to address the ongoing opioid epidemic. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

01-31-17 H Filed
02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Insurance

N [HB 208](#) [Hill, Kristin](#)

(PN 255) Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution, in procedure relating to legislation, requiring any mandate enacted by statute, regulation or executive order establishing a new education program shall provide the necessary funding for the implementation of the program. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

Bill History:

01-24-17 H Filed
02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

N [HB 224](#) [Simmons, Justin](#)

(PN 193) Amends the Public School Code, in school health services, authorizing school bus drivers to administer epinephrine auto-injectors, provided the driver adheres to established policies and has successfully completed a training program that shall be developed and implemented by the Department of Health. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-25-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
02-06-17 H Meeting set for 11:00 a.m., Room G50, Irvis Building, House Education -- House Education

N [HB 227](#) [Sonney, Curt](#)

(PN 258) Amends the Public School Code, in school finances, further providing for per capita taxes by exempting residents over the age of 65 from the local per capita tax. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-25-17 H Filed
02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Local Government

N [HB 230](#) [Sonney, Curt](#)

(PN 260) The County Property Tax Reduction and Diversification Act provides for county property tax reduction and establishes the Property Tax Reduction and Diversification Fund. The bill allows counties to levy, assess and collect certain taxes, such as sales, use, earned income, business privilege or mercantile, occupancy, computation, retail sales, vehicle sales, utility services and mobile telecommunications in order to provide property tax relief. The bill also requires counties to obtain a license with the Department of Revenue and report monthly statements of the sum retained and reimbursed to each municipality and to both appropriations committees. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

01-25-17 H Filed
02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

N [HB 237](#) [Christiana, Jim](#)

(PN 203) Amends the Public School Code increasing the total aggregate amount of all tax credits approved for contributions from business firms to scholarship organizations, educational improvement organizations and pre-kindergarten scholarship organizations from \$125 million to \$195 million in a fiscal year. Also increases the total aggregate amount of all tax credits for contributions from business firms to opportunity scholarship organizations from \$50 million to \$80 million in a fiscal year. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-26-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

 [HB 250](#) [Turzai, Mike](#)

(PN 211) Amends the Public School Code increasing the total aggregate amount of all tax credits approved for contributions from business firms to scholarship organizations, educational improvement organizations and pre-kindergarten scholarship organizations from \$125 million to \$175 million in a fiscal year. Also increases the total aggregate amount of all tax credits for contributions from business firms to opportunity scholarship organizations from \$50 million to \$75 million in a fiscal year. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-26-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education
02-06-17 H Meeting set for 11:00 a.m., Room G50, Irvis Building, House Education -- House Education

 [HB 255](#) [Kauffman, Rob](#)

(PN 215) The Student Religious Liberties Act provides for voluntary student expression of religious viewpoints in public schools; requires public school districts to allow religious expression in class assignments, to provide students with the freedom to organize religious groups and activities and to provide a limited public forum for student speakers at nongraduation and graduation events; and provides for a model policy for voluntary religious expression in public schools. Effective July 1, 2017, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

01-27-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education

 [HB 260](#) [Kauffman, Rob](#)

(PN 220) Repeals the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-27-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

 [HB 262](#) [Diamond, Russ](#)

(PN 266) Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Pennsylvania Constitution prohibiting the taxation of real property. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum.

Bill History:

01-27-17 H Filed
02-01-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Finance

 [HB 271](#) [Ortitay, Jason](#)

(PN 229) Amends Title 4 (Amusements), in administration and enforcement relating to gaming, further providing for compulsive and problem gambling program by requiring the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to maintain one toll-free problem gambling telephone number to be used at all Pennsylvania casinos. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-30-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Gaming Oversight

 [HB 297](#) [Dush, Cris](#)

(PN 291) Amends the Pennsylvania Prevailing Wage Act adding that "maintenance work" includes work performed under Title 75 (Transportation), section 9106 (relating to dirt, gravel and low-

volume road maintenance). Effective immediately.

Bill History:

02-01-17 H Filed
02-02-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Labor and Industry

N [HB 328](#) [Costa, Paul](#)

Amends the Public School Code of 1949, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools.

Bill History:

02-02-17 H Filed

N [HB 336](#) [Costa, Dom](#)

Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in procedure, further providing for exceptions for public records.

Bill History:

02-02-17 H Filed

N [HB 350](#) [DeLuca, Anthony](#)

Amends the Public School Code of 1949, in preliminary provisions, providing for testing for controlled substances for prospective employees.

Bill History:

02-02-17 H Filed

N [SB 80](#) [Greenleaf, Stewart](#)

(PN 260) The School-based Child-care Assistance Act establishes a statewide program to support and guide public and private schools in the establishment of extended school day child-care programs for school-age children; defines eligibility; and provides for the powers and duties of the Department of Human Services. Effective July 1, 2017, or immediately, whichever is later.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Filed
01-31-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

N [SB 167](#) [Wagner, Scott](#)

(PN 272) Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania prohibiting the Executive Department and school districts from using its payroll system to deduct from the wages of a public employee money or funds to be used for political contributions. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum. (Prior Printer Number: 144)

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Reported as amended Senate State Government
01-31-17 S First consideration
02-01-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar
02-01-17 Second consideration 11:48am
02-01-17 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

N [SB 200](#) [Bartolotta, Camera](#)

(PN 254) Amends the Early Intervention Services System Act further providing for the title of the act; in general provisions, further providing for definitions, for State interagency agreement, for other duties of State agencies and for council; and, in Statewide system for provision of early intervention services, further providing for requirements, for program regulations and standards, for administration by Department of Public Welfare, for administration by Department of Education and for child identification, assessment and tracking system. The bill makes numerous editorial updates and adds that at-risk children include those who have a parent that is either at high risk for or is diagnosed as having postpartum depression and who are referred by a physician, health care provider or parent. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Filed
01-31-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

N [SB 227](#)

[Eichelberger, John](#)

(PN 210) Amends the Public School Code, in district superintendents and assistant district superintendents, further providing for manner of election or approval and for term and salary of assistants. The bill provides for events to take place at a "public" meeting instead of a "regular" meeting, and narrows existing timeframes to 90 days from 150 days. If action is not taken within the 90-day window, the term of office of the superintendent or assistant superintendent shall be extended for one year. Such notification shall not prevent the superintendent or assistant superintendent from being considered for or appointed to a further term of office notwithstanding the consideration of other candidates. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing, Senate Education -- Senate Education
01-31-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education
01-31-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Education
01-31-17 S First consideration
02-06-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

N [SB 228](#)

[Eichelberger, John](#)

(PN 211) Amends the Public School Code further providing for causes for suspension and persons to be suspended by adding that professional employees can be suspended for economic reasons that require a reduction in professional employees. Suspension shall be based upon educational program needs, the professional employee's certifications or performance evaluations of employees within the affected program areas. Reinstatement shall be on the basis of qualification to teach a particular subject or grade level or to hold a particular position, followed next by seniority. No collective bargaining agreement for professional employees may include provisions prohibiting suspension of professional employees for economic reasons. Effective immediately.

Bill History:

01-26-17 S Filed
01-26-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education
01-31-17 S Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing, Senate Education -- Senate Education
01-31-17 S Passed over in committee Senate Education

N [SB 229](#)

[Eichelberger, John](#)

(PN 212) Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, further providing for payment of salaries in cases of sickness, injury or death, for alternative payment plan, for persons entitled to leaves of absence, for salary while on leave and for Distinguished Educators Program. Several sections providing for sick and sabbatical leave are repealed and the bill states "Whenever the boards of school directors of two or more school districts may establish any joint elementary public school, high school or department, or whenever two or more school districts shall merge or form a union school district or administrative unit in accordance with the provisions of sections 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296 and 297 of this act, the professional or temporary professional employees employed by the several boards of school directors establishing such joint school or department or merged or union school district or administrative unit shall be entitled to the sick leave accumulated in the individual school districts subsequently establishing such joint school or department or merged or union school district or administrative unit." Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing, Senate Education -- Senate Education

01-31-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education
01-31-17 S Reported as committed from Senate Education
01-31-17 S First consideration
02-06-17 S Set on the Senate Calendar

N [SB 245](#) [Leach, Daylin](#)

(PN 227) Amends the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency Act establishing the Pay It Forward Pay It Back Pennsylvania Program to provide loans to eligible students. Provides for how the loans are to be paid based, in part, according to the income of the eligible students. Imposes a natural gas severance tax on every unconventional gas well. Provides the amount of the tax shall be five percent of the gross value of units severed at the well head during the reporting period as provided in Title 58. Requires the tax to be collected by the Public Utility Commission and shall be deposited in the fund established under the legislation. Further provides for the application for a loan; the amount of the program loan; and repayment of the loan. Also provides the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) shall, three years after the first loan is awarded, submit a report to the General Assembly. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-27-17 S Filed
01-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

N [SB 253](#) [Boscola, Lisa](#)

(PN 233) Amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) adding that sentences for certain offenses committed in drug-free school zones shall be increased by an additional two years. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-27-17 S Filed
01-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Judiciary

N [SB 254](#) [Boscola, Lisa](#)

(PN 234) Amends the Public Employee Pension Forfeiture Act adding to the definition of "crimes related to public office or public employment" a violation committed under section 13(a)(14), (30) or (37) of The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act, when the criminal offense is committed by a school administrator or teacher on school property. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-27-17 S Filed
01-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

Higher Education Bill Actions

N [HB 223](#) [Sonney, Curt](#)

(PN 192) Amends the Architects Licensure Law further providing for definitions and requiring the board to establish, adopt, promulgate and enforce rules and regulations setting forth a continuing education requirement to be satisfied by all individuals holding a certificate to engage in the practice of architecture as a condition of renewal of the certificate. The following shall apply to the continuing education requirement: (1) As a condition for the biennial renewal of a license, a licensee must provide certification of successful completion of a minimum of 24 hours of continuing education, at least 12 of which must be in the subject areas of health, safety and welfare credits; (2) A licensee of another jurisdiction in which the architect's primary practice is located shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing education requirement if the licensee has a continuing education requirement in the jurisdiction of primary practice and certifies on the biennial renewal application that the licensee has satisfied the continuing education requirement of the

jurisdiction of primary practice; (3) Certification of credit hours submitted by a licensee must be properly signed as being correct and true; (4) An individual applying for initial licensure shall be exempt from the continuing education requirement during the biennial licensure period in which the individual obtained the initial licensure; and (5) The board may waive all or part of the continuing education requirement for a licensee who provides evidence satisfactory to the board that the licensee was unable to complete the requirement due to illness, emergency, hardship or active military service. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-25-17 H Filed
01-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Professional Licensure

N [SB 245](#) [Leach, Daylin](#)

(PN 227) Amends the PA Higher Education Assistance Agency Act establishing the Pay It Forward Pay It Back Pennsylvania Program to provide loans to eligible students. Provides for how the loans are to be paid based, in part, according to the income of the eligible students. Imposes a natural gas severance tax on every unconventional gas well. Provides the amount of the tax shall be five percent of the gross value of units severed at the well head during the reporting period as provided in Title 58. Requires the tax to be collected by the Public Utility Commission and shall be deposited in the fund established under the legislation. Further provides for the application for a loan; the amount of the program loan; and repayment of the loan. Also provides the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) shall, three years after the first loan is awarded, submit a report to the General Assembly. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-27-17 S Filed
01-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

N [SB 264](#) [Baker, Lisa](#)

(PN 246) Amends the Tax Reform Code, in personal income tax, further providing for definitions and for special tax provisions for poverty. The definition of "claimant" is amended to include a person who is subject to the tax and is enrolled as a full-time student at an institution of higher education. Such a claimant who meets the standards of the test for poverty shall be deemed a separate class of subject of taxation, and, as such, shall be entitled to the benefit of the special provisions. The bill outlines the poverty thresholds. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-30-17 S Filed
01-30-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Finance

N [SB 273](#) [Rafferty, John](#)

(PN 259) The Institutions of Higher Education Immigration Policy Act prohibits the expenditure of Commonwealth funds on certain institutions of higher education that adopt certain practices relating to immigration policy. An institution of higher education shall annually certify to the Department of Education whether the institution has a disqualifying immigration policy. An institution of higher education may not directly or indirectly receive funds through a State appropriation if: (1) the department determines that the institution has a disqualifying immigration policy; or (2) the institution of higher education fails to submit the certification required under this act. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Filed
01-31-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate

N [SB 274](#)

[Gordner, John](#)

Education

(PN 264) Amends the Professional Nursing Law defining "certified registered nurse anesthetist"; further providing for registered nurse, clinical nurse specialist, use of title "C.N.S." and credentials and fraud; and providing for certified registered nurse anesthetist and qualifications. Effective in 60 days.

Bill History:

01-31-17 S Filed

01-31-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure

Committee Stories

Senate State Government Committee

1/31/17, 12:30 p.m., Room 8E-B, Capitol East Wing

By Aaron Rider, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

N [SB 167 Wagner, Scott](#) - (PN 144) Joint Resolution proposing integrated amendments to the Constitution of Pennsylvania prohibiting the Executive Department and school districts from making payroll collections of dues, fees and political contributions. Constitutional amendments require approval in two consecutive legislative sessions and then approval by the voters through a referendum. - The bill was **reported as amended**. Sen. Dinniman, Sen. Leach, Sen. Schwank and Chairman Williams voted nay.

[A00013](#) by Folmer, ensures that the constitutional amendments proposed by SB 167 are in line with Sen. Eichelberger's proposals in SB 166. The amendment was **adopted**. Sen. Dinniman, Sen. Leach, Sen. Schwank, and Chairman Williams voted nay.

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Senate Education Committee

1/31/17, 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A Main Capitol

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider legislation.

Chairman John Eichelberger (R-Blair) welcomed the committee to the start of the new session and emphasized that the committee plans on having a full agenda over the next two years. "The time is right for some needed change in the education system. I would like to get parents more involved in the education of their children," he stated.

Chairman Eichelberger said three subcommittees are being formed; Minority Chairman Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester) will chair the Contract Transparency and Public Bidding Subcommittee, Sen. Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) will chair the Career and Technical Education Subcommittee, and Sen. John DiSanto will chair the Transportation and Support Services Subcommittee. "We're anxious for those subcommittees to get to work in an independent way and start to look at those issues in great detail and come with good meaningful legislation," Chairman Eichelberger stated.

N [SB 227 Eichelberger, John](#) - (PN 210) Amends the Public School Code, in district superintendents and assistant district superintendents, further providing for manner of election or approval and for term and salary of assistants. The bill provides for events to take place at a "public" meeting instead of a "regular" meeting, and narrows existing timeframes to 90 days from 150 days. If action is not taken within the 90-day window, the term of office of the superintendent or assistant superintendent shall be extended for one year. Such notification shall not prevent the superintendent or assistant superintendent from being considered for or appointed to a further term of office notwithstanding the consideration of other candidates. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as committed** with Sen. Jim Brewster (D-Allegheny) voting in the negative.

Sen. Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia) questioned what the logic is behind the bill. Chairman Eichelberger said the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) requested the legislation. "I don't think any business would make a deal where if you miss a deadline in the renewal process that person then gets re-upped for a number of years," he stated.

Chairman Dinniman noted that some school districts were stuck with two or three superintendent contracts because the contracts were automatically renewed under the current law.

N [SB 229 Eichelberger, John](#) - (PN 212) Amends the Public School Code, in professional employees, further providing for payment of salaries in cases of sickness, injury or death, for alternative payment plan, for persons entitled to leaves of absence, for salary while on leave and for Distinguished Educators Program. Several sections providing for sick and sabbatical leave are repealed and the bill states "Whenever the boards of school directors of two or more school districts may establish any joint elementary public school, high school or department, or whenever two or more school districts shall merge or form a union school district or administrative unit in accordance with the provisions of sections 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296 and 297 of this act, the professional or temporary professional employees employed by the several boards of school directors establishing such joint school or department or merged or union school district or administrative unit shall be entitled to the sick leave accumulated in the individual school districts subsequently establishing such joint school or department or merged or union school district or administrative unit." Effective in 60 days. - The bill was **reported as committed** with Chairman Dinniman, Sen. Brewster, Sen. Daylin Leach (D-Montgomery), Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R-Bucks), and Sen. Williams voting in the negative.

Chairman Eichelberger noted that the PSBA also requested the legislation and said school employees were the only classification of employees in the law where the benefits were statutorily defined. "Everyone else negotiates for these in any other employee classification," he stated. "It's a fairness issue, we're trying to make sure employees across the state are treated the same."

Sen. Williams indicated that he has not heard from the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) on the issue and requested that they testify on the issue. Dan Wiedemer, Assistant Executive Director of Government Relations for PSEA, said the legislation should not be the first bill coming out of committee and emphasized that the bill has a "disproportionate effect on women." Kelli Thompson, Assistant Director of Government Relations for the PSEA, described the benefits under statute and noted that the legislature added bereavement leave for grandchildren last session. Chairman Eichelberger added "those are all good arguments you can make at the negotiation table."

Sen. Brewster spoke against the legislation and noted that he has not heard from any school board members in his district that the current benefits under law is a serious issue. He questioned why charter reform is not being discussed. Chairman Eichelberger indicated that there are only a few bills the committee could consider this early in the session but assured the committee members that the committee will have a "very full agenda."

Sen. Leach questioned why the legislation is necessary. Chairman Eichelberger questioned why the benefits were put in statute in the first place and said the bill reflects current collective bargaining practices for all other union employees. Sen. Leach asked if there has been any harm done to districts by the law that is currently in effect. Chairman Eichelberger stated "I'm sure there has been." Sen. Leach spoke against the issue. "It seems the only result of this is that workers will get less, it doesn't seem like the results of this is that workers will get more," he stated. "If basic rights are going to have to be negotiated in collective bargaining it seems important that we not do anything to undermine the ability for teachers to collective bargain and there seems to be a lot of legislation that aims to do that."

Sen. Tomlinson said removing the benefits from statute will create a gap in benefit coverage for workers that do not have those benefits spelled out in their existing collective bargaining contract. Chairman Eichelberger said the legislation provides that any benefits in existing contracts will remain in effect until a new contract is agreed upon in collective bargaining. Sen. Tomlinson reiterated that those workers that do not have those statutorily defined benefits in their collective bargaining agreements currently will lose those benefits. Chairman Eichelberger stated "we'll look at that and if it's an issue we'll correct it."

Sen. DiSanto said the legislation will not necessarily result in workers getting fewer benefits. "It gives districts the opportunity to negotiate these costs and offer benefits that are more meaningful in other areas and save money," he stated.

Sen. Pat Browne (R-Lehigh) agreed with Sen. DiSanto. "If you have mandates in the contract it takes a piece of that negotiating capacity and takes it off the table," he stated. "Just to say this is a net loss for all workers is a bridge too far."

N [SB 228 Eichelberger, John](#) - (PN 211) Amends the Public School Code further providing for causes for suspension and persons to be suspended by adding that professional employees can be suspended for economic reasons that require a reduction in professional employees. Suspension shall be based upon educational program needs, the professional employee's certifications or performance evaluations of employees within the affected program areas. Reinstatement shall be on the basis of qualification to teach a particular subject or grade level or to hold a particular position, followed next by seniority. No collective bargaining agreement for professional employees may include provisions prohibiting suspension of professional employees for economic reasons. Effective immediately. - The bill was **passed over**.

Chairman Eichelberger indicated that the bill was passed over so that an amendment to the bill can be crafted.

- 30 -

House Democratic Policy Committee

1/31/17, 2:00 p.m., Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13, 1020 New Holland Avenue, Lancaster

By Andreas Dienner, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing in Lancaster on blended learning.

[Presentations](#) were offered by a panel of various stakeholders in the blended learning community, including:

- Pam McCartney, Director of Instructional Services, IU13 and Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions
- Colette Cairns, Education Innovation Specialist, Coordinator of Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions, IU13 and Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions
- Larry Mays, Principal, Lancaster Cyber Program of the School District of Lancaster
- Liz Lubeskie, Coordinator of Online Learning and Technology Integration for Manheim Central School District
- Ken Zimmerman, Instructional Media and Technology Consultant

McCartney said discussions would specifically focus on IU13's collaboration with local school districts and described the panel as "a representation of many good works" from the blended learning system. She said educators should always be looking for the next steps for advancement, and outlined the recent growth of online learning. She described the online method as "anywhere, anytime learning" and highlighted key components contributing to its success, such as:

- Personalized learning through a variety of courses and wide range of access.
- Work at own pace to ensure quality learning and flexible school hours.
- Earn college credits during high school.
- Take classes not offered at campus-based schools.
- Manage a busy schedule.

"It was a natural fit that you're going to see schools start to develop around those concepts (of online learning) and out of that, that principle and new way to teach classrooms came our cyber charter schools," McCartney explained. She explained these schools are part of the public school because they are run by districts or intermediate units, but are the primary location of education on the student's record. She said they have the opportunity to combine online and face-to-face instruction through hybrid learning. However, she went on to emphasize challenges that come along with cyber charter schools including limited overall success rates, high cost to local schools as funding is removed for each individual student leaving the brick and mortar school, and loss of local control.

McCartney then explained that as a result of the stress on local school districts caused by online charters, many districts have developed their own online academies. She explained that this option allows students to take advantage of online learning through district-run options usually administered by intermediate units, such as IU13. McCartney touted the benefits of such programs including flexibility and choice in programs, wider array of available classes, and reduced costs to districts as compared to cyber charters. She then presented data showing the growth in online learning in the Lancaster-Lebanon area from 736 in 2005, peaking at 1,720 in 2014, and a decline since then of approximately 350 students, which McCartney said may be due to higher quality online options from districts. "We see that as a very positive trend," she added.

Cairns focused on the specifics of the IU13 virtual program. "Our vision is to provide learning options that will engage and encourage success and positive achievement for all students," she said. She said they intend to supplement and boost district programs through part time options, summer school, advanced placement, and language classes. "In 2011 is when it really started to happen, we had 12 districts join Lancaster-Lebanon Virtual Solutions (LLVS)," Cairns explained. "In that first year we had at least 490 active students." The program currently has 1,106 students with 542 being part time. Cairns outlined several benefits students like in the virtual program, including:

- A diploma from their local district,
- Ability to join extracurricular activities at the district.
- Participation in graduation ceremony.
- Continued access and time for Career and Technology (CTC) centers.
- Access to guidance counselors.
- A flexible school day.

On course information, Cairns said she is proud of the courses offered to districts including Edison learning for middle and high school, accelerate for elementary and electives, and Apex Learning for AP and honors courses. "We have over 330 courses for students in grades kindergarten through 12th," she said. Cairns went on to highlight other distinguishing features of LLVS courses including alignment with Pennsylvania standards, certified teachers, commitment and availability of those teachers, ability to blend learning and interact with district teachers or take certain courses at the brick and mortar school, options for customizing courses, flexibility of working with IEP students, advisor collaboration, and widely available tutoring both online and one on one.

Cairns then outlined cost savings when a student chooses district based online education over a cyber charter. She said the average cost to district for one LLVS student is \$4,300 compared to a district cost of \$9,950 per student sent to a cyber charter, resulting in savings of \$55,902 for every ten students directed to a district's online learning program over a cyber charter. She also ran similar figures for special education students, labeling the total savings for 10 students at \$139,030. Cairns then explained total LLVS enrollment has gone from 496 in 2011 to 1,287 as of 2016 with 81 percent receiving a grade of 70 percent or better. She also outlined course completion data, saying 93 percent of students completed 90 percent or more of their coursework. "The true story is from our districts," she concluded. "They're in the trenches working with the students."

Mays discussed how his district, the School District of Lancaster (SDOL), implemented the LLVS program over the past six years. He explained his district serves 11,300 urban students including 1,872 English learners and 38 languages spoken at a 96.5 percent graduation rate. He said adding cyber programs added "tremendous opportunity" for students in unique learning ways. He said four other advisors working directly with him allow such success. "Our students stay as members of their home school," he explained. He touted the positive effects online education has had on his students including flexibility, increased tutoring, and career programs, but reiterated the value of being part of the home district and utilizing their extracurricular activities and graduation ceremonies. "Our program works to provide hope, opportunity, choice, and alternative options for success," he summarized. He also emphasized the opportunity for success online school brings students struggling with medical or emotional issues, and praised the flexible scheduling model.

On graduation rates, Mays noted that 23 percent of 2016 graduates took cyber courses, compared to only 3.2 percent in 2012. "Based on the cost model developed by our Chief Financial Officer the annualized savings range conservatively from \$445,000 to \$650,000," he added. In conclusion, Mays read several testimonials from students on how online schooling helped them grow. "We change lives," he said.

Lubeskie discussed how her district, Manheim Central School District, implemented the LLVS program over the past six years in a rural setting for 3,000 students. She emphasized that even though the numbers are smaller than Mays', lives are still changed by the online programs. Lubeskie praised the effects, saying both fully online and blended coursework has offered more opportunities for student success and modernized the education field. She referred to the movement as a revolution, but said teachers must learn and evolve as well. "We're always looking for instructional strategies and ways to work with our students but we're not doing this with our student teachers at a university level," she added. "It needs to get there as well, we need that ability."

Zimmerman discussed next steps in online learning and blended learning. He emphasized the need to keep students in district schools, including online opportunities, to stop the "bleeding" to cyber charter schools. He highlighted the need to create flexible learning environments in classrooms, especially through programs such as LLVS and hybrid learning classroom rotations. "We knew that not all of our students were going to excel in a purely online environment, but how

could we bring the best of both worlds together in our actual classrooms," he asked. "So out of all the blended learning models out there... the one that made the most sense to us is hybrid classroom rotational model." Zimmerman concluded by breaking down the process for implementing such a program including the collaborative, direct, and independent stages. "We really have seen, as this trend continues to grow, how we can marry this amazing virtual world with our current face to face world in the classroom... to be able to create an amazing future for our students."

The panel then took questions from legislators in attendance.

Rep. McCarter asked how students in the LLVS program rank in School Performance Profile scores. McCartney said the data is not regularly collected but clarified the districts would have the information on hand. McCarter said the score is a critical component and should be collected to quantify results.

Rep. Wheatley said student motivation is a critical factor and asked what sort of legislative barriers should be avoided to ensure the growth and success of online education. Zimmerman said the emphasis on standardized testing can cause teachers to be limited in methods and techniques which can stunt personal connections with students. McCartney said rigid pace requirements can also limit classroom relationships and abilities.

Rep. Longietti asked where LLVS program instruction takes place. Cairns said it varies by program, but said most districts supply laptops and also offer opportunities for students to come into the school and take certain classes at a library or similar place. Lubeskie said LLVS has an open building policy allowing students to leave when not in class but encourages them to stay and utilize areas such as the media center and café.

Rep. Longietti asked how teacher and tutor hours are scheduled. Mays said all his students can get tutoring through regular coursework all day every weekday. He said struggling students are noticed through monitoring indicators and are then brought in and directed to a tutor if needed. Rep. Longietti asked how teachers are supplied. Cairns said the vendor provides teachers who are on staff and report to a building with administrators every workday. She said they are very involved. Mays agreed, saying the teachers are very accepting and helpful to students. Rep. Longietti asked if LLVS can set their own price for their programs. McCartney said they have been setting their own price, saying it is a win-win situation delivering at a lower cost. Mays said as efficiency and popularity of the courses continues, costs continue to decline.

Rep. Longietti asked if other IU sectors offer a similar program. Cairns said IU13 partners with several other intermediate units.

Rep. Pashinski asked how the curriculum is developed. Cairns explained LLVS utilized vendor curriculums as their rollout time was only several months after creation of the program. McCartney explained that costs are too high for districts to develop their own courses, but rather can personalize curriculums through influence and collaboration with vendors throughout the process. Lubeskie noted the implementation of games and virtual rooms into curriculums, saying vendors have discovered many ways to make students more comfortable online and utilize evolving technologies.

Rep. Pashinski asked if students taking advantage of the programs may have previously been homeschoolers. Lubeskie said some were homeschoolers, and noted that as children age and parents don't feel effective as homeschool teachers, they may transition to online programs which offer a similar home situation while still being taught by the district.

Rep. Matzie said it is important for teachers to learn as well as technology changes and noted personal examples of seeing his kids utilize technology in ways he doesn't understand. Zimmerman said informed parents are a critical aspect. He said it can be hard to get parents into events and properly educated on options for their kids, but said if they can understand the value they offer it can change students' lives. Mays said future education requirements is another important aspect as students are trained for jobs that don't yet exist.

Rep. Neilson asked where the savings previously mentioned are going. Mays said the school board makes the call and generally savings go back into the General Fund. The panel and Rep. Neilson concluded that even though there is recognized savings, there are current deficits that still need to be closed. Rep. Neilson asked about downtime and length of school day requirements. Lubeskie said teachers are equipped with data including time spent on lessons, time of completion, and retaking of assessments to determine how the student is doing and when they are struggling. She also noted teachers are able to effectively tell when parents are doing the work for the child based on the data provided. Mays

said his courses are designed to spend at least 60 minutes per day on a subject and is highly monitored by teachers. Cairns said the decision for length of studies is a local decision by the advisor.

Rep. Schweyer asked how CTC ties in to the program. Mays said his CTC students go part time junior year and full time as seniors. He said online learning allows increased flexibility and course options junior year as students travel back and forth between facilities. Rep. Schweyer commented online learning should make CTC more appealing and easier to access. Cairns said the wide online course variety often triggers a passion in students early on and can lead to higher enrollment in CTC as they grow interested in a career field. Mays recommended beginning the CTC program process in eighth grade, as was previously done, to encourage more enrollment and earlier exposure.

Rep. Sainato asked about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. McCartney said it is a "huge initiative" at IU13 with several consultants working with schools for early hands on learning to expose an increased scope of career paths, particularly in manufacturing. Rep. Sainato asked how to get parents to understand the value of those types of jobs. Mays and Zimmerman both recommended earlier exposure to such fields to get students interested as well as getting parents engaged with information and data showing success in such fields.

Rep. McCarter asked how many districts work with IU13. McCartney said 15 of the 22 local districts are involved and added that the seven remaining schools have their own in-house online programs. Rep. McCarter asked about television advertisement for LLVS. McCartney said some IU branches advertise, but said IU13 wants to be behind the curtain facilitating districts rather than advocating for their own programs. Cairns said IU13 helps districts market their opportunities and provides support.

Chairman Sturla asked how much education teachers need to stay up to date with technology in the classroom. Lubeskie said current endorsement requirements include 12 credits ranging from creating online courses to how to teach them. "It can probably be done in two courses in their undergrad," she said, and said any additional requirements may be stressful on teachers who can't afford tuition. McCartney said they have worked with Millersville University to develop models for such education but said many universities stick to traditional methods that have been around for many years. Zimmerman said it is a "great struggle" to get those models implemented.

Chairman Sturla said LLVS should show data showing superior test scores along with their savings and commended the panel for their dedication and work on the issue.

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Press Conferences

COALITION LAUNCHES "PENNSYLVANIA'S CHOICE" INITIATIVE

Kevin Walters, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | January 31, 2017

A diverse group of Pennsylvania organizations held a rally in the Main Rotunda today, one week ahead of Gov. Tom Wolf's budget proposal to lobby legislators to fix Pennsylvania's broken tax system.

Jeff Garis, Director of Outreach and Engagement for the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, lamented to those assembled that "if the state cannot secure new revenues it will be unable to make the investments that communities across the state need to survive." He explained that Pennsylvania families could suffer from more cuts to essential health and human services programs. He blamed the lack of real reform on the myriad business interests that control the legislature.

Marc Stier, Director of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, declared that in there are two fundamental differences in the function of government. Many in Pennsylvania's legislature, he continued, say government does little good, that it's too big, and too expensive. "When governments are well-funded they do an extraordinary job," he admitted, citing that adequate school funding could make Pennsylvania nationally and internationally competitive academically.

Focusing on the issue on government spending, Stier enlightened the group by pointing out that "Government spending has declined since former Gov. Tom Corbett was in office," Stier proclaimed.

Stier addressed the backward nature of the tax system, which he denounces for taking middle- and lower-income people rather than those who earn greater money. “We believe that a broken people should get tax decreases; we shouldn’t be raising the taxes for the people at the top.”

He outlined several steps to increase revenue without taxing low- and middle-income individuals and families:

- Raising the minimum wage to \$15.00
- Increasing corporate taxes
- Imposing a severance tax for natural gas fracking
- Fix Personal Income Tax

Valerie Allman, member of One Pennsylvania, and a veteran of the Armed Forces, is the mother of two Pittsburgh-area students. She explained that her youngest child is enrolled in early child care and has special needs that are contingent upon state funding.

“Underfunding our public education system is not just damaging to special needs children, but all children,” she implored. “About half of the 8.1 million children in the nation do not receive early childhood education,” she said. She reported that 20,000 of them live in Allegheny County alone. Regarding the cost of education, she noted that preschool is \$650 per month, and that daycare would cost \$1,300 per month. “Most people we know can’t afford that. Sending your child to preschool for two years costs more than college tuition.”

Rev. Sally Jo Snyder, Director of Advocacy and Consumer Engagement for the Consumer Health Coalition, opined that “the long-standing safety net that services seniors, persons with disabilities, and children is facing its biggest threat,” referring to the upcoming budget season. She is optimistic that the government will do the right thing and increase revenues needed to help Pennsylvanians whose health care will be impacted by the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

“We must raise revenue; to not do so is to doom the citizens of our Commonwealth. The time is always right to do the right thing. Fixing our broken tax system to make it a more fair, more just reality. The time is now to do the right thing,” Snyder announced.

Alyssa Schatz, Vice President of Advocacy for the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, described the current state of Pennsylvania’s mental health network by reflecting some statistics. According to Schatz:

- Less than 50 percent of adults with mental health conditions are able to access health care
- 40 percent of youth who need mental health treatment can access Pennsylvania’s health care system
 - o Only 20 percent of those have access to consistent care

Deneene Brockington, Director of Government & Community Relations for Resources for Human Development, said she was present today “to give perspective about the scope of people that direct support professionals serve, and in particular the people on the front lines providing this work,” – direct support professionals, Brockington explains – “who care about and are invested in their work.”

She outlined a series of human services sectors where direct support professionals have been and will be affected if the tax burden for working people remains unchanged:

- Drug/alcohol counselors
- Mental illness practitioners
- Health care providers for low income housing people

After relating a personal anecdote, Brockington pivoted back to the employees – professionals, she emphasized – who make this care possible. She added that the Commonwealth needs to increase wages for direct support professionals because it will not only improve the quality of life for Pennsylvania’s vulnerable residents, but that higher wages will also provide a return on its investment and positively contribute to the state’s economy.

Tom Herman, President of the Service Employees International Union, Local 668, stated that SEIU represents 20,000 union service professionals in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He said SEIU explicitly represents those in the emergency services such as those who staff 9-1 emergency call centers in counties across the state, court employees, probation officers, and many more.

“Emergency services workers are united in their dedication to serving and delivering essential public services to all the people of Pennsylvania,” Herman says. “The recent crisis in unemployment compensation shows what happens when

you put such little value in the most important asset – its people. Tens of thousands of workers will be penalized through no fault of their own. We need to put people before politics.”

“We can’t keep cutting the workforce and expect to get the job done,” Herman said. “Our members touch the lives of real people in every town across Pennsylvania, and anything short of full funding in the human services budget would be a step in the wrong direction.” To do so, he warns, would endanger the lives of millions of Pennsylvania residents.

John Meyerson, Consultant on Legislation & Political Action for the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 1776, retail, food processing, public service, and in state wine and spirits shops bringing in almost \$600 mil per year into the state treasury. “Pennsylvania has the best, most productive workers in the world – right here!” He proclaimed. He asserted that every budget has been balanced on the back of working families for the past six years.

Meyerson listed three key actions that legislators can do this budget season:

- Shift the tax burden from those in lower tax brackets to those in higher tax brackets
- Tax the Marcellus Shale industry in Pennsylvania
- Raise the minimum wage to \$15.00

“If you don’t listen to us,” he cautioned, “we will be back. And we will not be back alone. We are not speaking for ourselves. We are representing tens of thousands of people across the Commonwealth. We will be back in numbers.”

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SENATE DEMOCRATS ASK GOVERNOR TO CALL SPECIAL SESSION

By Aaron Rider, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | February 1, 2017

Senate Democrats gathered today on the Rotunda balcony to release [a letter](#) from Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa (D-Allegheny) that requests Gov. Tom Wolf to declare a special session of the General Assembly to consider property tax reform or elimination measures.

One of the central issues that the state government must address, said Sen. Costa, is property tax reform. He and his colleagues believe that is “imperative” for the Senate to have a special session to address the matter. “To that end, we are calling on Gov. Wolf to call for a special session on property taxes,” he said.

Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Northampton), Senate Democratic Policy Committee chair, said all Pennsylvanians have a “generational commitment” to ensure good education in the commonwealth, but that the present “archaic” and “unfair” system has led to an overreliance by school districts on local property taxes. “We are not married to any specific plan. All we’re asking is that the governor recognizes as an important issue in Pennsylvania. Let’s figure this out together,” stated Sen. Boscola. She highlighted Pennsylvania seniors who “cannot keep up with” rising property taxes. The taxes are also a barrier, she said, to young people who wish to buy a home. Sen. Boscola said she was “disappointed” when a 2002 special session to address the same issue failed to achieve anything substantial, but said elected officials now have to respond to the concerns of overwhelmed citizens.

Berks County is, according to Sen. Judy Schwank (D-Berks), “ground zero of the property tax elimination effort.” She said she only needed one experience with a senior citizen driven to the point of tears by the present tax system’s financial burdens to understand the necessity of reform. “When you hear enough of people telling you about choices of buying groceries or buying prescription meds, it hits home.” She asserted, “We must have school funding,” but it must be provided through a system that helps reasonably relieve the burdens presently placed upon stakeholders. “Something drastically different needs to happen in terms of our school funding,” said Sen. Schwank.

Sen. Andrew Dinniman (D-Chester) said, “For forty years we’ve been promising the citizens property tax relief. I don’t know of any candidate for Senate or the House who hasn’t brought this up as an issue. But we haven’t delivered, have we? It’s about time that we keep our word.” Although the contemporary system is unsustainable, relief has not been forthcoming, stated Sen. Dinniman, because various interested groups have been unable to agree on a compromise measure. “You can’t just simply stand out there and say that you’d don’t like A, B, C, or D. But we all have to come together to find an E,” he declared.

The legislators took questions from the press.

By how much would a proposal have to reduce property taxes for your call here today to be a success?

Sen. Costa said he did not have a specific number because the necessary conversation and dialogue about the issue have not yet taken place.

Many of you voted against [SB 76](#) last year. Why are you now calling for property tax reform?

Sen. Costa replied, "This is not about SB 76. This is about trying to engage in a conversation."

Since you're in session year-round, special sessions often are not very special and often run concurrent with the regular sessions. Is it any more than a gimmick?

Sen. Costa said that a special session would raise attention to the issue of property taxes. "It rises above the general work that is done on a daily basis," he said, and raises the levels of sincerity and focus surrounding the point of discussion.

Sen. Boscola interjected to refer to a special session on crime that had been "very productive."

How do you address the issue of pre-existent school district debt?

Sen. Costa replied that that issue too would be a part of the conversation in a special session.

Can you get the property tax reform when property taxes aren't a major issue in all 500 school districts?

Sen. Dinniman answered that a "one-size fits all" solution may not work for the entire state. "Maybe that's been the problem that we've been had. Maybe we've gotten the opposition that we've gotten because not every solution works for every region," he said. He suggested that local school districts and local citizens could also be granted more fiscal discretion by the state government. "Pennsylvania is not a homogeneous state," he concluded.

Can you get the public any idea of what kind of sources your caucus might have that might be a better way to provide this funding?

Sen. Costa said the Democratic caucus's plan would result in a \$1,900 check sent to homeowners and would look to personal income taxes and sales taxes to relieve property taxes. He said that the issue is approaching a "tipping point" that demands action by the legislature.

Legislators present in support were Sen. James Brewster (D-Allegheny), Sen. Art Haywood (D-Montgomery), Sen. Sharif Street (D-Philadelphia), Sen. Anthony Williams (D-Philadelphia), Sen. Wayne Fontana (D-Allegheny), Sen. John Blake (D-Lackawanna), and Sen. Vincent Hughes (D-Philadelphia).

###

Upcoming Events

House Education

February 6, 2017 - 11:00 a.m., Room G50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 73](#) Godshall, Robert Amends Public School Code re opening day [HB 178](#) Day, Gary Amends Public School Code re security drills [HB 202](#) Turzai, Mike Amends Public School Code re Keystone Exams [HB 224](#) Simmons, Justin Amends Public School Code re epi-pens [HB 250](#) Turzai, Mike Amends Public School Code re EITC & OSTC

Press Conference

February 6, 2017 - 11:00 a.m., Main Capitol Rotunda, Harrisburg

Charter Schools Should Educate Students with Disabilities

Senate Education

February 7, 2017 - 3:00 p.m., Hearing Room 1, North Office Building

Public hearing to consider nomination of Estelle Richman to the Philadelphia School Reform Commission

House Health

February 8, 2017 - 9:30 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider: [HB 126](#) Baker, Matt Act re epinephrine auto-injectors

State Board of Education

February 9, 2017 - 8:45 a.m. 333 Market Street, Heritage Rooms A & B, Lobby Level, Harrisburg

State Board of Private Licensed Schools Meeting. For additional information: (717) 787-4431

Session Schedule

Senate

February 6, 7, 8
March 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29
April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Senate budget hearings

February 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28
March 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

House

February 6, 7, 8
March 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22
April 3, 4, 5, 18, 19, 24, 25, 26
May 8, 9, 10, 22, 23, 24
June 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

House budget hearings

February 21, 22, 23, 27, 28
March 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9

Basic Education in the News

- 02-02-2017 [Senate Democrats Call for Special Session on Property Tax Relief or Elimination](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [Turzai, Tobash Reintroduce Legislation to Support Career and Technical Education](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [PSEA President: Sen. Toomey, Betsy Devos is unqualified, vote "NO"](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [PDE Awards Farm to School Grants to 30 Pennsylvania Schools](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [NGA: Governors Comment On Congressional Review of Education Regulations](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [Stack Reviews Programs at Philadelphia Science Leadership Academy](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [Auditor General DePasquale Releases Audits for School Entities in Butler, ...](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [Boscola Spearheads Call for Special Session on Property Tax Elimination](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [Pittsburgh Public Schools reopens 24 school buildings affected by water advisory](#)
Pittsburgh Public Schools today reopened 22 of its schools and two early childhood centers after a boil water advisory closed the buildings on Wednesday. Schools spokeswoman Ebony Pugh said principals will remind students not to drink from taps at schools. Water fountains have been covered, and staff will either hand out bottles... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-02-2017 [Pittsburgh Public Schools reopens 24 school buildings affected by water advisory](#)
Pittsburgh Public Schools today reopened 22 of its schools and two early childhood centers after a

boil water advisory closed the buildings on Wednesday. Schools spokeswoman Ebony Pugh said principals will remind students not to drink from taps at schools. Water fountains have been covered, and staff will either hand out bottles... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

02-02-2017

[Betsy DeVos nomination at risk as 2 Republican senators object](#)

WASHINGTON — What had appeared to be a near-certain chance of Betsy DeVos becoming President Trump's Education secretary took a hit Wednesday as two Republican senators said they would vote against her. U.S. Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska delivered... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

02-02-2017

['No boundaries' for teachers enabled decades of sex abuse at elite Bucks school, report finds](#)

One woman recounted the dates she had with her gym teacher in the early 2000s, when she was a senior in high school, and the relationship that continued after she graduated. Another former student said he was anally raped after going off campus with students and a teacher in 1968.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

[Teacher held for sex abuse at Main Line school for behavior issues](#)

A teacher at a Main Line school for students with emotional and behavioral problems told police that she wrote more than 30 letters to a 16-year-old former student. The 28-year-old woman said she was buying a new headboard "for our bed." She called her 2-year-old daughter "our baby girl." She... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

[Ex-school official pleads no contest in scheme to steer \\$900,000 contract to friends, family](#)

The former small-business development manager for the Philadelphia schools pleaded no contest to perjury Wednesday involving charges that she steered a \$900,000 contract to businesses owned by her friends or family. Priscilla Wright, 52, of East Germantown, entered the plea before Common... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

[Toomey pops left's bubble - will back Trump education nominee Betsy DeVos](#)

WASHINGTON -- No, Sen. Pat Toomey isn't going to sink Betsy DeVos' nomination. Liberal groups hoped Wednesday they could pressure the Pennsylvania Republican into casting a decisive vote against DeVos, President Trump's pick to lead the Department of Education, and thus deny her confirmation.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

[Commentary: Philly educators should unite to serve the common good](#)

By Daniel R. J. Joyce I'm not sure if it's because Catholic Schools Week - Jan. 29 to Feb. 4 - always occurs in the run up to the Super Bowl, or if it's just that my Catholic upbringing seemed to interweave sports and spirituality so closely, but I cannot think of Catholic education without a football... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

[Pa. school administrators say cash-strapped districts are 'treading water'](#)

Pennsylvania public schools continue to "tread water" in the face of rising mandated costs and decreasing or stagnant revenues that have forced them to raise taxes, cut programs and staff, and borrow money, according to an annual report released Wednesday by two school... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-02-2017

['Paycheck Protection?' Who, exactly, are we protecting here?: Editorial](#)

"Paycheck protection." It sounds so friendly and benign: the government helping workers hang onto their hard-earned dollars. But protection for whom and from what? Ask those questions and the continuing push by some legislators to stop automatic deductions of dues from the paychecks of the state's unionized... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-02-2017

[Female teacher accused of sex with girl, 16, at Pa. school for troubled kids](#)

A 28-year-old female teacher at a school for youth under court orders is accused of complicating one 16-year-old girl's problems by having sex with her over a nine-month period. According to Fox29 and CBSPhilly.com, the teacher, identified as Nina Scott, of Downingtown, Pa., worked at The Village - a

court-ordered... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-02-2017

[Lehigh Valley Academy drops Saucon Valley from lawsuit](#)

Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School has dropped the Saucon Valley School District from its lawsuit over an enrollment cap. The charter school's Board of Trustees voted unanimously Tuesday to dismiss Saucon Valley from an appeal with the state's Charter Appeals Board and a... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

02-02-2017

[Pennsylvania Senate Democrats seek special hearings on property tax reform](#)

The state Senate's small contingent of Democratic lawmakers is looking to tackle a big issue: property tax reform. Most of the caucus' 16 members joined Wednesday to ask Gov. Tom Wolf to call a special joint session, in which the Senate and House can publicly... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

02-02-2017

[Encourage Toomey to vote against DeVos](#)

This letter concerns the president's nomination of Betsy DeVos to be secretary of education. DeVos is dangerously unqualified for a position that has broad influence on our K-12 schools and postsecondary education. She has never worked in a public school system in any capacity. Neither she... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Some Pittsburgh schools closed for the day over water issue](#)

Insufficient chlorine in Pittsburgh's public water supply led to the closure Wednesday of nearly two dozen grade schools and a boil-water advisory in neighborhoods that include the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University... - [AP](#)

02-02-2017

[Ex-school employee pleads no contest in contracts case](#)

A former Philadelphia School District employee accused of pushing school contracts to relatives and friends has pleaded no contest to perjury... - [AP](#)

02-02-2017

[Area schools reap \\$7.5 million in state construction money](#)

It sounds like quite a financial boon: In the span of two months Wyoming Valley West School District received \$1.9 million from the state. Business Manager Joe Rodriguez admits it's a big help for a tight budget, but notes it is really just a promise kept after about five years.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

02-02-2017

[Community group wants Monessen School District to merge with another](#)

A citizens group is trying to generate enough support to convince the Monessen School Board to consider merging with a neighboring school district. Members of the Monessen Education Reform Group, or TeamMERG, have been appearing at board meetings since the fall urging board members to look... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

02-02-2017

[Letter: Shifting tax burden would help schools](#)

Editor: How can local school superintendents - educated individuals with doctoral degrees - be so misinformed and uneducated about the Property Tax Independence Act ("Tax-shift proposals worry school leaders," Reading Eagle, Jan. 27)? It is a gateway bill that will address their concerns.... - [Reading Eagle](#)

02-02-2017

[Erie City Council supports new distribution formula for gambling revenues](#)

Merski would like to see city, school district get a share of county gambling revenues. The Pennsylvania Legislature is wrestling with how to come up with a permanent fix to a 2016 decision by the state Supreme Court that has jeopardized millions of dollars that casinos pay to host communities across... - [Erie Times-News](#)

02-02-2017

[CFO Polito hired to lead Erie School District](#)

School Board cites financial expertise in appointing Polito The Erie School District's chief financial officer will become its new superintendent on July 1. The timing of the appointment is fitting. The Erie

School Board unanimously appointed Brian Polito superintendent on... - [Erie Times-News](#)

02-02-2017

[Elite private school allowed sex abuse for decades, grand jury finds](#)

Students were sexually abused over more than 50 years at a small private school in Bucks County, and although administrators knew of the crimes, they weren't reported to authorities, a county grand jury report says. Bucks County father charged in 2-year-old son's shooting death Bucks... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Superintendents uniting against property tax reform | Letter](#)

In January public school superintendents, at the behest of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, sent letters to parents of children enrolled in public school in an attempted to discredit and malign legislation that would eliminate school property taxes, encouraging them to call legislators... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Merit pay promotes cronyism or corruption](#)

In James Hoover's letter of Jan. 26, he stated: "I've found that those who oppose merit pay are usually people who are aware that they would never be worthy of it." This is a clever use of the ad hominem technique. He presents his unsubstantiated opinion while at the same time implying anyone disagreeing... - [Beaver County Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Financial report: Schools just 'treading water'](#)

In a sink-or-swim environment, Pennsylvania's public school systems "continue to tread water," says a report issued Wednesday by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators and Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials. Financial situations have improved since a historic nine-month-long state... - [Beaver County Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Letter: Teacher's strike would not benefit Stroudsburg](#)

Stroudsburg Area School District has made great strides towards balancing a budget without cutting programs, but has yet to attain a balanced budget. What remains is an ongoing structural deficit requiring more taxes each year. Four years ago, after a fact-finding process, the teachers union agreed to... - [Pocono Record](#)

02-02-2017

[What good is a classical education? This good \(column\)](#)

Central Pennsylvania's 2017 One Book, One Community selection, "Rose under Fire," tells of a pilot who was sent to a Nazi concentration camp. Rose and her fellow prisoners nourished their souls on the poetry Rose had memorized as a child, the poetry she wrote with stolen pencil... - [York Daily](#)

02-02-2017

[Schools need reliable funding, and more of it, supts. say](#)

With Gov. Tom Wolf set to propose a 2017-18 state budget next week, a group of local school district superintendents gathered Wednesday to emphasize where they believe the state's focus should be. Superintendents from Red Lion, West York, York City and York Suburban held... - [York Daily](#)

02-02-2017

[Our Opinion: The answer](#)

The superintendent of schools does not want this decision made based on emotion. The question: Should the district eliminate the Youngsville football program? She is exactly right — this decision should not be based on emotion, but, you have to understand, so many of these questions in recent memory... - [Warren Times Observer](#)

02-02-2017

[School leaders trying to fend off property tax repeal](#)

HARRISBURG — The first big political fight of the year revives an old battle over property taxes. Pressure to reform the tax collected for schools is getting so intense that a group of administrators is telling members to write up two budgets — one based on the old tax-collection scheme, the other based on the new way.... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

02-02-2017

[Local school administrators question whether potential tax change would help](#)

Area school districts are beginning to prepare for the possibility of a major shift in how the commonwealth funds its schools. Discussions in Harrisburg have raised the possibility of eliminating the school property tax and replacing it with an increased sales tax, leaving... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

02-02-2017

[Mother Nature has been kind to budgets](#)

Area school students may be disappointed that they've yet to get a snow day, but local officials are thrilled that their budgets haven't been plowed. "I've been superintendent for five years and I don't remember having a winter like this during that time. Normally we have to take make-up days... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)

02-02-2017

[DeVos insists she doesn't owe Ohio the \\$5.3 million fine assessed her PAC](#)

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump's pick for secretary of education says she does not owe the state \$5.3 million in fines and late fees. Betsy DeVos, a Michigan businesswoman and philanthropist who faces a full Senate vote as soon as this week, wrote in a letter received by Sen.... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)

02-02-2017

[2 G.O.P. Senators to Vote Against Betsy DeVos as Education Secretary](#)

"Her concentration on charter schools and vouchers, however, raises the question about whether or not she fully appreciates that the secretary of education's primary focus must be on helping states and communities, parents, teachers, school board administrators, school board members and... - [New York Times](#)

02-02-2017

[Mayor Kenney Impressed By Students At Vocational High School In NE Philly](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — February is Technical Education Month and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney spent his morning on Wednesday meeting with teachers and students during a tour of Swenson Arts and Technology High School. From baking to building, students at Swenson are set up for success as... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

02-02-2017

[Scathing Report Reveals Sex Abuse At Pa. School Spanning 55 Years](#)

BUCKS COUNTY, Pa. (CBS)—A scathing report released on Wednesday by authorities in Bucks County details more than 50 years of sexual abuse within a Pennsylvania school. According to the Bucks County District Attorney, the incidents happened from the 1950s through 2005 at the Solebury School—a college... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

02-02-2017

[Solebury School's sordid history](#)

Think of all the words that can describe something horribly beyond belief: astounding, incredible, astonishing, shocking, staggering, overwhelming. Page through that thesaurus from cover to cover. There's really no single word that adequately conveys what a Bucks County grand jury said went on at... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

02-02-2017

[Video: Advocates stress need for more pre-K education](#)

Former Lt. Governor Jim Cawley and other advocates held a news conference Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, at Jolly Toddlers Early Education Center in Upper Southampton to discuss the need for more publicly funded pre-K programs. - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

02-02-2017

[Former Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley and others press for more prekindergarten programs](#)

Prekindergarten programs for children from low-income families are sorely lacking in Bucks County and the state, former Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. Jim Cawley and other pre-K advocates said during a press conference Wednesday morning in Upper Southampton. Gathering at the Jolly Toddlers Early Education Center on Second Street... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)

02-02-2017

[Bucks County grand jury: No charges in Solebury School sexual assault allegations](#)

Student freedom was valued over safety for decades at the Solebury School, and threadbare boundaries existed between children and adults — cultivating an environment “replete with widespread sexual abuse of students in plain sight,” according to a scathing report from a Bucks... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

- 02-02-2017 [**School administrators worry about education funding**](#)
 With a probable state budget deficit, increased employee retirement costs and more needy students in local school districts, administrators are worried about their 2017-18 school year budgets. Four local administrators held a news conference at the York City School... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Summit school fails new lead test**](#)
 As Summit Township Elementary School parents prepare to send their children to Broad Street Elementary School, a new report reveals that there still are unacceptable amounts of lead in Summit Elementary's water. Butler School Board President Nina Teff said at an informational meeting... - [Butler Eagle](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Hershey Trust's new student campus polarizes small Pa. town**](#)
 In the summer of 2013, Tom and Cindy Royer bought two lots with frontage on one of central Pennsylvania's premier golf courses, owned by the super-rich Milton Hershey School. The family wanted to live on a golf course, Tom Royer says. And its 7,900-square-foot dream home on the Hershey Links course would come with a... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Release of PASA-PASBO Reports on School District Budgets**](#)
 (Press Release)
- 02-01-2017 [**Pittsburgh Public Schools closed due to water advisory; universities alert students, staff**](#)
 The Pittsburgh Public Schools said it would close more than 20 the school buildings and early childhood centers today in response to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's precautionary water advisory that issued Tuesday. The closed schools are: Allderdice; Arsenal PreK-5; Arsenal 6-8; Colfax;... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Allderdice student's effort bridges the gulf of cultural tolerance**](#)
 One morning last semester at Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, freshman Peyton Klein noticed her new classmate Khawla and their homeroom teacher looking defeated as they struggled to communicate. Khawla and her family had fled Aleppo, Syria, over the summer and settled... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**'Good news' on racism: Education the cure**](#)
 Even though "racism has many heads" in American society, the "good news" is that the problem can be solved despite its complexity, according to an African-American educator, lecturer and author who addressed a crowd Tuesday at California University of Pennsylvania.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**School lunches' sources**](#)
 Regarding the editorial "Better school lunch logic" : The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) was signed into law by President Harry S. Truman in response to high rates of poor nutrition among World War II recruits. Truman, a war hero, realized that to protect national security,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Top, most improved Phila. schools named**](#)
 Shiny trophies sat on a table waiting to be collected. Dignitaries made speeches and shook hands. A house band and choir played hopeful music. For 25 city principals, Tuesday was their Academy Awards, as the Philadelphia School District honored the best and most improved schools in... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Augustus 'Gus' Baxter, 88, former Philadelphia School Board member**](#)
 Augustus "Gus" Baxter, 88, of Philadelphia, a former educator, activist, city planner, and member of the Philadelphia Board of Education, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, of heart failure at Chestnut Hill Hospital. Those who knew Mr. Baxter described him as a "big man, with a big smile, a big... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 02-01-2017 [**NJ Supreme Court rejects Christie request to break teacher union rules**](#)
 The New Jersey Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected an attempt by Gov. Christie to reopen the landmark Abbott v. Burke case that directed resources to urban school districts, denying his administration the power to freeze funding and break union contracts. Christie had sought to override teacher tenure laws and collectively... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Pa. auditor general to audit Aspira charter schools**](#)
 The Pennsylvania auditor general announced Tuesday that his office would begin an audit of the five charter schools operated by Aspira Inc. of Pennsylvania. Auditor General Eugene DePasquale said he decided to begin the audit of the four charter schools Aspira operates in Philadelphia and a statewide cyber... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**At Ben Franklin High, students and teachers in the cold**](#)
 Students and teachers at Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin High School have been in the cold for days, they say. The large school on North Broad Street has been experiencing problems with its heating system since last week, one teacher said. On Tuesday, with temperatures in the low 30s, the heating problems were... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Educators must bargain for sick days under new proposal; 'it's a fairness issue,' lawmaker says**](#)
 Sabbatical, sick and bereavement leaves have been a staple in public school educators' benefits package for decades because state law required them to be. Legislation that narrowly won Senate Education Committee approval on Tuesday would change that and allow them to become a topic at the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Pennsylvania Senate GOP make new run at union contributions**](#)
 Republicans in the Pennsylvania state Senate are making another attempt to end the ability of public-sector labor unions to collect full dues and political action committee contributions through payroll deductions from members' paychecks... - [AP](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Charleroi middle school teacher named finalist for regional award**](#)
 On a recent morning, students in Janet Desak's sixth-grade math class at Charleroi Area Middle School visit Lorraine Sciacca-Finch's family and consumer science classroom. After a brief lesson, the students proceed to make trail mix, using ratios they learned in the math class to measure... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Louis M. Shucker: Supreme Court wrestles with special education**](#)
 In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court dipped its toe in the water, making its first substantive interpretation of one of the main federal education laws, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. In Board of Education of Hendrick Hudson Central School District v. Rowley,... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Letter: Business community should back key bills**](#)
 Editor: Conspicuously absent from "Business matchmaker offers advice to Berks County" (Reading Eagle, Jan. 26) are two significant issues that deter businesses from locating in Berks County or Pennsylvania. So I will offer some advice that was missing from Dennis Donovan's presentation to the... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Erie School Board to pick new superintendent**](#)
 Vote set on Wednesday to promote CFO Brian Polito The Erie School Board last hired a new superintendent seven years ago, when James Barker retired after a tenure of more than 16 years. The nine school directors undertook a nationwide search, which attracted as... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Charter Arts school earns state award**](#)
 School administrators from the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts were presented with an award for the school's its Reward: High Achievement designation at a conference in Pittsburgh

this week. ISP Diane LaBelle & Dr. Comstock.jpgDiane LaBelle, left, and Carise... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

02-01-2017

[Letters on Wagner, York schools, Trump](#)

State Sen. Scott Wagner holds up a book "Who Moved My Cheese?" relating it to embracing change on Wednesday Jan. 11, 2017 at his York County waste and recycling business, Penn Waste Inc. in East Manchester Township.(Photo: Paul Kuehnel, York Daily Record)Buy Photo... - [York Daily](#)

02-01-2017

[Donors come forward to erase students' lunch debts](#)

Ashley C. Ford felt driven to act by a sad fact of life in the nation's school cafeterias: Kids with unpaid lunch accounts are often embarrassed with a substitute meal of a cold cheese sandwich and a carton of milk. Ford, a New York City writer, appealed to her 66,000 Twitter followers with... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

02-01-2017

[Cochranton students win state award for app program](#)

Cochranton High School students have received a state-wide award for a program designed to help the others in their school. Students in a programming class taught by Gail Kosienski participated in the Verizon Innovative Learning app challenge. The STEM (Science,... - [Oil City Derrick](#)

02-01-2017

[Philadelphia School Progress Report Shows Improvement](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — The Philadelphia School District's report card on itself is out, showing a modest improvement. This is the fourth year for the School Progress Report, evaluating all district and most charter schools. They're measured on achievement, school climate and progress – with progress making up half of the... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

02-01-2017

[Pa. lags behind other states on protecting children from lead poisoning](#)

The Pennsylvania Legislature will have the chance, once again this year, to act on several measures to reduce the chances of lead poisoning in children. Other states already have acted to protect their children. Bills that are expected to come before the Pennsylvania House and Senate in... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

02-01-2017

[Bucks County school officials question state's ability to dictate spending](#)

School officials in Bucks County criticized state lawmakers Tuesday for seeking to have greater control over property taxes while the commonwealth has been unable to get its own fiscal house in order. They expressed concern with a proposal to significantly limit most property... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)

02-01-2017

[Act 86 seeks to alleviate teacher shortage](#)

Southern York County School District will begin using a program that allows college students studying education to work as substitute teachers in the district. Act 86 allows school districts to hire students as substitute teachers for the district so long as they are enrolled in an accredited Pennsylvania... - [York Dispatch](#)

02-01-2017

[DeVos lacks education](#)

Editor, Gettysburg Times, To many Americans including myself, the name Betsy DeVos is one that is new to us from the past several weeks. Who is she, and what does she stand stand for? Why has she been selected by President Trump as his pick for Secretary of Education?... - [Gettysburg Times](#)

02-01-2017

[Summit classes canceled for week](#)

SUMMIT TWP — A test conducted last week revealed E. coli bacteria in the untreated well water at Summit Township Elementary School. The Butler School District announced Monday night that classes at the school will be canceled for the rest of the week. Teachers and staff at the... - [Butler Eagle](#)

02-01-2017

[School districts 'treading water' financially despite funding increases](#)

Despite a record investment in K-12 education in the 2016-17 state budget and \$352 million increase in funding over the past two years, a survey of school districts presents a grim picture of the financial shape in which many of them find themselves. The additional money they are receiving from the state as well as from... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-01-2017

[Pa. school administrators say cash-strapped districts are 'treading water'](#)

Pennsylvania public schools continue to “tread water” in the face of rising mandated costs and decreasing or stagnant revenues that have forced them to raise taxes, cut programs and staff, and borrow money, according to an annual report released Wednesday by two school... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-01-2017

[Teacher held for sex abuse at Main Line school for behavior disorders](#)

A female teacher at a Main Line school for students with emotional and behavioral problems was arrested Wednesday for allegedly having a sexual relationship with a 16-year-old female student. Nina Scott, 28, of Downingtown is accused of sexually assaulting the girl... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

02-01-2017

[2 Republican senators won't support DeVos nomination](#)

Donald Trump's nomination of Betsy DeVos as education secretary could be in trouble... - [AP](#)

02-01-2017

[Last teacher involved in series of Plum sex abuse scandals gets prison](#)

A former substitute teacher at Plum High School will serve three to six years in prison after he was sentenced this morning for having a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old student. Michael Cinefra, 30, pleaded guilty in November to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, unlawful contact, institutional sexual assault,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

02-01-2017

[Pittsburgh Public Schools to reopen Thursday after water advisory; universities alert students, staff](#)

The Pittsburgh Public Schools said it would reopen Thursday after closing more than 20 school buildings and early childhood centers Wednesday in response to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's precautionary water advisory. “We will be fully open tomorrow. Thanks again to PWSA for delivering... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-31-2017

[Sturla, Policy Committee Explore Blended Learning](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[PASA: Education Update- January 30, 2017](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[DCNR Invites Students to Apply for Summer Environmental Careers Camp ...](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[Auditor General DePasquale Announces Audit of Five Philadelphia Charter...](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[Diverse Coalition of Orgs Launch "PA's Choice" Budget Campaign](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[Senate Education - PA School Boards Assn on SB 227, SB 229](#)

(Testimony)

01-31-2017

[Senate Education - PASBO Statement on SB 229](#)

(Testimony)

- 01-31-2017 [**Pa.'s top education official talks community schools, Phila. school building conditions**](#)
 For the eight years that Chuanika Sanders-Thomas has been principal of Logan Elementary, she's done her best to build partnerships and keep the small school moving forward. This year, Logan became one of the city's first round of community schools -- places that provide not just education, but also other programs... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Beyond 'Just Say No': Schools teach about opioid dangers**](#)
 TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Schools are going beyond "Just Say No" as they teach students as young as kindergartners about the dangers of opioids in the hope that they don't later become part of the growing crisis... - [AP](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Riordan: In Pennsauken, the school district changes but the conflicts drag on**](#)
 In Pennsauken, where tough talk, sharp elbows, and short fuses are hardly unheard of in local politics, officials past and present are at odds over pretty much everything about the public schools -- Pennsauken High especially. Superintendent Ronnie Tarchichi and School Board President Nick Perry say... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Tough decisions are being made to ensure best education for students**](#)
 I write in response to a letter to the editor which was written by Dr. Richard Holodick, president, Save Our Schools (Jan. 21). As president of the Wilkes-Barre Area Board of Education, a stakeholder in the district and co-guardian of two children who attend our great district,... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Letter: Big changes needed in American education**](#)
 Editor: Our federal Education Department is broken and has been for generations. Schools have failed to provide most students with the tools necessary to meet our changing and challenging economy. Yale University professor David Gelernter predicted 90 percent of colleges will be eliminated during the... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Veteran educator to make second run at retirement**](#)
 Mary Ann Zerkowski wasn't ready for retirement when she finished her career as a longtime Reading School District educator 18 years ago. So the day after she left the principal's office at Riverside Elementary, she started a new job as part-time education consultant to then-state Sen.... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Erie board's decision to hire Polito requires explanation: Pat Cuneo**](#)
 The Erie School Board's decision to hire the Erie School District's chief financial officer, Brian Polito, as Erie schools superintendent is a bold one. Board President Frank Petrunjar Jr. seems to be saying Polito's hiring is an affirmation of outgoing Superintendent Jay Badams' administration... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Replace school property tax with local income tax | Guest column**](#)
 By Ed Inghrim Harrisburg, once again, is discussing school property tax relief. One method under consideration is shifting some or all of the burden for funding schools to higher sales and income taxes. But based on Harrisburg's past history of fixing the school property tax problem, they are likely to... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Moon Area enacts spending freeze**](#)
 MOON TWP. -- With a fund balance teetering dangerously near a budget deficit, the Moon Area School District will be tightening its belt for the remainder of the school year. The district implemented a spending freeze beginning Jan. 27, district spokeswoman Nina Rizos said. The freeze affects all expenses budgeted and... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Jim Christiana, school choice advocates speak in favor of DeVos**](#)
 State Rep. Jim Christiana joined representatives from two education policy advocacy organizations Monday morning in urging U.S. Sen. Bob Casey to reconsider his decision to vote against President

Donald Trump's U.S. Secretary of Education pick. Christiana, R-15, Brighton Township, spoke along with Patricia Levesque,... - [Beaver County Times](#)

- 01-31-2017 [WVIA recognizes businesses for donations](#)
WVIA recognizes businesses for donations WVIA Public Media has announced that PPL Electric Utilities Corporation has donated \$5,000 and Waste Management of Pennsylvania has donated \$3,000, through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program to... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 01-31-2017 [Butler County school closed for new water concern: E. coli](#)
BUTLER, Pa. — A Butler County elementary school that closed for two days last week after high levels of lead were found in its water is closing for the rest of this week because of a new water contaminant: E. coli... - [AP](#)
- 01-31-2017 [Numbers don't tell full story](#)
We can't make quick assumptions, comparisons or conclusions just by looking at a higher number of school incidents reported by the Milton Area School District in the Safe Schools Report released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Many factors — including a proactive effort to reduce bullying,... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 01-31-2017 [If you value your children's education](#)
The founding fathers of this country believed strongly in education. Thomas Jefferson wrote it was important for the preservation of freedom. He also wrote it should be public, equal for all citizens and free from religion and ideology. Ben Franklin believed a public education was worth the cost... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 01-31-2017 [Betsy DeVos Invests in a Therapy Under Scrutiny](#)
Neurocore has not published its results in peer-reviewed medical literature. Its techniques — including mapping brain waves to diagnose problems and using neurofeedback, a form of biofeedback, to treat them — are not considered standards of care for the majority of the... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [Senate panel convenes to vote on Betsy DeVos, Trump's education secretary nominee](#)
A Senate panel convened Tuesday for a scheduled vote on President Trump's nominee for education secretary, Betsy DeVos, a Michigan billionaire and private school voucher advocate who has become one of Trump's most controversial Cabinet picks. The GOP majority has defended DeVos as a bold reformer who is willing to... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-31-2017 [DeVos questionnaire appears to include passages from uncited sources](#)
President Trump's nominee for education secretary, in written responses to questions from senators, appears to have used several sentences and phrases from other sources without attribution — including from a top Obama administration civil rights official. The responses from nominee Betsy DeVos were submitted Monday to the top... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-31-2017 [Districts that have lost students face cuts under Kasich plan](#)
Arguing it "doesn't make any sense" to keep funding school districts for students who no longer attend there, Gov. John Kasich's education budget could potentially mean funding cuts for more than half the public schools in Ohio. Meanwhile, he's also calling for a two-year freeze on university tuition... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)
- 01-31-2017 [EDITORIAL: School officials concerned about Trump nominee to head Education Dept.](#)
The first week with President Donald Trump in the White House has many people nodding affirmation. Others are shaking their heads, wondering what the next four years will bring. Some folks are taking to Twitter and Facebook to express their happiness, or their displeasure at the controversial president's actions. Others... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)

- 01-31-2017 [**Philly Public School Kids Have New Breakfast Option Developed By Student Entrepreneurs**](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Starting today, kids in all Philadelphia public schools can choose a breakfast option developed by student entrepreneurs. In the cafeteria at Comegys Elementary, kids for the first time are trying apple-cranberry cakes called Rebel Crumbles.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Classes Cancelled At Delco School After Explosion Blows Windows Out**](#)
PHILADELPHIA (CBS)—Authorities are continuing their investigation into what led to an explosion at a Delaware County school on Monday morning. Emergency crews responded around 5:30 a.m. to the St. Coleman-John Neumann school located in the 300 block of Highland Ave. in Bryn Mawr.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Federal appeals court upholds order to admit refugee students at McCaskey High School**](#)
School District of Lancaster must allow refugee students with limited English skills and formal schooling to attend McCaskey High School, a federal appeals court ruled Monday. The district typically sends older students with limited credits, including refugees and immigrants, to Phoenix Academy, a privately operated... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Better welfare: Reward recipients for children's success**](#)
Gene Epstein To my fellow Republicans our party is being torn apart by mixed messages from the right wing. Everyone is upset with our total debt and the amount of benefits that are doled out in the form of welfare. Everyone is upset that our taxes constantly rise, starting in our local communities to the... - [Levittown Bucks County Courier Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**EDITORIAL: Reopening William Penn pool a good start**](#)
Reopening the pool at William Penn High School is a good idea. In fact, it's a great idea. There are just 1.2 million problems. It will be up to us, as a community, to come up with the solutions. Last week, the York City School District and local lawmakers announced... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Dallastown implements AP Capstone**](#)
Dallastown Area High School will implement a new advanced placement Capstone program come 2017-18 to help students develop skills for college. According to the AP Capstone website, the high school will be the first in the county to implement this program, which has students take two different... - [York Dispatch](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Apollo-Ridge plans for Viking Pride Wall of Fame**](#)
The Apollo-Ridge School Board took the time to name and praise many of their student awardees and participants for their achievements and extracurricular involvement throughout the school year during last night's meeting. Apollo-Ridge Superintendent Matt Curci, started by... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Scandal unfolded in front of Pa. mandated reporters**](#)
Cindy Michelini is taking it personally. The rest of us should take it personally, too. The Summit Elementary School water scandal has caused strife not only to the parents of students exposed to water tainted with lead and copper, but also to the teachers like Michelini, entrusted with the care of the... - [Butler Eagle](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Vo-Tech is the door to job, career, success**](#)
On the Opinions page of the Jan. 25 Press Enterprise, the thoughts of a former Columbia-Montour Area Vocational-Technical School graduate were published. As a... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Education Secretary Pedro Rivera Visits Philadelphia's Logan Elementary...**](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-30-2017 [**Schools reach beyond 'Just Say No' for opioids**](#)
TRENTON, N.J. — Schools are going beyond “Just Say No” as they teach students as young as

kindergartners about the dangers of opioids in the hope that they don't later become part of the growing crisis... - [AP](#)

01-30-2017

[Choosing Catholic education often follows family tradition](#)

Dr. Jim Lim and Jessica Brecht's four school-aged girls were bundled up against the cold last week, waiting outside for a mini-bus to take them from their home in Penn Township to a parochial school 12 miles away, rather than a nearby public school. By attending Aquinas Academy in Greensburg, the youngsters — Penny, 9,... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-30-2017

[Commentary: We can fix Philly schools if we learn our lessons](#)

By Sylvia P. Simms It's been a privilege to serve on the School Reform Commission for the last four years, on behalf of children and families from all across the city. And it's reinforced for me some important lessons about the problems that confront our children. As my term ends, here are some of the lessons I've... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-30-2017

[NHC challenge to start again next month](#)

Last year, the Bald Eagle Area School District beat out other local school districts to win the Nutrition Habit Challenge. This year, starting Wednesday and lasting though February, the BEA community will work to defend that title. NHC is an annual challenge created by Bruce and Kym Burke, owners of One on... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

01-30-2017

[Letters to the Editor 1/30/2017](#)

Advocate for failure Editor: Betsy DeVos is not an appropriate choice to lead the U.S. Department of Education. She is not an educator nor has she ever served as an administrator in an educational environment. She is not a scholar in any of the services provided by America's public schools.... - [Scranton Times](#)

01-30-2017

[Mon Valley libraries boost education with STEM clubs](#)

On a Saturday afternoon in the Monongahela Area Library, children meticulously construct a Ferris Wheel using K'Nex, and their imaginations. They are having fun, but they are learning, too. The K'Nex Club is held every other Saturday at the Monongahela library.... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

01-30-2017

[Holy Guardian Angels Regional School kicks off celebration of National Catholic Schools Week](#)

Holy Guardian Angels Regional School kicked off its celebration of National Catholic Schools Week with an open house Sunday. The school at 3125 Kutztown Road in Muhlenberg Township serves students in preschool through eighth grade. "Catholic Schools Week and the open house are an opportunity to celebrate... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-30-2017

[Alex strives to pay forward sports' benefits](#)

Others' generosity of time and financial support never left Pete Alex, and inspired him to find ways to provide the same for generations of young athletes in Erie County and beyond. Growing up on Erie's lower East side, Pete Alex didn't have much. His parents, Russian immigrants, settled into a small home on Second and German... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-30-2017

[Our view: Polito is right pick to succeed Badams](#)

We had some issues in 2010 with the methodology and shortage of transparency in the search process that resulted in Jay Badams becoming the successor to James Barker's long tenure as Erie schools superintendent. Members of Erie's business community called then for a full-scale national... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-30-2017

[Who owes the most back taxes in the Bethlehem area?](#)

We've been listing the companies and people who owe the most back taxes in different Lehigh Valley communities. So far we've covered Easton, the Easton suburbs and the Wilson area. Now, we are turning our sights toward the Bethlehem area. Portnoff Law Associates -- the delinquent tax collector for both the... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

- 01-30-2017 [**LeMoyne students find out who they are**](#)
Who do you think you are? Adults occasionally ask that of children in a scolding tone. But that isn't the case at the LeMoyne Center in East Washington, where Joyce Ellis, the executive director, pleasantly posed the question to young people in the center's after-school programs. She wanted to know what... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Editorial: Thumbs up, thumbs down**](#)
Thumbs up to Stroud Area Regional Police and the Monroe County District Attorney's office for investigating, identifying and prosecuting drug dealers involved in providing drugs used in fatal overdoses. Abigail Frantz, 19, was sentenced this week after pleading guilty to involuntary... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**York High kids deserve swimming program \(editorial\)**](#)
Pool restoration Cheers to BT Express for its plans to raise \$1.2 million to restore the William Penn Senior High School swimming pool. The organization, which works to support student athletes, launched its fundraising campaign last week at a news conference with officials and... - [York Daily](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**'Too Good for Drugs' program offered to Montoursville students**](#)
In an effort to educate young people about the risks of substance abuse and to help equip them with the tools to stay drug free, the West Branch Drug and Alcohol Abuse Commission offers a program called "Too Good for Drugs." The commission recently expanded the program into the... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Waste Management gift benefits innovative educational programs**](#)
Waste Management recently provided \$8,500 to Pennsylvania College of Technology to help support two innovative programs that serve high school students throughout Pennsylvania. The gift will be used for the college's Penn College NOW dual-enrollment program and SMART Girls summer camp.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**School incidents spike at Milton**](#)
The Safe Schools Report released by the Pennsylvania Department of Education every year can be a snapshot into the scope of student misconduct on public school property. The latest data reveals a majority of Valley schools report dealing with relatively few issues, ranging from bullying to assault.... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Progressives launch last-minute push against Betsy DeVos, and conservatives counter with online ad campaign**](#)
More than 300 state lawmakers hailing from all 50 states have added their voices to the chorus objecting to President Trump's nomination of Betsy DeVos as education secretary. The lawmakers, who are overwhelmingly Democrats, voiced their opposition to DeVos in a joint letter that is expected to be delivered to U.S. Senators... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Our View: Kudos to students who excel in academics, arts, athletics**](#)
LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL sports often capture the headlines in The Herald as well as other newspapers across the country. After all, sporting events draw thousands of fans. But sometimes the accomplishments of "the other kids" fly under the radar. Not so with The Herald, where we believe the accomplishments of... - [Sharon Herald](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Lebanon businesses support Cedar Foundation**](#)
Eight local businesses recently donated a combined \$26,500 to Lebanon School District's Cedar Foundation. The Cedar Foundation is the district's non-profit organization that provides funding for scholarships to support special programs for Lebanon school students and teachers.... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Trump's education pick rekindles debate on school choice**](#)

HARRISBURG — School choice proponents have never had a champion on a bigger stage. President Donald Trump’s nominee for education secretary, Betsy DeVos, has used her money and influence to promote charter schools and legalize private school vouchers in her home state of Michigan.... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

01-30-2017

[Greater Johnstown adds sensory rooms, updated internet platform](#)

The recent launch of several new programs and initiatives in Greater Johnstown School District has Acting Superintendent Michael Vuckovich feeling optimistic. As the district looks to expand some of its initiatives such as the Schoolwide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports program and Dual... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)

01-30-2017

[Incident report requirements vary](#)

When a non-emergency incident occurs at a school, do district officials need to report the incident to police, the media-or parents? In many cases, the answer is no. Earlier this week, reports on social media and emails to this newspaper from parents suggested an incident occurred in a classroom at Mowery... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)

01-30-2017

[OUR VIEW: School us, WASD](#)

An incident regarding a teacher and student may or may not have occurred last week at one of the elementary schools in the Waynesboro Area School District. We can't confirm or deny an incident occurred because the school district won't confirm or deny that an incident occurred.... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)

01-30-2017

[Avon Grove warns parents of whooping cough](#)

PENN >> The Avon Grove School District administration has informed parents of elementary school students via a letter that a student in the Intermediate School has come down with whooping cough. Director of Pupil Services Jeremy Curtis said he was notified by the school... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)

01-30-2017

[EDITORIAL: School officials concerned about Trump nominee to head Education Dept.](#)

The first week with President Donald Trump in the White House has many people nodding affirmation. Others are shaking their heads, wondering what the next four years will bring. Some folks are taking to Twitter and Facebook to express their happiness, or their displeasure at the controversial president’s actions. Others... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

01-30-2017

[Students develop interest in STEM at Frackville lab](#)

FRACKVILLE — You’ll find goggle-wearing mini-scientists and mathematicians trying to purify water, or playing a computerized piano with celery to test an electric circuit. There’s pint-sized engineers, too, erecting strength-tested bridges with Popsicle sticks.... - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)

01-30-2017

[GUEST COLUMN: Eliminating school property taxes will hurt poorer districts](#)

Eight state senators are sponsoring the Property Tax Independence Act, a bill to end all property taxes for schools in Pennsylvania. If passed, the bill as drafted would end all chances for equitable funding in Pennsylvania and would be the single most unfair and destructive piece of school... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)

01-30-2017

[Analysis shows hidden snags in school property tax elimination bill](#)

LOWER POTTSBORO >> Most polls show voters in favor of any effort in Harrisburg to enact property tax reform, or eliminate them completely. With legislators once again raise the hope it will be adopted this session, Pottsgrove School District officials putting together another budget took... - [Pottstown Mercury](#)

01-30-2017

[Investigators Seek Cause After Explosion At Delco School](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS)—Authorities are continuing their investigation into what led to an explosion at a Delaware County school on Monday morning. Emergency crews responded around 5:30 a.m. to

the St. Coleman-John Neumann school located in the 300 block of Highland Ave. in Bryn Mawr.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

- 01-30-2017 [Bucks, Montgomery health experts: Number of students not vaccinated on the rise](#)
If there's one thing that peeves Dr. David Damsker, the director of the Bucks County Department of Health, it's parents who won't vaccinate their kids. "I get so annoyed," Damsker said, when children get a preventable disease because their parents didn't vaccinate them. Not only does it hurt their... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 01-30-2017 [The prospect of tax reform](#)
If you accept the notion that for taxation to be fair it must be based on one's ability to pay, then the property tax most emphatically fails the smell test. That property taxes are decidedly unfair is hardly a recent revelation, but legislative action to reform a system that can literally... - [Levittown Intelligencer](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Cheers and Jeers ...](#)
Cheer Wednesday marked a new chapter in the career of former Philadelphia congressman Chaka Fattah. It will be marked by a prison jumpsuit and a new identity — Inmate No. 72340-006. Fattah this week moved into a federal prison in McKean County, to begin serving a 10-year sentence for racketeering, bribery, money laundering and... - [Butler Eagle](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Education digest](#)
Cumberland Valley School of Music and Franklin County Head Start introduce arts-integrated preschool program CHAMBERSBURG - The Cumberland Valley School of Music and Franklin County Head Start have collaborated to bring younger students the arts-integrated preschool program to Franklin County.... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Conservatives urge Sen. Casey to support Betsy DeVos nomination](#)
Amid growing national opposition from the left to President Donald Trump's nominee for Education, three conservatives on Monday morning urged Sen. Bob Casey Jr., (D-Pa.) to dispense with his opposition to Betsy DeVos. In a telephone press conference, Patricia Levesque, CEO of the Foundation... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 01-30-2017 [No students hurt in wreck involving Fox Chapel school bus](#)
No Fox Chapel Area students were injured Monday afternoon when their bus involved in a minor accident in Indiana Township. Bonnie Berzonski, district coordinator of communications, said there were about 45 students on high school bus No. 24 when it wrecked just before 3... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [K-12 education must reinforce the value of art](#)
Regarding the Jan. 15 Forum commentary "Art Should Hurt Sometimes: It Is the Job of Artists to Step Into the Friction Points of Human Experience": Speaking of Adolf Hitler (and who isn't these days?), he was one of three candidates for acceptance to art school in Vienna, but... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [The problem with schools is parents](#)
Not long ago, I found myself in the company of some New York and New England teachers who, like me, were experiencing a windswept weekend at the weather station on the region's highest peak. I shared some of my chili. They shared some beer. As the night wore on, we started talking schools. Public and charter,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [Grit and determination mark path of homeless students](#)
Michael left foster care at 16 and spent several years with no place to call home. He was wandering the streets and sleeping on others' couches, in laundromats and eventually his sister's Pittsburgh dorm room. You might think he was following a path to failure.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 01-29-2017 [**Education funding formula unaddressed**](#)
In the editorial "Smoke & taxes: Philly schools cash in," the Tribune-Review correctly assumes laughter; however, it's not the belly laugh the writers imagine. First, funds raised by the tax result only from cigarettes purchased in Philadelphia; it is not borne by taxpayers throughout the state. The hold=... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**What Trump's nominee DeVos should have said**](#)
Donald Trump's nominee for secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, probably survived the grilling she got from angry Democrats. When Sen. Bernie Sanders asked her to make "universities tuition free," DeVos replied, "I think that's a really interesting idea (but) there's nothing in life that's truly free."... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Students learn about disabilities during Catholic Schools Week**](#)
Students at Providence Heights Alpha School in McCandless will experience what it's like to have an impairment in some way on Disability Awareness Day, as part of the school's activities planned for Catholic Schools Week. The Feb. 3 event will showcase how the school wants their students to learn... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Substitute teacher shortage an ongoing problem for Western Pennsylvania schools**](#)
Schools across Westmoreland County face a common challenge every morning, with many administrators struggling to fill day-to-day teacher absences with an adequate number of substitutes. At many schools, the routine goes something like this: A teacher logs on to... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Students tear into work on Greensburg Habitat for Humanity project**](#)
Plaster rained from the ceiling and chunks of wall tumbled down the stairs as a group of students eagerly tore through a decrepit Greensburg home Saturday. Davina Broker, 18, of Irwin especially liked ripping up the lathe boards inside the walls. "It's just fun to pull them all off," she said.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Letters to the Editor: Make families great again**](#)
I am more pleased to have a Republican Congress than I am to have a "third-party" president. With Congress, we can be virtually assured that we will have a federal judiciary populated by constitutionalist judges whose rulings will positively influence the direction of this country for years... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Commentary: Lower Merion schools aren't as good as people think**](#)
Nearly everyone agrees that American schools have serious problems, but many erroneously believe these problems are exclusively found in urban districts. I'm not surprised. It seems most Americans believe that when it comes to achievement gaps, it's really a black problem, though they... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Commentary: Education and vigilance can guard against oligarchy**](#)
America's Founding Fathers, the political leaders who wrote our Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution, were tireless writers. They penned thousands of thoughtful letters to family, friends, political allies, and foreign leaders. They dashed off countless essays to newspapers... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Delco educators say property tax reform will shift burden, not eliminate it**](#)
At a meeting of Delaware County educators Friday, the Haverford School District superintendent criticized a property tax elimination proposal gaining traction in Harrisburg as merely a "tax shift," and warned that it would leave Pennsylvania taxpayers holding the bag for \$2 billion... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Beyond 'Just Say No': Schools teach about opioid dangers**](#)
Schools are going beyond "Just Say No" as they teach students as young as kindergartners about

the dangers of opioids in the hope that they don't later become part of the growing crisis... - [AP](#)

01-29-2017

[Who will pay for \\$4.5B in Philly school repairs?](#)

The numbers are so big as to be almost incomprehensible: The Philadelphia School District, according to a newly released facilities assessment, has \$4.5 billion in unmet capital needs -- 12,000 outstanding repairs. Years of delayed maintenance on the school system's 308 buildings and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-29-2017

[As enrollments slip, some Bucks school districts grapple with 'baby bust'](#)

A fresh debate over closing one or two elementary schools in the sprawling Council Rock School District in Central Bucks County is the latest sign that some corners of the Philadelphia region are in the midst of a 21st century "baby bust." After putting the issue on the shelf for a few years, Council Rock... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-29-2017

[Luzerne County manager Pedri to brief council on tax-break options in March](#)

A proposed action to reclaim Luzerne County's share of an expired tax-break program will be presented to the county council in March, county Manager C. David Pedri said last week. Pedri told the council he recently met with representatives of Wilkes-Barre, the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and the county... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-29-2017

[W-B Area spent \\$4.9M on failed school plan](#)

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District spent nearly \$4.9 million on the abandoned plan to demolish Coughlin High School and build a new consolidated school on the downtown site, according to a review of financial records. The expenditures were for asbestos abatement and pre-demolition,... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

01-29-2017

[Legislature must take responsibility for school crisis](#)

State lawmakers scrambled recently to keep money flowing to state prisons after the Wolf administration announced a plan to close two of the 26 institutions, which house nearly 50,000 inmates at a cost of more than \$40,000 each per year. Ultimately, the administration closed only one prison, the state... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

01-29-2017

[The Trump War on Public Schools](#)

One of the most disturbing things about the Trump administration is its antipathy toward public schools. Perhaps you remember the president's mini-rant in his inaugural speech about an "education system flush with cash but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of all knowledge."... - [New York Times](#)

01-29-2017

[Betsy DeVos, a Friend of L.G.B.T. Rights? Past Colleagues Say Yes](#)

Ms. DeVos's support for her gay friends and for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights are a largely unknown but deep-seated aspect of her history, dating as far back as the late 1990s. At that time, two colleagues recalled, she made accommodations for a transgender woman to use the... - [New York Times](#)

01-29-2017

[Teachers, parents, kids protest DeVos education nomination ahead of Senate vote](#)

A crowd of teachers, parents and children gathered near the U.S. Capitol on Sunday to protest Betsy DeVos's nomination to be education secretary, calling the Michigan billionaire a threat to public education and urging the Senate to reject her. Using drums and noisemakers, the group of protesters chanted "Toss..." - [Washington Post](#)

01-27-2017

[Education Secretary Pedro Rivera Meets with Central Columbia School District...](#)

(Press Release)

01-27-2017

[DA's investigation continues into Penn Hills school finances](#)

Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen Zappala's office continues to request additional records

and information a part of an investigation into the financial practices of the Penn Hills School District, superintendent Nancy Hines told the school board Monday.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-27-2017

[Junior Achievement: One hundred million success stories and counting](#)

Junior Achievement has done much for the 100 million students it has served since its inception in 1919. One of its grateful alumni is Mt. Lebanon native Mark Cuban, a billionaire investor and entrepreneur who owns the Dallas Mavericks and stars in the ABC reality series "Shark Tank."... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-27-2017

[Laurels & Lances](#)

Lance: To skirting the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. For years, Allegheny County Council's Democrat majority has held unadvertised, closed caucus meetings like one on Jan. 16. There, a council quorum — eight of 14 members — seemingly made filling a vacant seat with a former Carnegie... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-27-2017

[Saving Pittsburgh Public Schools](#)

Pittsburgh Public Schools are in such academic and administrative disarray that the Pennsylvania Department of Education should consider taking control of the district, the president of the Allegheny Institute for Public Policy says. The call for state oversight came after Jake Hauk reviewed the latest... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-27-2017

[Black Lives Matter week 'an affirmation' for students, Philly teachers say](#)

Some teachers have worn shirts. Others have led discussions, assigned projects, or hosted lunchtime seminars. On Saturday, Eagles safety Malcolm Jenkins will even chime in. This week has been designated a time to focus on the Black Lives Matter movement by some Philadelphia School District teachers who had hoped -- by... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-27-2017

[Philly school buildings need nearly \\$5B in repairs, new report says](#)

For the first time in 14 years, the Philadelphia School District has assessed the state of its aging buildings, and the results are staggering: The system identified more than 12,000 outstanding repairs. It would cost nearly \$5 billion to do the work. Officials predict that they... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-27-2017

[Charter school breaks ground in Lower Paxton Township](#)

Infinity Charter School held a ground breaking ceremony on Thursday for its future location in Lower Paxton Township. The 27,000-square-foot facility will be located at 5405 Locust Lane. The school will eventually move from its current location at 51 Banks Street in... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-27-2017

[People would pay fair share under school tax proposal](#)

In reference to the Jan. 20 article concerning yet another property tax requested by the Bethlehem Area School Board, mainly due to increased pension payments (that's another story all of its own): The alternative of an increase of the sales tax and the increase of the income tax would... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

01-27-2017

[School districts want blank check to raise taxes](#)

From a Morning Call Jan. 19 story: "State Sen. David Argall, R-Schuylkill, believes he has the votes in the state Senate for a proposal that would increase the state income tax rate by 60 percent and the sales tax rate by 17 percent, but would effectively eliminate property taxes."... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

01-27-2017

[State high court upholds decision to reinstate teacher](#)

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has ruled that a school district must reinstate a teacher fired for drug possession... - [AP](#)

01-27-2017

[Philadelphia School District buildings need \\$5B in repairs](#)

The first assessment of the state of the Philadelphia School District's aging buildings in nearly 15 years identified more than 12,000 outstanding repairs that would cost close to \$5 billion to fix... - [AP](#)

01-27-2017

[Our view: Is cursive writing a tool whose time has passed?](#)

This editorial could be penned in cursive writing and printed in this space easily thanks to modern technology, but that would kind of defeat the purpose. Society adopted uniform printed text precisely so everyone could read it. Newspapers in particular choose a font for its readability.... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-27-2017

[Tax-shift proposal worries Berks public school leaders](#)

Dr. Randall Grove knows what it looks like from the outside. The Conrad Weiser School District superintendent is aware that it appears public school districts across Pennsylvania have been getting record amounts of state funding in recent years. But looks, he said, can be... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-27-2017

[Owen J. Roberts Middle science competition showcases STEM skills](#)

Concerned about global warming, Will Cano wants to paint the roofs of city buildings white. "The Arctic ice cap is melting due to global warming," the 12-year-old Owen J. Roberts Middle School student said recently when showing the project he entered in the school's Science Research Competition.... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-27-2017

[Letter: Shifting tax burden not necessarily fair](#)

Editor: One of the talking points of those who support property tax elimination is that without it, school districts will go unchecked and our taxes will keep going up. That argument rings hollow with me. I paid less property tax in 2016 than I did in 1999. I lived at the same address for both years, and... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-27-2017

[Superintendents' Forum: Rethinking education for the future](#)

By James P. Harris, Daniel Boone School District The success of our students in the future world economy and in our communities requires an out-and-out restart of a school system designed in an era when a sixth-grade education was enough. The next 20 years of... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-27-2017

[Erie sports consolidation possibility concerns school communities](#)

Prominent ex-athletes hope schools' programs can be preserved but are realistic about realities of financial situation. One way or another, the next year figures to be a period of startling transformation for high school sports in the Erie School District. The realities of a dire financial crisis could lead the district to close... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-27-2017

[State extends review of Erie schools plan](#)

District awaits decision on \$31.8 million proposal The Erie School District's wait on the state is not yet over. The Pennsylvania Department of Education's review of the district's state-mandated financial plan is again taking longer than anticipated. It will not be done on Friday, as the district expected.... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-27-2017

[Erie schools locker tax? Not true. Really.](#)

Hoax memo says \$4 fee is coming The Erie School District is making a lot of changes to deal with its financial crisis, but imposing a locker tax is not one of them. The Erie Times-News on Thursday received on its Facebook page a message of a copy of a purported memo about the district charging students a fee for... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-27-2017

[Don't let DeVos instill anti-gay bias in education | Letter](#)

As a teacher and union leader in the Easton Area School District, I am asked every day for my opinion of President Trump's Department of Education nominee, Betsy DeVos. She is someone who fundamentally does not believe in a public education system. I could write pages about her record of dumping... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

- 01-27-2017 [**Youth Ambassadors promote understanding of mental health**](#)
ROCHESTER TWP. -- The Beaver County System of Care reconvened its Youth Ambassador program Thursday for a daylong workshop at Rochester Area High School. The organization, in partnership with several other local organizations, launched the Youth Ambassador program last fall as a way to help spread... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Beaver County school administrators express funding concerns**](#)
CENTER TWP. -- School districts across Beaver County will have to cut programming and services if the state doesn't contribute its fair share of funding and address cost drivers, administrators say. School administrators from Aliquippa, Beaver Area, Big Beaver Falls Area,... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Letter: No tax should leave us homeless**](#)
School boards, filled by elected officials, juggle many costs to help provide a quality education. For years, they have relied on increasing school property taxes to support their efforts and now that is failing them - higher school taxes yield lower property assessments (and reassessments),... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**PIAA approves baseball pitch count rule**](#)
Pitching injuries have been on the rise in high school baseball. GameTimePA takes an in-depth into the issue and why experts believe a pitch count limit could help. Christian Arnold Brandon Knarr, pictured delivering to the plate earlier this season, has verbally committed to pitch for Notre Dame. Just a junior, Knarr is not... - [York Daily](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Snoozing at teachers who abuse children**](#)
L. BRENT BOZELL III And TIM GRAHAM On Jan. 13, a judge in Houston, Texas, sentenced Alexandria Vera to 10 years in prison. Her crime? The 25-year-old teacher at Stovall Middle School struck up a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old student — having sex almost every day, she said, for nine months — but with the... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Trump's education pick rekindles debate on school choice**](#)
HARRISBURG — School choice proponents have never had a champion on a bigger stage. President Donald Trump's nominee for education secretary, Betsy DeVos, has used her money and influence to promote charter schools and legalize private school vouchers in her home state of Michigan.... - [New Castle News](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Rep. Schemel among those out to reform Pa's Pension Debt Clock**](#)
Joined by other pension reform advocates, Reps. John McGinnis (R-Blair) and Paul Schemel (R-Franklin) today took part in a news conference at the state Capitol to reset Pennsylvania's Pension Debt Clock and call for a real solution to the public pension crisis. The clock, which is located in the... - [Waynesboro Record Herald](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Maryland casinos are pumping out billions for education. So why are there school budget deficits?**](#)
In the seven years since the first of Maryland's six casinos opened, they have pumped \$1.7 billion into the state's Education Trust Fund — the financial windfall that advocates for gambling promised would go to the state's public schools. But over that time, casino funds have not gone to bolster school budgets... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**In case you missed it: Video of 'Pushing the Boundaries of Diversity' town hall on school integration**](#)
On a blustery January night, more than 200 Lancastrians came out for a discussion about school integration. Richard Kahlenberg of The Century Foundation, an expert on socioeconomic school integration, was the keynote speaker at the Jan. 24 event at the Ware Center.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

- 01-27-2017 [**Know facts about property tax bill**](#)
Your Views To the Editor: There has been a flurry of op-eds lately that are attempting to misdirect and scare taxpayers about school property tax elimination. One such piece was published on Jan. 18, titled "Property tax bill is faulty." The only thing "faulty" here are the "facts" used by the... - [*Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**With School Funding Plan Looming, Gov. Christie Addresses Trenton Students**](#)
TRENTON, NJ (CBS) — It was a time for some of Trenton's brightest young minds to pick the Governor's brain for advice. "The great equalizer in everything that you do in life is hard work," Governor Chris Christie told students at Trenton Central High School's 9th grade academy, though participants represented every grade... - [*KYW News Radio 1060*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**EDITORIAL: Did Pennridge School District fail to stop bullying?**](#)
Schools are charged with creating and maintaining a non-threatening environment where students can feel reasonably safe from harassment by their peers. Anti-bullying protocols have been enacted specifically to address what has become a serious problem, particularly with the growth of... - [*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**District addresses water woes**](#)
SUMMIT TWP — Students returned to Summit Township Elementary School today after classes were canceled on Tuesday and Wednesday while district officials prepared the building to operate without running water for drinking or hand washing. Water was shut off to the sinks and water fountains in the school last... - [*Butler Eagle*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**DA: Police to review who knew about school's lead problem**](#)
BUTLER, Pa. A prosecutor says state police will try to determine who knew what about problems with high levels of lead in water that forced a western Pennsylvania elementary school to close for two days earlier this week... - [*AP*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**DA: Police to review who knew about school's lead problem**](#)
A prosecutor says state police will try to determine who knew what about problems with high levels of lead in water that forced a Butler Area School District elementary school to close for two days earlier this week.... - [*AP*](#)
- 01-27-2017 [**Sure, It's Better to Call Lawmakers, but Are They Listening?**](#)
Calling your local lawmaker to express your opinion is generally seen as more effective than sending emails. But legislators have been experiencing such a high volume of calls from constituents recently that their voice mail inboxes have been filled to capacity.... - [*New York Times*](#)

Higher Education in the News

- 02-02-2017 [**NGA: Governors Comment On Congressional Review of Education Regulations**](#)
(Press Release)
- 02-02-2017 [**Judge sets March trial for 3 Penn State ex-administrators, including former president**](#)
HARRISBURG — Penn State's former president and two other ex-administrators learned Wednesday they will go to trial next month, nearly six years after the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal first became public... - [*AP*](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Edward Snowden talks in real time with Pitt students**](#)
Former Central Intelligence Agency employee, National Security Agency contractor and whistleblower Edward Snowden spoke via live stream to a full room of Pitt students on Wednesday at the William Pitt Union Assembly Room in Oakland. The Pitt Program Council's lecture committee organized a conversation... - [*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*](#)

- 02-02-2017 [**CMU names new CERT cybersecurity chief**](#)
Whenever a cyber attack or internet security breach occurs, especially those involving the U.S. government or military, Carnegie Mellon University's CERT Cybersecurity Division goes into action. Edward H. (Ned) Deets III, a former U.S. Navy cryptologist and retired rear... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Judge sets March trial for 3 Penn State ex-administrators**](#)
HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) - Penn State's former president and two other ex-administrators learned Wednesday they will go to trial next month, nearly six years after the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal first became public... - [AP](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Former Penn State administrators get new trial date in Sandusky child endangerment case**](#)
The on-again, off-again prosecution of three former Penn State administrators accused of exposing Central Pennsylvania boys to potential sexual assault by their inaction on early allegations against serial child molester Jerry Sandusky is back on. A senior judge from Berks County on Wednesday set a trial date of March 20... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Judge sets March trial for 3 Penn State ex-administrators**](#)
Penn State's former president and two other ex-administrators learned Wednesday they will go to trial next month, nearly six years after the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal first became public... - [AP](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**2 State College student housing properties acquired, to undergo renovations**](#)
Campus Advantage, one of the largest managers of student housing properties in the U.S., closed Tuesday on the second phase of its investment to acquire a 19-property portfolio from American Campus Communities. The deal includes two locations near Penn State University.... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Cal U speaker says we need to find solutions for racism**](#)
Eraka Rouzorundu witnessed the civil unrest that took place in her hometown of Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray — just one of many racially divisive events that have rocked the U.S. the past several years. She said these tensions are proof that country has a long way to go before... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Cal U celebrates Black History Month**](#)
California University of Pennsylvania has marked Black History Month for more than 20 years. This year, the monthlong series of events holds added significance in a year when diversity has taken on a whole new discussion in the national spotlight, said Sheleta Webb, director of multicultural... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**'Jungle' Jack Hanna preaches animal conservation at Penn State Berks**](#)
Spring Township, PA 'Jungle' Jack Hanna Born: Jan. 2, 1947 in Knoxville, Tenn. Family: Married Suzi Egli in 1968; has three daughters Career: Hired in 1978 as director of the Columbus (Ohio) Zoo; has served as director emeritus since 1992. TV shows: "Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures" (1993-2008);... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Editorial: State system colleges crucial to Pennsylvania**](#)
The Issue: All options are on the table for state-owned universities, including closing or merging campuses. Our Opinion: Lawmakers need to get involved to ensure affordable, high-quality higher education is preserved. Whether the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's day of reckoning has arrived is a question... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**New Lafayette dorm plans, same worries from neighbors**](#)
Lafayette College unveiled revised plans Wednesday for new dormitories proposed just beyond the traditional Easton campus border. But neighbors say there are still too many unanswered questions about parking and other quality of life issues to give the college the sweeping... - [Easton Express-](#)

[Times](#)

- 02-02-2017 **[CDC director: City-college collaboration benefits all](#)**
In her role as executive director of Washington's Citywide Development Corp., Christy Bean Rowing sometimes feels like cruise director Julie McCoy from the TV show "The Love Boat." "I have to get everyone to the lido deck and make sure they have a good time," Rowing said.... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Allegheny professor to lecture on historical fiction about African American women](#)**
Allegheny College Associate Professor of English and Black Studies Valerie Sweeney Prince presents a lecture on "Waterbearer," a piece of historical fiction written by Prince that examines what it means for African American women to do laundry, as part of Allegheny College's celebration of... - [Meadville Tribune](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Penn State Global Programs Launches New Website After Executive Order on Immigration](#)**
The Penn State Office for Global Programs released a message this week about President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, announcing that it has created a website to help Penn State international students and faculty navigate the situation. "As you are all aware, the events of the past week concerning President... - [State College News](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Judge Tosses Failure to Report Charge Against Ex-Penn State Administrators](#)**
Three former Penn State administrators had another charge against them quashed on Wednesday. Specially-presiding judge John Boccabella granted motions by former athletic director Tim Curley, former vice president Gary Schultz and former president Graham Spanier to throw out the charge of failure to report... - [State College News](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Penn Highlands doubling space at Somerset County Education Center](#)**
Pennsylvania Highlands Community College is expanding its presence at the Somerset County Education Center. Penn Highlands President Walter Asonevich said college officials met with the Somerset County commissioners and asked to rent the entire second floor of Partners Hall. The college currently uses about 4,000 square feet. The... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Will You Graduate? Ask Big Data](#)**
A little less than half of the nation's students graduate in four years ; given two more years to get the job done, the percentage rises to only about 60 percent. That's no small concern for families shouldering the additional tuition or student debt (an average of more than \$28,000 on... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[The Parachute Generation](#)**
In 2005, only 641 Chinese students were enrolled in American high schools. By 2014, that student population approached 40,000 — a 60-fold increase in a single decade — and it now accounts for nearly half of all international high-school students in the United States. "Parents... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Fighting Racial Bias on Campus](#)**
Shaun R. Harper has been at the epicenter of the racial debate of the past year — first, as protests illuminated the concerns of students of color, then as the Trump triumph emboldened some to commit overt acts of bias, particularly against Latino and Muslim students. In his new book,... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-02-2017 **[Trump lashes back at Berkeley after protests block speech by Breitbart writer Milo Yiannopoulos](#)**
President Trump raised the threat of pulling federal funds from the University of California at Berkeley on Thursday after the institution canceled a talk by provocateur Milo Yiannopoulos and put the campus on lockdown after intense protests against the planned speech.... - [Washington Post](#)

- 02-02-2017 [**Wolf nominates new member for Clarion trustees panel**](#)
Gov. Tom Wolf has nominated Neil R. Weaver, a 2000 Clarion University graduate from York, to the university's Council of Trustees. Wolf is also proposing that James L. Kifer of Rimersburg (Clarion Class of 1983) and Syed Ali-Zaidi of Shippenville be reappointed to the council.... - [Oil City Derrick](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**CNA training available for adult learners**](#)
LEWISTOWN — Area residents can be ready for a new career in just three weeks. The Mifflin County Academy of Science and Technology is recruiting adult students for its certified nurse aide training program. Ben Glover, supervisor of adult education, said the school has transitioned... - [Lewistown Sentinel](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Proposed travel ban has some IUP international students worried**](#)
Local advocates for refugee rights didn't have to wait long into Donald Trump's presidency to be put to the test. At a meeting for the Refugee Working Group on Wednesday, leaders said they're hearing that some international Indiana University of Pennsylvania students are in fear about the ban on immigrants from the... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**UPUA discusses impact of President Trump's immigration ban on Penn State community**](#)
'Yes' — a simple word that resounded over and over again at the University Park Undergraduate Association's meeting Wednesday night. But, it was also a powerful word, signaling to international students that they would be supported in the wake of President Donald Trump's... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Reid Jackson | When executive orders get personal at Penn**](#)
You could smell the urgency in the air on Sunday as scores of Penn students suspended their studies and sped to Philadelphia International Airport. None of these students would be boarding flights; they were going to register their protest to President Donald Trump's executive order,... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 02-02-2017 [**Vaccine inventor is focus of film series at Bloom U**](#)
BLOOMSBURG — The spring season of "Mostly Mondays at the Movies," a series of films sponsored by the Celebrity Artist Series of Bloomsburg University, kicks... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Pittsburgh Public Schools closed due to water advisory; universities alert students, staff**](#)
The Pittsburgh Public Schools said it would close more than 20 the school buildings and early childhood centers today in response to the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's precautionary water advisory that issued Tuesday. The closed schools are: Allderdice; Arsenal PreK-5; Arsenal 6-8; Colfax;... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**CMU's computer poker win over humans was 'statistically significant'**](#)
The human players already knew it, but the Carnegie Mellon University team that built the computer algorithm, nicknamed Libratus, that beat them at poker over the last three weeks confirmed this morning that the victory was not just sweet, it was "statistically significant."... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Association of Theological Schools names Chicago seminary president as executive director**](#)
The Association of Theological Schools, a Pittsburgh-based agency that accredits and provides services to more than 270 seminaries and graduate schools in the U.S. and Canada, has named a Chicago seminary president as its next executive director. The association's board on Tuesday unanimously approved the appointment... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Travel ban throws research, academic exchange into turmoil**](#)
BOSTON — Universities across the nation say President Donald Trump's ban on travelers from seven Muslim countries is disrupting vital research projects and academic exchanges in such fields as medicine, public health and engineering, with untold numbers of scholars blocked from... - [AP](#)

- 02-01-2017 [**CMU should test Libratus in real poker games**](#)
So, Libratus, Carnegie Mellon University's poker-playing computer, beat four human beings in one-on-one poker ("CMU's Poker Computer Decks Humans," Jan. 31). At first glance, that's a great accomplishment. At first glance, a computer outplays humans at poker.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Federal waste: The 'swamp's' massive pipeline**](#)
Inside Washington's Beltway, the legislative "tree trimming" and accompanying waste isn't limited to Christmas. No, indeed, it's a perpetual state of mind, as detailed in the report "Federal Fumbles: 100 Ways the Government Dropped the Ball." The analysis by Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., doesn't tell Americans... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**How a pokerbot beat four of the best players in the world**](#)
Libratus wasn't concerned with beating the humans. No. The pokerbot that just trounced four of the best poker players in the world during a 20-day Heads-Up, No-Limit Texas Hold'em poker tournament just wanted to be more perfect. Instead of focusing on exploiting weaknesses in its challengers, Libratus... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Trump order leaves foreign students 'feeling trapped and isolated'**](#)
For the last five years, Rozhin Hajian has enjoyed studying at Lehigh University in Bethlehem and being in the United States. Until last week. The Iranian-born doctoral student in mechanical engineering still can't believe that the leader of the country she has grown to love signed an... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Internships will be exempt from federal hiring freeze, White House says**](#)
College and high school students: Resume that summer job search. A federal hiring freeze announced last week will not affect government internships, the White House said Tuesday. President Trump ordered the civilian hiring freeze Jan. 23. Guidance issued two days later said there were exemptions for national security and public... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Immaculata alum and former board chair becomes president**](#)
Barbara Lettiere has had a long relationship with Immaculata University as an alumna, a donor, and for the last seven years a member of the board of trustees, its chair until a few months ago. On Tuesday, she was named the first lay president of the Catholic college... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**New Jersey Sen. Booker to speak at Penn commencement**](#)
New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker will speak at the University of Pennsylvania's commencement this spring... - [AP](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Xfinity TV is now available on Roku boxes and TVs**](#)
Just a day after the FCC skuttled its alternative set-top box scheme, Comcast Xfinity and Roku show why it's not needed. On Tuesday, the TV content supplier and the streaming TV box maker/service aggregator released a beta version of the Xfinity TV app for Roku. It... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Harvard scholars: Travel ban deprives US of best, brightest**](#)
BOSTON (AP) - Harvard Medical School professor Thomas Michel was so excited about recruiting Iranian researcher Soheil Saravi, he put Saravi's name on the door of his Boston lab when his new hire got his visa... - [AP](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**On heels of Trump's immigration order, Lehigh Valley colleges vow to stand by all students**](#)
Days after President Donald Trump shut borders to all refugees and immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries, more than 100 Lehigh students from diverse backgrounds stood in frigid weather Tuesday, waving signs with messages such as "What Does An American Look Like?" and "Hate... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

- 02-01-2017 [**AI's place: 'Useful but not dystopian'**](#)
 Editor's note: This story on how artificial intelligence is about to change the educational experience at Penn State is the final installment in a four-part series running Sunday through Wednesday. The grown-ups are playing with pipe cleaners. Tape and construction paper... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Berks County medical practices to join Penn State Health St. Joseph**](#)
 Penn State Health St. Joseph is expanding its network of doctors in Berks County. On Tuesday, St. Joseph officials announced the acquisition of Commonwealth Primary Care group, which has physician practices in Fleetwood and Oley and Exeter townships. TODAY'S SPONSOR:... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**WCCC closing Greene County Education Center near Waynesburg**](#)
 WAYNESBURG – The decision by Westmoreland County Community College to close its Greene County Education Center will be a major blow to the region and its students, local education advocates said Tuesday. "I'm really sad to hear that they're going to be reducing... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Keep the State System healthy, viable**](#)
 None of the 14 universities in Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has the Big Ten glamour of Penn State University or the Ivy League sheen of the University of Pennsylvania, but they are crucial parts of the commonwealth's system of educating its residents and readying... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Cal U. falls under review of state universities with enrollment declines**](#)
 Pennsylvania's 14 state-owned universities, including California University of Pennsylvania, will be reviewed from top to bottom because of enrollment declines that are straining budgets. The State System of Higher Education will hire a consultant to begin the... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Crowd greets CNN anchor**](#)
 LEWISBURG — Emmy Award-winning CNN anchor Anderson Cooper's perspective on his life as a reporter and on these turbulent political times helped draw a capacity crowd of more than 1,200 students and area residents to the Weis Center for the Performing Arts on Tuesday night for... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**In Hillsdale College, a 'Shining City on a Hill' for Conservatives**](#)
 It is no coincidence that Justice Clarence Thomas, an advocate of strict "originalist" interpretation of the Constitution, delivered the commencement address last spring, likening Hillsdale to a "shining city on a hill" for its devotion to "liberty as an antecedent of... - [New York Times](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**GNPAL to host free Regional College Fair**](#)
 College-bound students, their parents and non-traditional students are invited to the Greater Norristown Police Athletic League Regional College Fair, 340 Harding Boulevard, Norristown, on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2017. The Pennsylvania Association for College Admission Counseling (PACAC) and... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Immaculata names new president; 1st lay person to hold post**](#)
 EAST WHITELAND >> The Board of Trustees of Immaculata University announced Tuesday its appointment of Barbara Lettiere as the 10th president of Immaculata, and the first layperson to hold the post. Lettiere, a graduate of the class of 1972, takes office on July 1,... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)
- 02-01-2017 [**Widener University to host discussion on travel ban**](#)
 CHESTER >> Widener University will host local immigration attorney Elise Fialkowski next week to speak about the impact of a recent immigration ban on seven majority-Muslim countries and pathways to permanent residence. "Widener is fortunate to be the place of study for 268

international... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

02-01-2017

[Dozens Of Saint Joseph's University Students March In Support Of Immigrants](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Dozens of students at Saint Joseph's University marched across campus Tuesday in support of immigrants affected by President Donald Trump's travel ban. Organizers say the demonstration affirms the school community's message of inclusion for all people.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

02-01-2017

[Endowments declined in 2016 at colleges locally, nationwide](#)

Colleges and universities in the United States saw their endowments decline by an average of 1.9 percent last year, according to a new report, but the drop was steeper at several area institutions. Related: See the full list of endowment data for 815 colleges and... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

02-01-2017

[Protest planned near Annville restaurant where customer complained of racial slur](#)

A local organization of anti-racism advocates is hosting a panel discussion and demonstration next week in response to accusations that an Annville restaurant owner used a racial slur to a customer near Lebanon Valley College. A panel discussion and news conference will be held from 1 to 2:30 p.m.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

02-01-2017

[Colleges tout student diversity in response to immigration ban](#)

CHAMBERSBURG - Although the president's executive order banning travel from seven Middle Eastern and African countries won't have an immediate impact on international students in this area, the leaders of local colleges are offering support and counsel should their students need it.... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

02-01-2017

[Anderson Cooper speaks to packed Weis Center audience](#)

LEWISBURG — Anderson Cooper, a CNN anchor and contributor to 60 Minutes on CBS, revealed to a Bucknell University audience Tuesday night some of the rigors of covering Donald J. Trump and the new presidential administration. "It is an incredibly challenging time," he said. "This is an... - [Milton Standard](#)

02-01-2017

[Dr. Fiorentino, please do not eliminate track and field](#)

To Lock Haven University President Dr. Michael Fiorentino Jr., I understand that in this day and age, it is difficult to run a university. In trying to live up to the Mission Statement, Strategic Plan, and Action Plan, there must be many difficult decisions to be made.... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

02-01-2017

[In wake of Trump's travel ban, IUP president addresses students](#)

Eleven students may be affected by executive order. Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) issued a response to the Trump administration's executive order which temporarily suspends the country's refugee resettlement program and blocks the citizens of seven... - [Kittanning Leader-Times](#)

02-01-2017

[Penn State files objections in Spanier case](#)

On Tuesday, attorneys for Penn State filed three objections against Graham Spanier's claims against the university. Spanier — Penn State's president from 1995 to 2011 — changed his original complaints to the court in a Jan. 12 filing, according to court documents. Penn State objected to the changing of four of the five main... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

02-01-2017

[UPUA representatives to push for resolution in support of international students](#)

When Andrew Uhring became an at-large representative in the University Park Undergraduate Association, he took an oath to defend the rights of Penn State students. That oath just took on a whole new meaning following President Donald Trump's travel ban and its implications for the international student... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

02-01-2017

[Penn State administration failed to reassure the student body](#)

On Friday, Jan. 27, Donald Trump issued his thirteenth executive order since taking oath just a week prior. This latest executive order bans entry to the United States for 90 days from seven countries: Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. Additionally, the United States' refugee program has also been halted,... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

02-01-2017

[For universities, day of reckoning nigh](#)

We could be looking at “the merger or closure of some campuses” in our Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (“Higher ed system”, Jan. 27, p.3). On the... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)

02-01-2017

[Travel ban motivates BU protest](#)

Student calls Trump moves ‘reminiscent of Nazi Germany’. BLOOMSBURG — The new president’s immigration ban and calls for “America First” seem “reminiscent of Nazi Germany,” says Jessa Wood, a Bloomsburg University... - [Bloomsburg Press Enterprise](#)

02-01-2017

[Former Penn State administrators get new trial date in Sandusky child endangerment case](#)

The on-again, off-again prosecution of three former Penn State administrators accused of exposing Central Pennsylvania boys to potential sexual assault by their inaction on early allegations against serial child molester Jerry Sandusky is back on. A senior judge from Berks County on Wednesday set a trial date of March 20... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-01-2017

[Trial date set for former Penn State administrators charged in Sandusky scandal](#)

A judge has set a trial date for former Penn State President Graham Spanier, left, former Athletic Director Timothy Curley, center, and former Penn State Vice President Gary Schultz, more than five years after they were first charged in connection with the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

02-01-2017

[Judge sets March trial for 3 Penn State ex-administrators](#)

Penn State's former president and two other ex-administrators learned Wednesday they will go to trial next month, nearly six years after the Jerry Sandusky child molestation scandal first became public... - [AP](#)

01-31-2017

[University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health Partners ...](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[State Police Announce Change to Application Requirements for College Credit....](#)

(Press Release)

01-31-2017

[CMU will stand by its students](#)

By Subra Suresh An email sent by Carnegie Mellon University President Subra Suresh to the CMU community: Like so many of you, I am deeply troubled by some of the news out of Washington, D.C., in recent days and the potential threats — explicit and implicit — posed to the work of so many students and scholars... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-31-2017

[All in: CMU's poker computer busts humans over 20-day competition](#)

The machines are taking over — at least in poker. Though it had been a point conceded by the humans for the past week, Carnegie Mellon University’s poker-playing computer, Libratus, on Monday finally, definitely and soundly defeated four of the world’s best Heads-Up, No-Limit, Texas Hold ‘em poker players by a resounding... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-31-2017

[State System will hire a consultant to help it make tough decisions on thorny issues](#)

If Pennsylvania with its stagnant population still needs 14 state-owned universities — or if fewer institutions would suffice — then where should they be located and what should their priorities be? Do the net assets or reserves they possess provide enough of a financial... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 01-31-2017 [**NOVA's special episode on batteries includes Carnegie Mellon University technology**](#)
The world long has used batteries to start cars and power toys, electronic devices and flashlights. But nowadays batteries are central to daily life as a power source for computer devices, mobile phones, life-saving medical devices and electric cars. Advances in battery technology are necessary, with a Carnegie Mellon... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Pittsburgh-area universities reach out to international students, staff in wake of Trump travel ban**](#)
Some of the region's and state's largest universities have condemned President Trump's ban on admitting visitors from seven predominantly Muslim countries and reached out to international students and staff. The heads of the University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon, Duquesne and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Westmoreland County Community College to expand public safety training center**](#)
Westmoreland County Community College is preparing to expand its public safety training center for first responders while saying farewell to unwanted classroom facilities in Latrobe and Greene County. The college's board of trustees this month authorized architectural services for a... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**The price for Gov. Wolf's pivots?**](#)
Elections have consequences and elected officials are usually — willingly or unwillingly — the first to respond to changed political circumstances. The election last November of a veto-proof GOP majority in the Pennsylvania Senate and an enhanced majority in the House created a new reality in... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Penn president blasts Trump immigration order**](#)
For months, University of Pennsylvania president Amy Gutmann has been reluctant to say anything overtly critical about President Trump, a Penn alumnus. On Monday evening, addressing Trump's recent executive order on immigration from seven Muslim majority countries, she didn't mince words.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**With Mumps cases at 10-year high, are Philly-area college students at risk?**](#)
Mumps, an airborne virus that is extremely contagious, is spreading quickly in Washington State where hundreds have contracted the disease and public health officials are scrambling to find a solution. College campuses, like the many that cover the Philadelphia region, may be... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**'A blank canvas': Penn State research aims to spur economic development**](#)
Editor's note: This story on how artificial intelligence is about to change the educational experience at Penn State is the third installment in a four-part series running Sunday through Wednesday. Here, at one of the largest research universities in the world, the... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**University of Scranton president issues statement on executive order banning refugees, immigrants**](#)
President: U of S with refugees "The University of Scranton, a Jesuit and Catholic university, is united with Pope Francis, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and Jesuit organizations nationally and worldwide in standing in solidarity with refugees, both here in Scranton and those continuing to flee violence.... - [Scranton Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Letter: Issue with universities seems quite confusing**](#)
Editor: Consider me confused reading about the state pondering closing or merging state universities. The last governor proposed that, and that led to teachers unions giving major support toward the current governor's election. I don't seem confused that making tuition more affordable would... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Berks colleges protest President Trump's immigration order**](#)

College university presidents reacted Monday with shock to President Donald Trump's executive immigration order that blocked citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries into the U.S. for 90 days and all refugees for 120 days. Colleges in and around Berks County reached out to students and faculty... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-31-2017

[Edinboro University unveils Learning Commons](#)

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania will officially open its new Learning Commons with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Thursday. The Learning Commons is located on the second floor of the Baron-Forness Library and includes the Academic Success Center, Center for Career... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-31-2017

[How Lehigh Valley colleges are handling Trump's travel ban](#)

No Lehigh Valley colleges or universities, as of Monday, were reporting students or faculty been shut out of the U.S. following President Donald Trump's order limiting immigration and refugee resettlement. But several schools issued statements strongly condemning the ban, which... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

01-31-2017

[Lehigh University plans 400-bed dorm by Broughal](#)

Lehigh University plans to build a new 400-bed dorm on Brodhead Avenue across from Broughal Middle School. The project is part of the school's major expansion push to enroll another 1,800 students over seven years. It also continues the university's effort to move off the hill and further integrate into the South Bethlehem... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

01-31-2017

[Pa. colleges speak up on Trump's travel bans](#)

Some colleges and universities have expressed support or offered guidance for their international community members, following the travel ban President Donald Trump imposed on those from a handful of Muslim-majority countries over the weekend. On Friday, Trump issued an executive order temporarily barring individuals... - [York Daily](#)

01-31-2017

[Longtime industry partner entrusts welding equipment to Penn College](#)

A leading welding company is augmenting its strong relationship with Pennsylvania College of Technology by entrusting nearly \$250,000 worth of equipment to the school. Miller Electric Manufacturing Co. made the two-year equipment loan to benefit approximately 350 welding students at the college. Students seeking... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

01-31-2017

[Bucknell students and staff stand in solidarity after Trump's executive order](#)

LEWISBURG — More than 100 Bucknell students, administrators and area residents braved freezing temperatures and held an early evening candlelight vigil Monday in front of the Rooke Chapel portico, expressing their solidarity and support for members of the community who have been... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

01-31-2017

[Granted awarded to Allegheny College for small-scale greenhouse](#)

Allegheny College has been awarded a \$37,500 grant to power and heat a small-scale greenhouse using energy that would otherwise be wasted. The E 2 Energy to Educate grant from Constellation, an Exelon company, is part of \$380,000 the company awarded to 17 projects reaching more than... - [Meadville Tribune](#)

01-31-2017

[Colleges Discover the Rural Student](#)

To college administrators, rural students, many of them the first in their families to attend college, have become the new underrepresented minority. In their aim to shape leaders and provide access to the disadvantaged, higher education experts have been recognizing that these students bring... - [New York Times](#)

01-31-2017

[Voices From Rural America on Why \(or Why Not\) to Go to College](#)

Young people from remote parts of the country face special challenges in furthering their education ("Colleges Discover the Rural Student"). Many are low income and first in their families to attend college. Universities can be big and distant, and scary: Are the students smarter?... - [New York](#)

[Times](#)

- 01-31-2017 **[College endowment returns sink to their lowest level since the financial crisis](#)**
University endowments posted the lowest investment returns since the 2008 financial crisis, yet schools upped their spending in fiscal 2016, according to a survey released Tuesday by CommonFund and the National Association of College and University Business Officers.... - [Washington Post](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Trump order banning entry from seven Muslim-majority countries roils California campuses](#)**
At USC, an Iranian graduate student is canceling plans to conduct research on Syrian refugees, afraid he will not be allowed to return to the United States. At UCLA, professors have been deprived of a rare opportunity to visit Iran. At UC Irvine and other campuses, students are nixing plans to visit their... - [Los Angeles Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Montgomery County Community College woven art project designed to inspire students](#)**
BLUE BELL >> For the past three hours, Patrick Rodgers has been standing about 30 feet off the ground inside a bucket lift slowly stringing strands of translucent orange monofilament fishing line diagonally down to his colleague, Steve Wanna, standing on a ladder about 70 feet away.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Just Wing It officials deny racism](#)**
Nikki Meyer, owner of Just Wing It in Annville, and Christopher Behney, founder of the original Just Wing It, held a press conference at the Annville Just Wing It on Monday, Jan. 30, 2017 to tell their side of the story after Behney was accused of directing a racial slur toward a Lebanon... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Universal Copy & Print in Norristown succeeds with training and business solutions](#)**
NORRISTOWN >> It's been happening more and more often since Dave Murray became the operational manager of Universal Copy & Print Powered by CADCOM (UCP). A customer comes in to get a few thousand business cards made but ends up leaving with a plan to build his business, thanks to Murray's 20 years... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Montgomery County Community College woven art project designed to inspire students](#)**
WHITPAIN >> For the past three hours, Patrick Rodgers has been standing about 30 feet off the ground inside a bucket lift slowly stringing strands of translucent orange monofilament fishing line diagonally down to his colleague, Steve Wanna, standing on a ladder about 70 feet away.... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Cityteam and Widener celebrate clinic anniversary](#)**
CHESTER >> "It's a great day in the life of the city of Chester," Mayor Thaddeus Kirkland told a crowd gathered to celebrate the five-year anniversary of a collaboration between two city stalwarts, Cityteam Ministries and Widener University, to provide health care to the... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Local Universities Scramble To Contact Students, Faculty Affected By Trump's Travel Ban](#)**
PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Drexel University student Anas Qatanani is clear – he does not support President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration, which halts all refugee entry into the United States for the next 120 days and indefinitely suspends the Syrian refugee program.... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)
- 01-31-2017 **[Dickinson College sends statement to students on travel ban](#)**
Dickinson College Interim President Neil Weissman Monday sent a statement to the campus community in Carlisle regarding President Donald Trump's travel ban on refugees from seven countries. Weissman said the current executive order affects "few" Dickinson students and employees, but he noted that the order's implications have... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

- 01-31-2017 [**Letters: Community colleges**](#)
Community colleges Len Lindenmeyer had an interesting proposal in his letter (Jan. 20) when he suggested the establishment of a community college for our area. I lived in Illinois for a few years, which had community colleges throughout the state. Furthermore, three decades ago I was elected to the board of trustees for a... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Penn State President Eric Barron 'can and should do better' in response to President Trump's executive order**](#)
I sent the following letter to President Barron on Sunday night, a few hours after the Penn State community received 'President Barron's message following executive order on immigration.' At noon on Monday, Jan. 30, I received a note from Vice President for Administration and Secretary of... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**State College residents and Penn State students visit Pat Tommey's office to voice concerns over the executive order**](#)
Following Donald Trump's executive order on banning Muslim immigrants and refugees originating from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen, several State College residents and Penn State students have expressed opposition. A group of 20 people — both State College residents and Penn State... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Students and faculty affected by immigration ban face an uncertain future**](#)
President Donald Trump's newly announced immigration ban has sparked panic among some international students and faculty at Penn, forcing them to reconsider their very future in the United States. The ban, which was announced in an executive order Friday, temporarily bars... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Editorial | Amy Gutmann made a brave statement last night. We commend her for it.**](#)
The Daily Pennsylvanian commends Penn President Amy Gutmann and the University for taking a public stand against President Donald Trump's unreasonable, unconscionable and inhumane Executive Order barring nationals of seven Middle Eastern nations from entry to the United States. As Gutmann... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Penn partners with Coursera to offer courses to governments and non-profits**](#)
The online education company Coursera has once again partnered up with Penn to launch a program specifically designed for governments and nonprofits in an effort to close an increasing skills gap in the workforce. Coursera for Governments & Nonprofits will offer courses in digital... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Philadelphia passes country's first wage discrimination law**](#)
Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney signed legislation last week that will prohibit employers from asking for any record of an applicant's salary at past jobs, making Philadelphia the first city in the nation with a wage history discrimination law. The bill previously faced opposition from the... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Penn physician brings medical knowledge to the masses with his podcast**](#)
What first started as a personal audio-note collection to brush up on subjects in neurology throughout James Siegler's residency has grown at an "unexpected rate" and is now an educational podcast with more than 7,000 plays. Siegler, a senior resident physician at Penn, is the voice and mind behind... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)
- 01-31-2017 [**Enrollment climbs at SRU**](#)
SLIPPERY ROCK — Slippery Rock University opened its 2017 spring semester by posting yet another enrollment gain, school officials announced Monday. The school opened the semester with 8,307 students — an increase of 1.49 percent compared with last spring's enrollment of 8,155. Graduate... - [Butler Eagle](#)

- 01-30-2017 [Grove Issues Statement on PASSHE Strategic Review](#)
(Press Release)
- 01-30-2017 [PSU joins Pitt, CMU in condemning Trump's executive order on immigration](#)
Penn State University's president joined officials from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University in releasing statements in reaction to President Donald Trump's executive order barring immigrants from seven countries from entering the United States.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Lesson in change: State system to look at merging, closing campuses](#)
The State System of Higher Education has decided to take a hard look at its network of 14 universities, with an eye toward streamlining, closing or merging some because of financial challenges and shrinking enrollment. The study is a necessary step. If the system is unsustainable, as officials... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Some Philly-area colleges warn against travel after Trump executive order](#)
Pennsylvania State University president Eric Barron spoke out Sunday against President Trump's executive order banning certain refugees and immigrants from entering the country, saying: "The problems that are surfacing with the order are clear" and asking that it "be ended as soon as... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Culinary schools struggle with enrollment decline](#)
MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - With enrollment in culinary institutes in decline and programs across the country closing their doors, schools such as the New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vermont, which graduated celebrity chef Alton Brown, and the Culinary Institute of Charleston, South... - [AP](#)
- 01-30-2017 ['The innovation is happening so rapidly'](#)
Editor's note: This story on how artificial intelligence is about to change the educational experience at Penn State is the second installment in a four-part series running Sunday through Wednesday. As for Watson, that "thing," it can learn, too. It can read and... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Protesters oppose President Trump's executive order on refugees](#)
The area just outside of Penn State's Allen Street gate was very loud on Sunday afternoon – and on a non-football weekend, no less. People of all ages chanted and waved signs to protest an executive order that was signed by President Donald Trump on Friday. The order placed a... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Student from Drums nominated for statewide award](#)
Slippery Rock University has nominated a student from Drums for an award given to a senior from one of Pennsylvania's 14 state universities for achievement in the classroom, on campus and in the community. Tim Samec became a candidate for the Syed R. Ali-Zaidi Award for his... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Week in review: The head of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs is dismissed](#)
GOOD WEEK Ken Lawrence Jr.: Lawrence, 45, joined the Montgomery County board of commissioners. A Plymouth Meeting Democrat, Lawrence became the first black commissioner in the county's history. He fills the seat vacated by Josh Shapiro and will serve the remaining three years of his term. Shapiro... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 01-30-2017 [Bring us a community college](#)
This is in response to the news that the Community College of Allegheny County is planning a satellite location in Donora. In the mid-1990s, Washington County's commissioners explored the idea of starting a community college in the county. They decided there were adequate post-secondary opportunities available for... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

- 01-30-2017 [**Board approves new degree programs for PASSHE schools**](#)
 The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has approved four new graduate degree programs - in criminal justice, athletic training, education and urban and regional planning - and a bachelor's degree program in professional studies.... - [Pocono Record](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Longtime industry partner entrusts welding equipment to Penn College**](#)
 A leading welding company is augmenting its strong relationship with Pennsylvania College of Technology by entrusting nearly \$250,000 worth of equipment to the school. Miller Electric Manufacturing Co. made the two-year equipment loan to benefit approximately 350 welding students at the college. Students seeking... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Waste Management gift benefits innovative educational programs**](#)
 Waste Management recently provided \$8,500 to Pennsylvania College of Technology to help support two innovative programs that serve high school students throughout Pennsylvania. The gift will be used for the college's Penn College NOW dual-enrollment program and SMART Girls summer camp.... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Wanted: Factory Workers, Degree Required**](#)
 Even if those jobs returned, a high school diploma is simply no longer good enough to fill them. Yet rarely discussed in the political debate over lost jobs are the academic skills needed for today's factory-floor positions, and the pathways through education that lead to them.... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**White Students' Unfair Advantage in Admissions**](#)
 I've often heard Asian-Americans express resentment toward blacks and Latinos for benefiting from affirmative action. As a Yale senior, I remember feeling disillusioned myself when an upper-middle-class black classmate with significantly less academic achievement than I was admitted... - [New York Times](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**St. Francis University Small Business Development Center hosting planning seminars**](#)
 St. Francis University Small Business Development Center will hold pre-business planning seminars for people who are interested in opening and operating their own business. • Feb. 9: 9 a.m. to noon, Altoona Blair County Development Corp., Devorris center for business Development, 3900 Industrial Park Drive,... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Penn State President Calls for End to Immigration Ban**](#)
 Penn State President Eric Barron on Sunday said the university is joining with the American Association of Universities in asking for an end to President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration barring entry to the United States from seven countries. The order, signed by Trump on Friday, bans individuals from seven... - [State College News](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**State College, PA - State Of State Announces Speakers for 2017 Conference 'Innovate The State' -**](#)
 The theme for this year's State of State conference will be "Innovate the State," the organization announced Friday. The conference is scheduled for on 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 11 in the HUB-Robeson Center Alumni Hall. Online registration is here. The organization, which aims to facilitate conversation about issues in the... - [State College News](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Option provides an easy way to help save for college**](#)
 Pennsylvania Treasurer Joe Torsella announced that, for the first time, Pennsylvanians can deposit their state income tax refund directly into an existing, tax-exempt Pennsylvania 529 College Savings Program account. With the new option, all or a portion of a refund can be sent to one or... - [Somerset Daily](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**West Chester University students and faculty speak against an 'uninvited' organization on campus**](#)
 WEST CHESTER >> If one person can use their right for freedom of speech, so can another. West

Chester University public relations executive director Nancy Santos Gainer told the Daily Local News on Friday that two individuals from "Matthew 24 Ministries" came uninvited to the campus on Thursday.... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)

01-30-2017

[**Montgomery County Community College woven art project designed to inspire students**](#)

WHITPAIN >> For the past three hours, Patrick Rodgers has been standing about 30 feet off the ground inside a bucket lift slowly stringing strands of translucent orange monofilament fishing line diagonally down to his colleague, Steve Wanna, standing on a ladder about 70 feet away.... - [Norristown Times Herald](#)

01-30-2017

[**Widener dean honored by engineering society**](#)

CHESTER >> Widener University School of Engineering Dean Fred Akl, of Marple, has been awarded the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award by the Delaware County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers. "This is a great honor to be recognized by my peers, many of whom are... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

01-30-2017

[**Guest Column: Program helps Pa. grow businesses and create jobs**](#)

This past fall, I had the great opportunity to attend an event at Penn State where I heard from several students who are taking part in an exciting new entrepreneurial program, one that has grown by leaps and bounds in the little more than two years since its founding. Invent Penn... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)

01-30-2017

[**Local Universities Address International Students Following Trump Executive Order**](#)

PHILADELPHIA (CBS) — Officials at several Philadelphia universities address the executive order, and its possible effects on international students. Temple, Drexel, and the University of Pennsylvania warn international students, faculty, and staff against traveling for now, and urge them to... - [KYW News Radio 1060](#)

01-30-2017

[**PASSHE orders operational review in face of lower enrollment, potential cutbacks**](#)

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) announced this week that it's looking to hire consultants for a study reviewing its overall operations, according to WPMT. Reasons for the full operational review reportedly included declining enrollment and the potential for reduced state funding.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

01-30-2017

[**Lock Haven University well prepared for the future**](#)

Lock Haven University well prepared for the future - [Lock Haven Express](#)

01-30-2017

[**Student from Drums gets nod for state award**](#)

Samec, a physics researcher and triathlete from Drums, is the university's nominee for an award given to a top senior from one of the 14 universities in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Slippery Rock University has nominated a student from Drums for an award... - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)

01-30-2017

[**Largen to serve Seminary, Gettysburg College**](#)

Beginning in August 2017, Gettysburg Seminary's Dean, the Rev. Dr. Kristin Johnston Largen, will also serve at Gettysburg College as Associate Dean of Religious & Spiritual Life/Chaplain, following the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Donnella, who has served as the College's chaplain since 1997.... - [Gettysburg Times](#)

01-30-2017

[**Penn State professor speaks about combating mosquito-spread diseases**](#)

Science enthusiasts gathered in the Thomas Building on Saturday morning to hear Matt Thomas, Professor and Huck Scholar in Ecological Entomology, speak about the dangers and solutions to mosquito-borne diseases. The lecture, entitled "The Rise and Fall of Diseases Caused by Insects," ... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

- 01-30-2017 [**Protests, legal challenges erupt throughout Penn State community in response to Trump's refugee ban**](#)
 President Trump's executive order barring refugees is being met with protests and legal action and is having a major impact on some Penn State students — including a graduate student whose wife is now unable to return from a visit she took to the Middle East.... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Penn State President Eric Barron responds to President Donald Trump's executive order on immigration**](#)
 Penn State President Eric Barron released a statement Sunday in response to President Donald Trump's recent executive order on immigration. The executive order on immigration suspended all refugees from entering the United States for 120 days and blocked citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya,... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Adult education programs help locals achieve their goals**](#)
 The idea of going to school can be uncomfortable, especially when you are on the other side of 50. Altoona Area School District's adult education program is in a building that may send most adults back to their elementary school days. Although the floors and halls are the same, the current students in former... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**Pittsburgh-area universities reach out to international students, staff in wake of Trump travel ban**](#)
 The Pittsburgh area's largest universities are condemning President Donald Trump's ban on admitting visitors from seven predominantly-Muslim countries and are reaching out to international students and staff. Trump on Friday issued an executive order banning entry of travelers from... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 01-30-2017 [**In letter, CMU president gets personal about immigration**](#)
 Some students and scholars at local universities are among those affected by President Donald Trump's executive order banning entry into the United States from several predominantly Muslim nations, but many academics are speaking out against the executive order.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Law enforcement awards presented at Pitt**](#)
 Most federal drug investigations last years and involve targets long-known to law enforcement. The one against Verona car dealer Michael Oliver took a few weeks over the Christmas holidays and revealed a drug operation that no one knew about. "He was under the radar for a long time," said Pennsylvania State... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Grit and determination mark path of homeless students**](#)
 Michael left foster care at 16 and spent several years with no place to call home. He was wandering the streets and sleeping on others' couches, in laundromats and eventually his sister's Pittsburgh dorm room. You might think he was following a path to failure.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Family spokesman says Sue Paterno and son undecided about seeking trustee seats**](#)
 Despite a broadcast report suggesting otherwise, a family spokesman said Jay Paterno and Sue Paterno have not decided whether to run for board seats at Penn State University. Altoona-based WTAJ-TV reported Thursday night that Mrs. Paterno, the widow of late Penn State football coach Joe Paterno, and their son Jay were... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**Pitt, CMU react to Trump's executive order on immigration**](#)
 Officials from the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University have released statements in reaction to President Donald Trump's executive order barring immigrants from seven countries from entering the United States. The order was already in effect Saturday as people coming into the U.S.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 01-29-2017 [**State System review: Sustain affordability**](#)

Declining enrollment and increasing financial challenges make Chancellor Frank Brogan's announcement of a sweeping review of the “unsustainable” Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education no surprise — and certainly warranted. But in achieving sustainability, these 14 state-owned universities must not... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-29-2017

[Harsh math for state universities](#)

Harsh math for state universities - [Scranton Times](#)

01-29-2017

[Our view: Area colleges add a great deal to communities](#)

Forget politics, partisanship, prejudice and any of the other things that lately may have made you angry or depressed, and consider for a moment some of the successes in our little corner of higher education. The most recent one is Frank Varriale, King's College assistant biology... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-29-2017

[Legislature must take responsibility for school crisis](#)

State lawmakers scrambled recently to keep money flowing to state prisons after the Wolf administration announced a plan to close two of the 26 institutions, which house nearly 50,000 inmates at a cost of more than \$40,000 each per year. Ultimately, the administration closed only one prison, the state... - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

01-29-2017

[PASSHE review to consider options including school closings and mergers](#)

PASSHE review to consider options including school closings and mergers - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

01-29-2017

[Lebanon Valley College campus quiet after police press conference](#)

At a news conference Friday morning, in which he announced his department would not file criminal charges against a man who purportedly used a racial slur to describe a Lebanon Valley College student, Annville Chief of Police Bernard Dugan said the incident was not a true reflection of the town or... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-29-2017

[Pitt chancellor 'deeply troubled' by President Trump's immigration and refugee ban](#)

Pitt Chancellor Patrick Gallagher issued a message to the university community on Saturday condemning President Trump's executive order on refugees and immigrants. He wrote that he is "deeply troubled" by the policy and said he joins his academic colleagues in calling for "a sensible immigration policy that... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-29-2017

[State university system's organizational review on fast track; decisions to be made by year's end](#)

Leaders of the state university system will begin the process of hiring a consultant to assist in the work of reviewing the system's organization and operation this week. Tuesday is the deadline for interested consulting firms to submit their proposals for doing the work.... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-29-2017

[Opinion | Trump and academia actually have a lot in common](#)

In 2013, a college student assigned to research a deadly substance sought help via Twitter: “I can’t find the chemical and physical properties of sarin gas someone please help me.” An expert at a security consulting firm tried to be helpful, telling her that sarin is not... - [Washington Post](#)

01-29-2017

[UC urges students, faculty covered by Trump travel restrictions to stay in U.S. for now](#)

The University of California on Saturday advised university community members covered by President Trump's executive order banning travel to the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries to stay in this country for now. “We continue to analyze the executive order and its impact on our... - [Los Angeles Times](#)

01-27-2017

[Carnegie Mellon privacy clinic aims to help protect you from hackers](#)

Hacked emails played a large role in last year's presidential election. Yahoo announced last year the

data of about 1.5 billion accounts was compromised in two separate data breaches. And the Allegheny County District Attorney paid a ransom — about \$1,400 worth of Bitcoins — to unlock documents and files targeted in a cyber... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

01-27-2017

[Manor College grows from deep Ukrainian Catholic roots](#)

Jonathan Peri, the first male and first secular president in Manor College's 70-year history, is guiding the two-year school toward eventual inclusion of four-year bachelor's degrees while he nurtures its deep Ukrainian Catholic roots. Walking past the Sisters of St. Basil the Great convent, which houses 35... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

01-27-2017

[Lawmaker: 'It's about time' state universities look at making changes](#)

The launching of an in-depth review of how Pennsylvania's 14-university system is organized and operates is drawing praise from state officials but concern from a faculty leader. At a State of the System Address on Thursday morning, State System of Higher Education leaders warned significant changes are needed because the... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-27-2017

[Researchers in limbo under Trump administration](#)

If people working in certain government departments are not allowed to share information on social media, will that have an effect in Centre County? The short answer? Not sure. On Tuesday, BuzzFeed reported that U.S. Department of Agriculture employees were banned from sharing "everything from the summaries of scientific... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)

01-27-2017

[United Nations ambassador talks climate change at Wilkes University](#)

WILKES-BARRE — An ambassador to the United Nations charged Wilkes University students with taking leadership roles in stemming the tide of global warming during a presentation on Thursday. Odo Tevi, representing the small island of Vanuatu near Australia, said... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)

01-27-2017

[Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education ponders merging, closing schools](#)

In a strongly worded assessment of declining enrollment and financial challenges, State System of Higher Education Chancellor Frank T. Brogan suggested that some of the 14 state-owned universities could be merged or even closed pending the outcome of a review this year.... - [Reading Eagle](#)

01-27-2017

[Gannon plans environmental research center in Warren County](#)

Property and buildings along Brokenstraw Creek will accommodate student, faculty research. Property in Warren County given to Gannon University will be the site of a new university environmental center. Two lodges and 3.57 acres of land on Brokenstraw Creek were given to the... - [Erie Times-News](#)

01-27-2017

[Pennsylvania university system to study school mergers, closures](#)

Pennsylvania's university system must consider merging or even closing some campuses in the face of a worsening budget crisis, state system Chancellor Frank Brogan said Thursday. Brogan gave his state of the system address in Harrisburg to his board of governors, eyeing difficult challenges ahead.... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

01-27-2017

[New Penn Commercial-Lennox partnership aims to fill area demand for HVAC jobs](#)

Penn Commercial has joined forces with heating and air conditioning company Lennox to address a growing demand for HVAC technicians in the area. During a brief program Thursday at the technical school on Oak Spring Road, attended by about 200 students, alumni, Lennox executives and local HVAC... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

01-27-2017

[Reports: Sue Paterno, son seeking seats on Penn State board of trustees](#)

Sue Paterno and her son Jay are seeking seats on Penn State University's board of trustees, according to media reports. Mrs. Paterno, the wife of the late longtime PSU football coach Joe Paterno, and her son Jay Paterno are accepting nominations to become board members,... -

[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

01-27-2017

[Cal U. to offer doctorate in criminal justice](#)

The state System of Higher Education Thursday approved a second doctoral program at California University of Pennsylvania. Cal U. will begin offering courses this summer under the doctor of criminal justice program, university spokeswoman Christine Kindl said.... - [Washington Observer-Reporter](#)

01-27-2017

[Board approves new degree programs for PASSHE schools](#)

The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education has approved four new graduate degree programs - in criminal justice, athletic training, education and urban and regional planning - and a bachelor's degree program in professional studies.... - [Pocono Record](#)

01-27-2017

[Canada Beckons International Students With a Path to Citizenship](#)

Similar tensions have plagued schools in the United States that increasingly rely on tuition from international students to balance their budgets. International students typically pay more than domestic students, and many, particularly from China, come from affluent families eager to establish a... - [New York Times](#)

01-27-2017

[Pa. Treasury announces new option to deposit tax refunds directly into college saving plan](#)

Residents can deposit their state income tax refunds directly into an existing PA 529 College Savings Plan account for the first time, according to WPMT. State Treasurer Joe Torsella announced Thursday that the new option marks an attempt to make budgeting cost-savings easier for families.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

01-27-2017

['Drum Majors for Justice' honored at WCU celebration](#)

WEST CHESTER >> "Teamwork makes the dream work" was the powerful message honoree James Lindsay had at West Chester University's 24th Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. brunch Thursday morning in the Sykes Student Union ballroom. The brunch raises money for scholarships and is sponsored by the university... - [West Chester Daily Local News](#)

01-27-2017

[Universities face tough choices](#)

LOCK HAVEN — The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, which includes Lock Haven University, is facing a "pivotal" year. Mergers and closures of universities may be discussed, as some of the 14 state system universities face declines in both state funding and the... - [Lock Haven Express](#)

01-27-2017

[Chancellor orders review of PASSHE](#)

Saying he wanted to "unshackle our universities from arcane rules, practices and procedures," State System of Higher Education Chancellor Frank Brogan announced Thursday a complete review of Pennsylvania's 14 state schools with "no restraints, no preconceptions and no... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

01-27-2017

[PSU Extension offers food safety training](#)

The Indiana County Penn State Extension Office in Indiana will hold a training course for the Food Safety — ServSafe/Certification from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 6 and 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 13. The examination will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 13. The course fee of \$185 per person covers the cost of the ServSafe course... - [Indiana Gazette](#)

01-27-2017

[Sue and Jay Paterno in the running for a seat on Penn State Board of Trustees](#)

The Paternos could soon be involved in Penn State's decision-making process. Sue Paterno is accepting nominations to become a member of Penn State's Board of Trustees, as reported by WTAJ. Her son, Jay, is also seeking a seat on the board. There are currently three positions on the board open for the alumni... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

01-27-2017

[Penn State may extend apparel contract with Nike](#)

After a year long campaign by the United Students Against Sweatshops to coerce Penn State to let it's appeal contract with Nike, the university does not seem too keen on parting ways with the clothing giant just yet. The contract was slated to expire on Jan. 31, but Lisa Powers, senior... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

01-27-2017

[Mike McQueary's lawyers continue legal fee battle](#)

On Jan. 26 Penn State attorneys filed an objection to a judge's order that allowed for Michael McQueary's attorney's extra time to file timesheets for legal costs. Following a response from Penn State attorneys requiring McQueary's attorneys to submit time sheets, Judge Thomas Gavin gave the attorneys... - [Penn State Daily Collegian](#)

01-27-2017

[Despite activism against OZ email, it's not clear that the organization's social life has drastically changed](#)

Four months after a leaked email from off-campus organization OZ was pasted around campus with the caption, "THIS IS WHAT RAPE CULTURE LOOKS LIKE," it is not clear that much has changed with the organization's social life. Last semester, more than 900 members of affiliated sororities and... - [Daily Pennsylvanian](#)

01-27-2017

[Logan officials say parties increasing](#)

Township leaders considering ways to limit disturbances in PSU Altoona area. One wonders how they all fit. During the current school year, there have been seven "massive" parties at various properties near Penn State Altoona, including a gathering two weekends ago featuring 120 students crammed into a single... - [Altoona Mirror](#)

01-27-2017

[PASSHE board appoints SU interim president](#)

The Board of Governors of Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education Thursday appointed Barbara Lyman as the interim president of Shippensburg University. Lyman, who is the provost and executive vice president, had previously been named the acting president after the departure of George "Jody" F.... - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

01-27-2017

[Penn State nursing students to host bone marrow drive](#)

MONT ALTO - A cheek swab and the submission of basic information are all it takes to join a bone marrow donor registry. Penn State's chapter of the Student Nurses' Association of Pennsylvania (SNAP) will sponsor a donor registry drive in the Science Technology Building (room 114) at Penn State Mont Alto on Monday, Jan. 30... - [Chambersburg Public Opinion](#)

01-27-2017

[Sue and Jay Paterno seeking Penn State trustee seats: Report](#)

Sue Paterno and her son Jay are seeking seats on the Penn State board of trustees, according to a report from WTAJ TV in Altoona. WTAJ said it confirmed "with a source high up within the university" that Sue Paterno, widow of late football Coach Joe Paterno, is accepting... - [Harrisburg Patriot-News](#)

01-27-2017

[Pat Narduzzi one of 12 people on Pitt's athletic director search committee](#)

chancellor Patrick Gallagher has selected the 12 people who will recommend candidates to become Pitt's next athletic director. On Friday, Gallagher officially made appointments to the search committee that will be chaired by acting athletic director Randy Juhl, serving in an... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)