



# EDUCATION RECAP

## September 17-23, 2021

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### SESSION STATUS

At 11:43 a.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the House stands adjourned until Monday, September 27, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., unless sooner recalled by the Speaker.

At 12:23 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the Senate stands in recess until Monday, September 27, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. unless sooner recalled by the President Pro Tempore.

### UPCOMING SESSION DAYS

#### House

Sept. 27-29  
Oct. 4-6, 25-27  
Nov. 8-10, 15-17  
Dec. 13-15

#### Senate

Sept. 27-29  
Oct. 18-20, 25-27  
Nov. 15-17

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## Around the Rotunda

*PLS coverage of Capitol events including press conferences, bill signings and media availabilities*

### HOUSE DEMOCRATS CRITICIZE REPUBLICAN OPPOSITION TO SCHOOL MASK MANDATES

By Tom Flynn, Pennsylvania Legislative Services | September 20, 2021

House Democratic leadership spoke today on the steps of the Capitol in favor of the Department of Health’s (DOH) decision to require schools to mandate masks for students.

House Democratic Floor Leader Joanna McClinton (D-Philadelphia) said she wishes the House was back to discuss how to spend money from the American Rescue Plan, but instead the House has to deal with a growing number of COVID-19 cases among children. She said that pediatric COVID-19 cases are 12 times higher than the worst surge of the pandemic last year. She reported that there are no pediatric intensive care unit (ICU) beds available in the entire city of Pittsburgh. “This is not Florida, this is not Mississippi, this is here in Pennsylvania,” she said.

Rep. McClinton said that children do not have a choice in getting a vaccine since they cannot be vaccinated yet. Therefore, she continued, reasonable precautions should be taken to mitigate spread, including mandating the wearing of masks. She commented that schools with mask mandates can better manage small outbreaks and may not need to shut down due to limited spread. She remarked that when schools close due to COVID-19 outbreaks, hospital systems become stressed, parents have to miss work, and businesses may have to close, potentially permanently. “Masking is supported by more than two-thirds of the people,” she said, “But all we hear about are the handful of screaming protestors intimidating school officials and often making threats of violence and death.”

Rep. McClinton said that the House coming back early to undo a mask mandate is “a serious problem” since it puts children at risk and places pressure on school officials. She emphasized the “irony” that before voting on eliminating mask mandates for schools, the House first voted on allowing members to vote remotely and did so by voting in small groups to limit the spread of COVID-19. “If we’re here to work, let’s really work,” she said. “Let’s help Pennsylvania not only fight the virus but beat the virus and recover from this virus.”

Rep. Matt Bradford (D-Montgomery) said the past 18 months have been “trying” for Pennsylvanians. He said Pennsylvanians now have tools to manage COVID-19 and it is possible to live with “some level of normalcy.” He said many Pennsylvanians now have access to child care and can go to work again. He claimed that some members of the General Assembly “sowed the seeds of distrust” in medical professionals. “There were too many politicians who wanted to play doctor,” he said. Rep. Bradford said that the “irresponsible voices” discouraging masks and vaccines have seen a wide audience on social media. “That is the priority of Republican leadership in the House,” he said. “Continuing to sow the seeds of whatever that is.” He opined that Pennsylvania should invest the federal stimulus money in schools and small businesses, but he expects Republican leadership to ignore the pandemic and focus on auditing the 2020 election. Rep. Bradford reiterated the priorities of the Democratic caucus, such as investing pandemic funds wisely, and said that Republicans’ efforts were “disgraceful, irresponsible, and it needs to stop.”

Rep. Mike Schlossberg (D-Lehigh) said he is a “father who wants to protect his kids.” He says that every time he drops his children off at school and their temperatures are checked he worries that they might have caught COVID-19. He relayed that his children’s pediatrician recently delayed standard checkups due to an increased load of COVID-19 cases. Rep. Schlossberg said he understood the doctor’s decision to implement pediatric triage, but

commented, "But I'm still a dad. My wife's still a mom. That message is a frightening one." He outlined the increasing number of cases in his home county of Lehigh and emphasized pediatric cases have more than doubled in the past two months.

Rep. Schlossberg said that he and most parents agree that Acting DOH Secretary Alison Beam's decision to mandate masks in schools was "the right call." He said that the data is clear that masks are effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19 and thus keep parents at work. Rep. Schlossberg said that the General Assembly spent a year debating the best way to keep schools open. "Folks, this is it," he remarked, holding up a mask. "Masks are pro-business. Masks are pro-jobs. Masks are pro-economic growth," he said. He stated that his colleagues should be embracing masks as tools to keep the economy growing. Rep. Schlossberg relayed that opponents of masking say most children recover from COVID-19 and that the real risk is only to children with pre-existing conditions. He said that he believes even one child dying from COVID-19 is too many and asked what kind of message such statements would send to children with medical conditions, like asthma or an immunodeficiency. "Are we somehow saying their lives have less value?" he asked.

Rep. Schlossberg said that all children should have the right to go to a safe school. Rep. Schlossberg said between 10-15 percent of children who contract COVID-19 can suffer long-term health effects for months. He said the debate "would be comedic, if it wasn't so damn dangerous." He asserted the debate on the effectiveness of masks is "mind-boggling, selfish, and disconnected from reality." He called the debate a "distraction" from discussions about vaccine distribution and how to spend the money from the American Rescue Plan.

Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D-Philadelphia) said that it is a "really hard time" to be a parent or caregiver and it is necessary to take measures to protect people's lives, meaning using masks and vaccines. She said people are counting on the legislature to invest federal relief money in them. Rep. Fiedler said that masks are effective in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and she hopes the House can get back to the business of investing in the needs of the commonwealth.

Rep. Donna Bullock (D-Philadelphia) said she is "a parent first and a state legislator second." She declared that as adults, the legislature has a responsibility to make sure children are safe by supporting the mask mandate. She said one of her staff members is concerned for her own child, who has asthma and goes to a school without a mask mandate. Rep. Bullock said it is important for all parents in Pennsylvania to "feel the same safety as I did...knowing that their children were going to school with masks." She said that the legislature has a responsibility to do this not only as legislators but also as adults. She said that she is happy to support Sec. Beam's mask mandate. Rep. Bullock echoed that there is other work to be done, remarking on the importance of investing in schools. She said that the House has to do "everything we possibly can" to protect the children of Pennsylvania. She says she worries every day about her children's school closing but that it would be worse without a mask mandate. "These are the steps we can take to reduce exposure to COVID-19," she said. "Let's get to work. Let's get the job done."

###

## Committee News

*Comprehensive coverage of the House & Senate public hearings and voting meetings*

### **Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee**

*9/21/21, 11:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing*

By Robert Cochran, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

[HB 941 Burns, Frank](#) - (PN 949) Amends an act entitled "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," providing in-state tuition as soon as a qualified student submits their enrollment deposit. Effective in 60 days. - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

Chairman Stefano said some students lose in-state tuition when their military parent is reassigned to another state between the day they are accepted into college and the first day of the semester. He said the bill ensures military families are guaranteed in-state tuition when a student submits an enrollment deposit. He said the bill was approved last session and is supported by the Department of Defense liaison office.

###

## **Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure**

*9/21/21, 12:30 p.m., Room 461, Main Capitol Building*

By Derek Danneker, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

[HB 1182 Culver, Lynda](#) - (PN 1715) Amends the Barbers' License Law providing that a licensed barber school may offer up to 50 percent of the school's curriculum through distance learning. Provides that a student may only earn barbering study and training hours through distance education for theory-based subjects and that a licensed barber school may not offer practical demonstration through distance learning. Establishes that distance education shall include curriculum offered by a school of barbering to a student while the student is at a location separate and apart from the school. Effective in 60 days (Prior Printer Number: 1238). - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

[HB 1183 Culver, Lynda](#) - (PN 1716) Amends the Cosmetology Law providing that a school of cosmetology school may offer up to 50 percent of the school's curriculum through distance learning. Provides that a student may only earn study and training hours through distance education for theory-based subjects and that a cosmetology school may not offer practical demonstration through distance learning. Establishes that distance education shall include curriculum offered by a school of cosmetology to a student while the student is at a location separate and apart from the school. Effective in 60 days (Prior Printer Number: 1239). - The bill was unanimously **reported as committed**.

###

## **Joint Senate Education and Senate Labor and Industry Committees**

*9/22/21, 9:00 a.m., Hearing Room One, North Office Building*

By Claire Ergood and Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The Senate Education and Senate Labor and Industry committees held a joint hearing on adult literacy and workforce development.

[Cheryl Hiester](#), chair of advocacy and public policy committee, Pennsylvania Association for Adult Continuing Education and executive director, Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon, discussed the challenges and the successes of adult learners across the commonwealth and emphasized that there is no typical adult learner and they come from diverse backgrounds with diverse needs. She demonstrated the value of the adult learning centers and said 44 percent of the total number of adults who entered a program had a documentable learning gain, 54 percent of the total number of adults with 12 or more hours had a documentable learning gain, and 66 percent of adults who were tested before and after the program had a documentable learning gain.

Turning to her role as executive director of the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon, Heister discussed the programs offered by the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon and explained that they are aligning services with the need of local employers. She provided the example of the Cuban Medical Professionals Parole Program where doctors and other professionals in the health field who were sent by the government of Cuba to work or study in other countries could request parole into the United States.

[Ernesto Matos](#), registered nurse, Union Community Care, said he participated in the Cuban Medical Professionals Parole Program and explained that he was a physician in Cuba for 25 years before coming to the United States. He said he began to learn English with the assistance of the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon and then graduated with high distinction with a Bachelor of Science in nursing from Penn State University.

[Jenni Black](#), chief quality and compliance officer, Union Community Care, explained that the hospital serves a diverse patient population with 37 percent of their patients speaking one of 50 languages and emphasized that hiring people like Matos is crucial to their ability to meet the needs of patients. She explained that with the support of programs like those offered by the Literacy Council of Lancaster-Lebanon providing language support and Medical English as a Second Language (ESL), they are able to hire highly qualified medical assistants from the Cuban Medical Professional Parole Program and other internationally trained health professionals.

[Carey Harris](#), CEO, Literacy Pittsburgh, said the organization impacts more than 5,500 individuals in the region each year and explained that students enrolled at Literacy Pittsburgh make significant educational gains, often the equivalent of two grade levels after just 60 hours of instruction. She said Literacy Pittsburgh helps thousands of adults each year improve their math, writing, reading, and English language skills, enabling them to attain high school graduation credentials, enroll in college or trade school and get a job that pays a family sustaining wage.

Harris urged the General Assembly to create the Adult Education and Workforce Development Recovery Fund which would help adult and family literacy/education programs provide additional services during the economic recovery and said \$15 million fund

would enable programs to seek competitive grants to grow this capacity over two years. Harris also called on lawmakers to increase the Adult and Family Literacy line item by \$10 million.

[Jeff Nobers](#), executive director, Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania, discussed the importance of infusing adult basic skills education into workforce development and said the Builders Guild of Western Pennsylvania and Literacy Pittsburgh have launched a collaboration to help create meaningful, skilled work for some of the region's most vulnerable adults. He explained that the Trade Up program integrates GED preparation and construction trades pre-apprenticeship training.

[Dr. Mary Ellen Caro](#), president and CEO, Peirce College, explained that the college is the only college or university in Pennsylvania that is dedicated exclusively to serving working adult students and gave an overview of the student population and the programs that are offered. She explained that the career bridge program uses proven methodology applied to today's unique circumstances to provide upskilling opportunities for people who lost jobs and many of whom will return to a workforce where their jobs are no longer in demand or even exist. Dr. Caro said in a matter of months, graduates will be qualified for high-demand, high-growth occupations that pay family-sustaining wages and medical coding, information technology (IT) user support, IT network support, and cybersecurity.

[Tara Butler](#), medical coding professional, Penn Medicine, shared how Peirce College provided her the opportunity to get four credentials and a bachelor's degree. She emphasized the importance for adult students to have of having access to programs offered at Peirce and also having assistance to pay for their education.

[Carlos Graupera](#), CEO, Spanish American Civic Association, said the association created Tec Centro, a bilingual workforce development center in Lancaster and explained that community-based workforce development centers are emerging in urban areas where marginalized communities are deprived of opportunities for adult learning and advancement. He said the centers, working in partnership with vocational schools, community colleges, and employers provide the best avenue for addressing the issues of unemployment and underemployment especially in communities of color. He emphasized that state agencies must be able to work with community groups seeking to develop workforce development centers in their communities. Graupera urged policymakers and legislators, to help underserved communities by requiring state agencies to actively work with community-based organizations in the establishment of workforce development centers.

[Sue Martin](#), recruiter, Lancaster General Health, explained that the hospital partnered with the Spanish American Civic Association and Tec Centro and have gained well-trained employees from their programs. She said that by working together, they can provide clients with information regarding job opportunities, education on both job skills and job search skills, and work together to put that education into an actual job offer and employment.

[Dr. Kim Rassau](#), executive director, Manchester-Bidwell Training Center, said the center has changed lives by providing career training and academic enrichment to adults in transition with a variety of expert-taught programs including culinary arts, horticulture technology, and pharmacy technician training. She explained that all programs at Bidwell Training Center are offered at no cost because of funding by the state, private foundations, and individual donors.

[Angelo Nardozi](#), mechanical test lab supervisor, U.S. Steel, spoke in support of the Manchester-Bidwell Training Center and discussed the benefits of the pharmacy technician program. He explained that U.S. Steel has hosted 19 externs since 2018 which has resulted in placing six individuals in contract positions, advanced three of those into full-time positions, and will continue to hire individuals from the center.

[Lorraine Wasky](#), chemical lab technician, SKC, Inc., shared how the Manchester-Bidwell Training Center is positively benefiting her life. "I do not think I could make it without Bidwell. The skills that I learned were not only educational but soft skills. I shudder to think of what I would be doing if I did not have Bidwell," she stated.

Chairman Bartolotta thanked all the testifiers for participating in the hearing. "We understand how very important adult education programs are in helping adult Pennsylvanians attain literacy and basic skills necessary to enter the labor and pursue post-secondary education. It's clear that adult education providers are an integral part of the workforce development system and will be critical in preparing individuals to meet employer demand and to grow our economy and to bring us back out of two years of a spiral in decline in the economy. I will continue to advocate for funding for programs that have demonstrated success and welcome feedback from providers," she stated.

Chairman Martin echoed the sentiments of Chairman Bartolotta. "As we look at the changing landscaping of postsecondary education and the path to family-sustaining jobs that by looking at these community efforts that are in tune with the needs of the employers, the people in their neighborhoods, and what skills they need and obstacles they need to overcome is beyond important," he stated.

Minority Chairman Tartaglione and Minority Chairman Williams also thanked the testifiers and affirmed that they will continue to advocate for more funding for their programs.

Written testimony was also offered by the following:

- [Dimero Dixon](#), laborer, Southwest Aluminum and Glass
- [Beyond Literacy](#)
- [Western Governors Association](#)

###

### **Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee**

*9/22/21, 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, Capitol East Wing*

By Aaron Rider, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee met to consider one bill.

[SB 706 Robinson, Devlin \(F\)](#) - The Max Manufacturing Initiative Act provides for business partnerships with state-related institutions and advanced manufacturing facilities; establishes the Max Manufacturing Initiative Fund for the Department of Community and Economic Development to issue grants to applicants engaging in advanced manufacturing and the Max Manufacturing Venture Loan Fund for grants for specialized equipment, infrastructure and integrated systems for use by university and private entities, public-private partnerships, contracting authorities and nonprofit organizations conducting advanced manufacturing; and imposes powers and duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development. Provides reporting requirements and public access of records. Effective immediately. - The bill was unanimously **reported as amended**.

[A02272](#) by Yudichak, removes the duty of the department to assist an applicant in taking advantage of joint purchasing arrangements and of opportunities to purchase surplus equipment from the commonwealth. The amendment was unanimously **adopted**.

The bill's prime sponsor, Sen. Devlin Robinson (R-Allegheny), said its purpose is to maximize research and development capabilities by partnering universities and higher education institutions with manufacturing businesses. He said he hopes to make Pennsylvania a powerful center of additive manufacturing, and he specifically praised initiatives at the Pittsburgh International Airport that led to the bill's creation. He told members that the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) supports the bill.

Sen. Lisa Boscola (D-Lehigh) said she initially thought the bill was "just a Pittsburgh thing" but is happy that it would benefit all of the state, including the Lehigh Valley where important universities can work with manufacturing businesses.

Chairman John Yudichak (I-Luzerne) told members that this bill is also supported by a number of local officials like Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. He added that the amendment was encouraged by DCED and written with their assistance.

###

### **Senate Education Committee**

*9/23/21, 11:00 a.m., Room 8E-B, East Wing*

By Matt Hess, Pennsylvania Legislative Services

The committee held a public hearing on the impact of Department of Health (DOH) orders on schools and children in Pennsylvania.

Chairman Martin explained that the hearing was supposed to give an opportunity to DOH and the Department of Education (DOE) to explain the science and reasoning for the mask mandate. "Unfortunately, DOH and the DOE have elected not to participate today due to pending litigation but we will be sending questions to the departments after this hearing," he stated.

Chairman Martin said the Wolf administration reversed their decision to allow masks in schools to be a local decision. "This statewide mandate has sown distrust in our communities that I fear will have long-term impacts. Our parents are fighting for what they feel is best for their children. Our teachers are forced to play mask police when they really want to be focused on teaching. Administrators are spending their days on compliance and begging for clarity and consistency. Both they and teachers are being threatened with losing their certifications and in some cases being harassed at their homes. Our school boards are attempting to be responsive to their community with both hands tied behind their backs and being threatened with fines, lawsuits, and personal liability. Child care facilities are struggling to get two year olds to keep masks on safely while being threatened with citations from the state," he stated.

[Michael Bromirski](#), superintendent, Hempfield School District, discussed the experience of the school district since reopening and highlighted the lack of communication from DOH. He explained that after being applauded for figuring out how to open our schools for in-person instruction, schools have become the new front line in the battle over mask wearing and other COVID-19 mitigation efforts and emphasized that it is not sustainable.

[Jessica Daugherty](#), director, Lititz Christian Early Learning Center, explained that the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) is threatening the use of citations to childcare centers for children not wearing masks without a doctor's exemption from their child's physician. She argued that it should be the parent's choice on the issue of masking and discussed the difficulty of forcing a young child to wear a mask all day. She took issue with the Wolf administration's handling of the pandemic and argued that the mitigation efforts are more about controlling the public rather than protecting the public's health.

[Dr. Barry Fillman](#), director, Jefferson County-DuBois Area Vocational-Technical School (Jeff Tech), emphasized that the DOH order was "poorly written, ill-timed mandate" and it's causing damage in schools and the community at large. He raised concern about the lack of communication and cooperation with the DOH and spoke of the necessity of leadership to bring all sides together for a long-term solution.

Chairman Martin questioned how DOH can improve communication between schools and themselves. Bromirski said the communication between the district and the department was much better in 2020 and indicated that Hempfield was able to talk directly on the phone with department staff. He explained that this year, emails are often sent by the department on Friday afternoons to districts, districts have to hunt down changes to frequently asked questions, and there is little if any phone interaction with the department. "There are ways to do it, we are ready and willing. Let's have a conversation and figure it out," he stated.

Chairman Martin inquired about enforceability of the mask mandate Bromirski emphasized the vagueness of the order particularly with regard to the "physical removal of students" for those who fail to comply with the mask mandate. "We're losing the knowledge and ability to address concerns in a respectful manner...these are the unintended consequences of rolling something out without the ability to think through the implications. We as school leaders are strongly advocating for the ability to sit and talk this through. Everyone is doing their best but everyone is emotionally charged on this issue and it will ultimately cause a safety issue in our schools," he stated.

Minority Chairman Williams thanked the panelists for participating and all educators and for the work they doing. "You are doing the impossible over the last year and a half all in an effort to keep kids safe. Let's be honest, our communities were divided long before this masking order and it's been really rough on everybody. I want to listen today and center on what is going to keep staff and kids safe and to keep them in school and to be educated to the best of everybody's ability," she stated.

Sen. Comitta noted that she was a special education teacher and acknowledged the "unprecedented challenges" everyone in school faces. "We would all agree that masking is not an ideal situation but at this point masking is a means to an end and that end is to keep our kids in school, keep our kids healthy, and keep our kids learning," she stated.

Sen. Comitta shared experiences from school districts in her legislative district who all emphasized their support of the masking requirement. She asked the panel how they plan on keeping cases low if they are not in support of universal masking. Daugherty noted that no one on the panel is anti-mask but disputed that masks and vaccines will end the pandemic. "We should let the parents make the choices for their children and not hold the education system liable for that. I think we've got things all twisted about whose responsibility it is...our purpose is to provide quality education and quality care to the children who attend our facilities," she stated. Bromirski noted that Hempfield wore masks all last school year. "My concern is the inability to have our questions directly answered and getting that information so we know how to interpret and enforce what is being asked of us," he stated.

Sen. DiSanto said the lack of participation by DOH and the DOE at the hearing "shows the disdain they have" for the citizens of the commonwealth, educators, and the legislature. He questioned if it is fair to say that the DOH and DOE are doing a worse job of communicating this school year than last year. Bromirski said the district has the ability to communicate directly with the DOE but his issues are with the DOH. "Compared to last year they are doing far worse...I've never felt as a school leader that I did not have the ability to engage in critical conversations with the DOE but I am disappointed on the medical side with the DOH," he stated.

Sen. Mastriano argued that it was "unconscionable" for the Wolf administration to put schools in the middle of the issue. He questioned the legality of the mandate and emphasized that parents should always have the last word on the health and safety of their children. "We are faced with the challenge of one-size-fits-all regardless of the situation of the student; they must comply and obey without regard to their particular situation psychologically or health-wise. Special needs students have been hurt worst of all," he stated.

Sen. Mastriano asked how many positive cases have been in the Hempfield School District. Bromirski said there have been around 225-250 cases since last year. Sen. Mastriano asked how many students have been hospitalized. Bromirski said he did

not believe any of the students have been hospitalized but noted that Lancaster County is reporting an increase in young children being hospitalized due to COVID-19. Daugherty said there have 25-30 cases since last year but none have been hospitalized. Fillman said there were five cases but noted that there is only person in all of Jefferson County on a ventilator and two people in intensive care units due to COVID-19.

Sen. Mastriano said there have been 14 deaths in school-aged students since the beginning of the pandemic out of 1.7 million students. "Every death is heartbreak, I got it. But 14 deaths out of 1.4 million students is a rate of 0.00000823529," he stated. Sen. Mastriano asked how enforcing mask wearing on toddlers is impacting their learning. Daugherty emphasized that students are being negatively impacted. "What's unfortunate that with masking children this young, is the focus of teachers has to turn from loving and educating children to making sure they are wearing the mask properly," she stated.

Sen. Kearney said the pandemic has created "unprecedented times" for educators and shared their frustration with communicating with DOH. He emphasized the need for relying on medical experts during a pandemic and shared a story in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* where a mother with a child with asthma wanted an exemption but was refused because the doctor said COVID-19 would be more detrimental than wearing a mask. He added that he spoke to a number of school board members and superintendents who are in support of the masking requirement because it is the only way to keep schools open. Bromirski said he needs to rely on medical experts for the advice on masking. "You are asking a medical question and as an educator it not my place to say. We were in school all last year wearing masks and we still had COVID cases. This year we are working through the enforcement of masking but it's important to understand that only applies in the school setting. If that behavior isn't continued in the community it's going to continue to perpetuate the COVID cases," he stated.

Sen. Kearney said the issue of masking has been politicized. "It's a thing where we hear again and again it's a violation of individual rights but we seem to forget we live in a society where we deal with people on a regular basis...the COVID variants that came to a head in early August and it couldn't come at a worse time for us but I still masking is the best way to deal with it," he stated.

Chairman Williams asked if Jeff Tech or Hempfield are utilizing the state's vaccine and testing programs. Fillman said Jeff Tech is not utilizing the programs and they do not do vaccines and testing on site. "We don't have the capacity to add that to our plate. It's not a realistic ask," he stated. Bromirski said Hempfield does not utilize the state programs but noted that Lancaster County has put together a large vaccine campaign and have sites around the area. He added that school nurses provide testing on-site in schools.

Chairman Williams noted she also has had difficulty getting information from DOH and shares the panel's frustration. She said the superintendents in her legislative district welcomed the mask mandate and stated that the guidance provided clarity and allowed schools to remain open. "It's been very tough for school board members, school administrators, one of my school board meetings had a Nazi salute when they were debating masks. I had school board members about being followed to their calls," she stated.

Chairman Williams emphasized that juvenile COVID-19 cases are increasing in Allegheny County and Pennsylvania and emergency room residents have spoken to her about the importance of keeping the mask mandate in place. "I had a staffer just this week whose four year old nephew had a seizure on Monday in Punxsutawney and was life-flighted to Children's Hospital and spent 48 hours waiting for a diagnosis just because of how full the hospital is. I've had my local EMS agencies say that 25 percent of their new COVID cases are children. I have got so much coming into my office that is supporting my mandate, supporting the masking. While I absolutely agree that there should be two way communication but I want to be clear that I support the masking mandate because it keeps kids safe and that is what our medical professionals are asking for," she stated.

Sen. Brooks asked if schools would prefer to talk to someone from the DOH on the phone rather than contacting the district via email. The panel agree that they would prefer to talk to a medical professional from the DOH on the phone and would like a response within 24 hours. Sen. Brooks emphasized the importance of the DOH to effectively communicate. "I will try to press upon the department that the live person and response and communication within 24 hours to our school districts...is essential. I know we have had challenges over the past 18 months with the department whether it's nursing homes, pharmacists, doctors, hospitals, folks getting information. I continue to be stunned that they just do not accept or understand that people need that communication to make informed decisions," she stated.

Chairman Martin noted that all schools have immunocompromised children in their schools. He said H1N1 and the 2017 influenza strain were much more dangerous to children than COVID-19 and questioned if any similar masking mandates were mandated. The panel said masking mandates were not in place for either virus.

Chairman Martin noted that only state employees under Gov. Wolf and children in school between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. are being forced to wear masks and questioned the logic of the decision. "It doesn't from a logical perspective make sense to me that we are putting our communities through this. I saw peace in our community. It was a rough summer and many places

across the Commonwealth were ironing out these plans and giving parental choice...it was working just to have the department and the rug pulled out from underneath. I think it is wrong and this strategy is not making sense and it's not rooted in law in terms of enforcement or guidance in terms of enforcement. We need to get back to commonsense in dealing with this. We need to get back to empowering parents to make decisions on behalf of kids and we need our educational institutions to do what they do best and that's educating our kids," he stated.

Written testimony was offered by the following:

- [Department of Health](#)
- [Department of Education](#)

###

## Bullet.in.Points

No Bullet.in.Points this week.

## Cosponsor Memos

<a href="#">HCO2305</a>	<a href="#">Kim, Patty(D)</a>	Requires an integrated curriculum that includes Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) persons, history, and contributions; and provides for a study of AAPI curriculum.
<a href="#">HCO2314</a>	<a href="#">Schlossberg, Mike(D)</a>	Prohibits any public school entity from advertising instructional and transportation costs provided by the school as free.
<a href="#">HCO2318</a>	<a href="#">Ortitay, Jason(R)</a>	Mandates the inclusion of the political, economic and social contributions of disabled individuals in Pennsylvania's K-12 curriculum.

## Basic Ed Bill Actions

<a href="#">HB 232</a>	<a href="#">Mustello, Marci(R)</a>	(PN 844) Amends the Public School Code adding language allowing a school district to change its name by a two-thirds vote of the local board of school directors of the school district and the approval of the Department of Education. Effective in 60 days. (Prior Printer Number: 196)
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**Bill History:** 05-25-21 H Removed from the table  
09-20-21 H Set on the House Calendar  
09-20-21 H Laid on the table  
09-20-21 H Removed from the table  
09-27-21 H Set on the House Calendar

<a href="#">HB 1254</a>	<a href="#">DelRosso, Carrie (F)(R)</a>	(PN 1328) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for in-person instruction or tuition grant program required and establishing that within 30 days of the effective date of the relevant section, a school district that does not provide or denies full-time in-person instruction must establish a tuition grant program. Effective in 60 days.
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**Bill History:** 09-22-21 H Reported as committed from House Education  
09-22-21 H First consideration  
09-22-21 H Laid on the table  
09-22-21 H Removed from the table  
09-27-21 H Set on the House Calendar



<a href="#">HB 1660</a>	<a href="#">Sonney, Curt(R)</a>	<p>(PN 1851) Amends the Public School Code, in duties and powers of boards of school directors, limiting a school district's temporary emergency powers from four years to 60 days beginning with the 2021-22 school year and each school year thereafter when an emergency results in five consecutive days of being unable to provide in-person instruction. Requires a two-thirds vote by the school board directors and a public hearing if an extension is necessary. Effective in 60 days.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-22-21 H Reported as committed from House Appropriations  09-22-21 Laid out for discussion 11:03am  09-22-21 Third consideration 11:07am  09-22-21 H Final Passage (Vote: Y:118/N: 82)  09-24-21 S Received in the Senate and referred to Senate Education</p>
<a href="#">HB 1878</a>	<a href="#">Benham, Jessica (F)(D)</a>	<p>(PN 2129) Amends the Public School Code, in educational tax credits, providing that participating nonpublic schools shall have a written policy that prohibits discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation. Effective immediately.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-17-21 H Filed  09-20-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education</p>
<a href="#">HB 1879</a>	<a href="#">Benham, Jessica (F)(D)</a>	<p>(PN 2130) Amends the Public School Code, in pupils and attendance, providing for evaluation of potentially hazardous walking routes; and imposing duties on the Department of Transportation. Effective immediately.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-17-21 H Filed  09-20-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education</p>
<a href="#">HB 1892</a>	<a href="#">Sonney, Curt(R)</a>	<p>(PN 2148) Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, providing payments for charter schools shall use the per-student amounts calculated. Provides in order to be eligible to receive a monthly payment for an enrolled student, the charter school shall be required to submit proof of enrollment and proof of residency to the school district. Further provides for payments to charter schools and provides for the reconcile process for payments due to a charter school from school districts. Effective immediately.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-21-21 H Filed  09-21-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education  09-28-21 H Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building, House Education -- House Education</p>
<a href="#">HB 1894</a>	<a href="#">Moul, Dan(R)</a>	<p>(PN 2152) Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing that the school year for students shall not begin any earlier than the day after Labor Day. Effective in 60 days.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-21-21 H Filed  09-21-21 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Education</p>

[SB 255](#)

[Browne, Patrick\(R\)](#)

(PN 971) The General Appropriations Act of 2021 provides from the General Fund for the expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; provides appropriations from special funds and accounts to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; and provides for the appropriation of federal funds to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The total amount is \$37.94 billion. Effective July 1, 2021 or immediately, whichever is later. (Prior Printer Number: 230)

**Bill History:** 06-28-21 G In the hands of the Governor  
06-30-21 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 1A)  
06-30-21 G Approved with Governor's line item veto.  
07-01-21 G Earliest effective date  
09-21-21 G Bill, together with Governor's Veto Message, laid on table

[SB 482](#)

[Phillips-Hill, Kristin \(F\)\(R\)](#)

(PN 498) Amends Title 71 (State Government), in boards and offices, establishing Chapter 43 for Information Technology; establishing the Office of Information Technology and the Information Technology Fund; establishing administrative procedures and procurement regarding information technology and for the Joint Cybersecurity Oversight Committee; imposing duties on the Office of Information Technology; and imposing penalties. The legislation establishes the Office of Information Technology (OIT) within the Governor's Office of Administration to oversee and achieve information technology consolidation. The legislation allows OIT to consolidate and oversee all IT systems and contracts within the executive branch and requires that each agency's chief IT employee work under OIT in their respective agency. The legislation further requires each agency to adopt new cybersecurity standards and establishes a committee on cybersecurity to be comprised of members of both chambers and their IT staff. Provides for the administration of the Pennsylvania Statewide Radio Network. The legislation establishes civil penalties for violation of the act. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 03-25-21 S Filed  
03-25-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Communications and Technology  
09-22-21 S Discussed during public hearing, Senate Communications and Technology -- Senate Communications and Technology

[SB 552](#)      [Dush, Cris \(F\)\(R\)](#)      (PN 579) Amends the Right-to-Know Law, in agency response, providing for vexatious requester. Provides that an agency may petition the Office of Open Records for relief from an individual that the agency alleges is a vexatious requester. Requires the executive director of the Office of Open Records or a designee, within five business days upon receipt of the petition, to notify the requester alleged to be a vexatious requester that the requester may, within 10 business days, file a preliminary response to the petition; and to, within 15 business days, inform the agency whether pending requests and new requests from the requester alleged to be a vexatious requester should continue to be processed or should be stayed pending resolution of the proceedings. Effective in 60 days.

**Bill History:** 09-22-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
09-22-21 Laid out for discussion 11:33am  
09-22-21 Third consideration 11:33am  
09-22-21 S Final Passage (Vote: Y: 34/N: 15)  
09-23-21 H Received in the House and referred to House State Government

[SB 859](#)      [Langerholc, Wayne\(R\)](#)      Amends Title 75 (Vehicles), in rules of the road in general, further providing for enforcement of failure to stop for school bus with flashing red lights.

**Bill History:** 09-22-21 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 461, Main Capitol, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S First consideration  
09-27-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 869](#)      [Tomlinson, Robert\(R\)](#)      (PN 1074) Amends Title 63 (Professions and Occupations), in powers and duties, further providing for definitions and providing for virtual operation. This legislation provides that in addition to the requirements of a practice act to hold public meetings to conduct business, each licensing board and commission shall use a virtual platform to conduct business when a public meeting is held. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 09-21-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure  
09-21-21 S First consideration  
09-22-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
09-22-21 Second consideration 11:54am  
09-22-21 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SR 172](#)      [Langerholc, Wayne\(R\)](#)      (PN 1077) Resolution urging the Congress of the United States and the United States Department of Transportation to take action on the nationwide school bus driver shortage.

**Bill History:** 09-17-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S Meeting set for 10:00 a.m., Room 461, Main Capitol, Senate Transportation -- Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Transportation  
09-22-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Transportation  
09-27-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar

## Higher Ed Bill Actions

<a href="#">HB 245</a>	<a href="#">Kaufer, Aaron(R)</a>	<p>(PN 213) Amends the Medical Practice Act reducing the amount of years of approved graduate medical training from three to two for graduates of unaccredited medical colleges. Effective in 60 days.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-21-21 S Reported as amended Senate Consumer Protection &amp; Prof. Licensure 09-21-21 S First consideration 09-22-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar 09-22-21 Second consideration 11:51am 09-22-21 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations</p>
<a href="#">HB 941</a>	<a href="#">Burns, Frank(D)</a>	<p>(PN 949) Amends an act entitled "An act conferring limited residency status on military personnel, their dependents and civilian personnel assigned to an active duty station in Pennsylvania," providing in-state tuition as soon as a qualified student submits their enrollment deposit. Effective in 60 days.</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-21-21 S Meeting set for 11:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing, Senate Veterans Affairs &amp; Emergency Prepared. -- Senate Veterans Affairs &amp; Emergency Prepared. 09-21-21 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Veterans Affairs &amp; Emergency Prepared. 09-21-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Veterans Affairs &amp; Emergency Prepared. 09-21-21 S First consideration 09-27-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar</p>
<a href="#">HB 1182</a>	<a href="#">Culver, Lynda(R)</a>	<p>(PN 1715) Amends the Barbers' License Law providing that a licensed barber school may offer up to 50 percent of the school's curriculum through distance learning. Provides that a student may only earn barbering study and training hours through distance education for theory-based subjects and that a licensed barber school may not offer practical demonstration through distance learning. Establishes that distance education shall include curriculum offered by a school of barbering to a student while the student is at a location separate and apart from the school. Effective in 60 days (Prior Printer Number: 1238).</p> <p><b>Bill History:</b> 09-21-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Consumer Protection &amp; Prof. Licensure 09-21-21 S First consideration 09-22-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar 09-22-21 Second consideration 11:55am 09-22-21 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations</p>

[HB 1183](#)      [Culver, Lynda\(R\)](#)      (PN 1716) Amends the Cosmetology Law providing that a school of cosmetology school may offer up to 50 percent of the school's curriculum through distance learning. Provides that a student may only earn study and training hours through distance education for theory-based subjects and that a cosmetology school may not offer practical demonstration through distance learning. Establishes that distance education shall include curriculum offered by a school of cosmetology to a student while the student is at a location separate and apart from the school. Effective in 60 days (Prior Printer Number: 1239).

**Bill History:** 09-21-21 S Reported as committed from Senate Consumer Protection & Prof. Licensure  
09-21-21 S First consideration  
09-22-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar  
09-22-21 Second consideration 11:55am  
09-22-21 S Rereferred to Senate Appropriations

[SB 255](#)      [Browne, Patrick\(R\)](#)      (PN 971) The General Appropriations Act of 2021 provides from the General Fund for the expenses of the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the commonwealth, the public debt and the public schools for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills incurred and remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; provides appropriations from special funds and accounts to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021; and provides for the appropriation of federal funds to the executive and judicial departments for the fiscal year July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, and for the payment of bills remaining unpaid at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. The total amount is \$37.94 billion. Effective July 1, 2021 or immediately, whichever is later. (Prior Printer Number: 230)

**Bill History:** 06-28-21 G In the hands of the Governor  
06-30-21 G Approved by the Governor (Act: 1A)  
06-30-21 G Approved with Governor's line item veto.  
07-01-21 G Earliest effective date  
09-21-21 G Bill, together with Governor's Veto Message, laid on table

[SB 706](#)      [Robinson, Devlin \(F\)\(R\)](#)      (PN 791)The Max Manufacturing Initiative Act provides for business partnerships with state-related institutions and advanced manufacturing facilities; establishes the Max Manufacturing Initiative Fund for the Department of Community and Economic Development to issue grants to applicants engaging in advanced manufacturing and the Max Manufacturing Venture Loan Fund for grants for specialized equipment, infrastructure and integrated systems for use by university and private entities, public-private partnerships, contracting authorities and nonprofit organizations conducting advanced manufacturing; and imposes powers and duties on the Department of Community and Economic Development. Provides reporting requirements and public access of records. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 09-22-21 S Meeting set for 10:30 a.m., Room 8E-A, East Wing, Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Dev -- Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Dev  
09-22-21 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Dev  
09-22-21 S Reported as amended Senate Community, Economic & Recreational Dev  
09-22-21 S First consideration  
09-27-21 S Set on the Senate Calendar

[SB 766](#)      [Bartolotta, Camera\(R\)](#)      (PN 907) The Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program Act establishes the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program and the Adult Education and Workforce Recovery Grant Program Fund; and imposes powers and duties on the Department of Education. The legislation provides for the allocation of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), grant eligibility and guidelines, and annual reporting requirements. Effective immediately.

**Bill History:** 06-15-21 S Filed  
06-15-21 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education  
09-22-21 S Discussed during public hearing, Senate Education -- Senate Education  
09-22-21 S Discussed during public hearing, Senate Labor and Industry -  
- Senate Labor and Industry

## Upcoming Events

### Senate Appropriations Committee

September 27, 2021, Off the Floor, Senate Chamber

To consider: SB 224

### House Education Committee

September 28, 2021 – 10:00 a.m., Room G-50, Irvis Office Building

To consider:

[HB 1332](#)      [Lewis, Andrew](#)      Amends the Public School Code, in terms and courses of study, providing for online curriculum availability.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1430](#)

[HB 1642](#)      [White, Martina](#)      Amends the Public School Code, in educational tax credits, further providing for definitions, for qualification and application by organizations, for application by business firms, for tax credits, for limitations and for scholarships.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1832](#)

[HB 1685](#)      [Topper, Jesse](#)      Amends the Public School Code, in pupils & attendance, providing for transfer of attendance records to another school entity or nonpublic school; in charter schools, further providing for definitions, for powers of charter schools.

**Printer Number(s):** [P1904](#)

[HB 1892](#)      [Sonney, Curt](#)      Amends the Public School Code, in charter schools, further providing for funding for charter schools.

**Printer Number(s):** [P2148](#)

### Public School Employees' Retirement Board

September 29, 2021 – 5:30 p.m., PSERS Board Room, 5 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg

Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 710-6459

### House Education Committee

October 4, 2021 – 9:00 a.m., Room 140, Main Capitol

Joint public hearing with House Appropriations Committee on Higher Education Funding.

### Public School Employees' Retirement Board

October 8, 2021 – TBD, PSERS Board Room, 5 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Harrisburg

Board Meeting. For additional information: (717) 710-4617

## Basic Ed In the News

- 09-23-2021 [Thursday Palmyra school board meeting going virtual because of masking clashes](#)  
Palmyra Area School District will only take public comment at Thursday's scheduled school board meeting via Zoom or in writing because of rising tensions over masking in schools and other pandemic-related issues, including the past unwillingness of meeting attendees to follow district policies on masking at the board meetings.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Pittsburgh city schools may form group to address education issues caused by pandemic](#)  
The Pittsburgh Public Schools may form a committee to help it develop policies that will address the negative impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the educational progress of students. The school board will vote next week on a resolution to form an "education crisis intervention committee."... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-23-2021 [AASD official objects to recent CBRC criticism](#)  
An Altoona Area School District official said a recently completed comprehensive plan for the Central Blair Recreation & Park Commission fails to fully recognize the value of the district's contributions — mainly the use of its facilities. "The way the plan is written, it looks like we're not holding up... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\The order stands\': Penn Manor begins sending kids home for refusing to wear a mask](#)  
Justine Stitzer's kids have been attending school all year without a mask. Wednesday, the day Penn Manor School District warned it would begin enforcing the Pennsylvania Department of Health's school mask order, was no different. That's where the similarities end.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Manheim Township teachers get 3% raise in new contract](#)  
Manheim Township School District teachers will get an average salary increase of about 3% under a new collective bargaining agreement approved by the school board this month. The three-year contract, which will kick in retroactively from July 1 of this year and run to June 30, 2024, includes a 2.85% salary increase the... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-23-2021 [WVW meeting dominated by appointments, public mask questions](#)  
KINGSTON — Wednesday's monthly meeting of the Wyoming Valley West School Board was short as far as board discussion and votes were concerned, but still stretched about 90 minutes with the overwhelming majority of that time filled with questions and comments — often contentious and at one... - [Wilkes-Barre Times Leader](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Tamaqua Area reverses decision on masks](#)  
TAMAQUA (AP) — A Pennsylvania school district that openly flouted a statewide mask mandate for K-12 schools has reversed course and said it will require universal masking for students and others inside school buildings... - [AP](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Northeast Intermediate School overhaul removes asbestos, improves ventilation](#)  
Northeast Intermediate School overhaul removes asbestos, improves ventilation - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Chaos at Wyoming Valley West meeting over mask mandate](#)  
Chaos at Wyoming Valley West meeting over mask mandate - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Wilkes-Barre's pandemic recovery plan implementation delayed](#)  
Wilkes-Barre's pandemic recovery plan implementation delayed - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Minersville Area school board affirms support for mask mandate](#)  
Minersville Area school board affirms support for mask mandate - [Pottsville Republican and Evening Herald](#)
- 09-23-2021 [Cumberland Valley board votes to keep health and safety plan](#)  
Cumberland Valley board votes to keep health and safety plan - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)

- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Pa. House Republicans punt on school masks vote after returning early to address it\*\*](#)  
House Majority Leader Kerry Benninghoff (R-Centre) speaks at a February 2021 press conference Pennsylvania House Republicans promised they'd start an internal conversation on Sept. 20 about how to best roll back Gov. Tom Wolf's school mask mandate. As some areas of Pennsylvania struggle with COVID-19 case spikes, House... - [\*Pittsburgh City Paper\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*How Parents of Disabled Children Navigate the School Mask Wars\*\*](#)  
Five years ago, Kim Hart's son underwent an open-heart surgery that got him healthy enough for the family to move from Cincinnati to this quiet suburb of Nashville. Her son has Down syndrome and autism, and she liked that Williamson County had a reputation for caring neighbors and safe... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Hermitage parents air views on masks in schools\*\*](#)  
HERMITAGE — Parents on both sides of the state's school mask mandate made their feelings known at Monday's meeting of the Hermitage school board. Like other school districts in Mercer County, the Hermitage School District started the school year with optional masking for students. But since the... - [\*Sharon Herald\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Crawford Christian Academy sees sudden growth this school year\*\*](#)  
When Randy Thaxton first become the administrator of Calvary Baptist Christian Academy, he began praying that God would provide the school with the growth it needed to continue thriving in the Meadville community. Four years and a name change later, it seems his prayers are being... - [\*Meadville Tribune\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Dush bill to provide relief from burdensome RTK requests\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG — The Senate has adopted a bill designed to provide relief for municipalities, government agencies and school boards from costly document requests, according to Sen. Cris Dush, R-Brookville, who sponsored the bill. "The state's Right to Know Law ensures that our residents have... - [\*Bradford Era\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*CVSD board snubs Moul's advice\*\*](#)  
Standing up for its school masking decisions, the Conewago Valley School District Board rebuked the recommendation of Rep. Dan Moul, R-91, a week after the politician spoke in support of students' individual choice to wear a mask. During the public comment period during Monday's district meeting,... - [\*Gettysburg Times\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Pittsburgh Public Schools considering internal candidates for interim superintendent position\*\*](#)  
Members of the Pittsburgh Public Schools board are in the process of interviewing candidates for the interim superintendent position as they prepare to select a temporary leader for the district Wednesday. The board is solely considering internal candidates for the interim job,... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Pennsylvania educators testify about mask-order confusion; 'Young children do not know how to read eyes'\*\*](#)  
A statewide school masking order has sparked resentment and chaos among some people while others see it as the best bet to keep kids in schools, testifiers and lawmakers said during a public hearing Thursday. The Senate Education Committee session came 16 days after the order from... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*North Allegheny adjusts plan for when masks can become optional\*\*](#)  
The North Allegheny school board Wednesday approved a change to the health and safety plan on masks, to take effect when the state mandate is lifted. Under the plan, which passed 5-4, masks will be required when the community spread in Allegheny County is high or substantial, and optional when the... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Urge Gov. Wolf and all state legislators to support the Lead-Free Promise Project | PennLive letters\*\*](#)  
As a PA Lead Risk Assessor/Inspector and registered nurse, I believe in keeping our children safe, and it frustrates me to know that not all homeowners and landlords can afford to remove lead paint hazards. The price of remediation can be high for some property owners, but the cost of lead... - [\*Penn Live, Patriot-News\*](#)



- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Mom asks young son to keep his mask on in school, so he refuses to remove it for his school photo\*\*](#)  
A first-grader didn't take lightly his mother's advice to keep his mask on in school. In fact, he took it so seriously that he refused to remove it for his school photo. According to a report by WXYZ 7, in the Peoples family, "mask up in school" is a number one rule to be taken... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Teachers union president: Philly schools are headed toward a dangerous precipice | Opinion\*\*](#)  
For students, parents, and educators, the beginning of any school year brings a renewed energy and optimism. As this school year began, inside our classrooms, Philly educators have seen and heard stories of joy, of learning, of promise. But those stories are juxtaposed against a backdrop... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Philly Health Department relaxes guidelines for closing schools due to COVID-19 cases\*\*](#)  
After a series of school closures so far this year, Philadelphia health officials on Wednesday relaxed the guidance for when schools should temporarily shut down due to COVID-19 cases " while also calling for weekly testing of unvaccinated students throughout the city.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Students sell gun raffle tickets for booster club, raising parents' ire\*\*](#)  
Booster clubs often ask high school athletes to sell popcorn, cookie dough or other items to help raise money to help offset the costs of sports programs. Football players at Cedar Cliff High School this year, however, were asked to sell raffle tickets where five out of 10 prizes were guns, raising... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Philly teachers and administrators are end-of-year exhausted and school has only just begun\*\*](#)  
With 37 students in her windowless classroom, Cheryl McFadden can't keep kids three feet apart. Her throat aches from trying to project her voice through a mask all day. She's constantly worried about the what-ifs of teaching in a pandemic, about keeping her students — and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Parents who push for medical exemptions to school mask rules get pushback from doctors\*\*](#)  
After the mother missed the deadline to sign up for remote schooling, she begged her son's pediatrician to sign a letter exempting the 5-year-old from the Philadelphia School District's mask mandate. The child had mild asthma, and she thought a mask would make it worse. She... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Pennsylvania Republican lawmakers consider pushback on statewide school mask order\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG — Republicans in the state Legislature on Tuesday contemplated pushback on the Democratic Wolf administration's controversial statewide school mask order but took no action. On the first day in three months that both chambers held voting sessions in... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Burrell School District and Penn State among 21 grantees for \\$1.1 million in Arconic donations\*\*](#)  
Burrell School District and Penn State New Kensington each will receive \$25,000 from Arconic Foundation's \$1.1 million in donations in Western Pennsylvania this year. The grants to 21 nonprofits will support education, social equity, environmental sustainability and human needs programs throughout the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Williamsburg: District to ask Pa. for COVID controls\*\*](#)  
WILLIAMSBURG — Arguments erupted between Williamsburg Community School Board members and those in the audience over whether to defy a state mask mandate. Instead the board voted unanimously Tuesday for a resolution asking state officials to give the district control over COVID-19 related safety... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Lancaster schools to require weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated teachers, staff\*\*](#)  
All School District of Lancaster employees who aren't vaccinated against COVID-19 must be tested up to two times per week, according to a resolution approved by the school board Tuesday night. While the measure — the first of its kind in Lancaster County — was... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Fort LeBoeuf High School honored as national Blue Ribbon School for 2021\*\*](#)  
Fort LeBoeuf High School is one of only 13 Pennsylvania schools recognized as a National Blue Ribbon

School for 2021. U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona announced 325 schools honored nationally by the U.S. Department of Education on Tuesday. The recognition... - [Erie Times-News](#)

09-22-2021

**[Police: Former Wilkes-Barre Area teacher stole window from Meyers](#)**

A former Wilkes-Barre Area School District teacher stole a \$4,500 stained-glass window as a keepsake of the now-defunct Elmer L. Meyers Junior/Senior High School, according to school district police. - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)

09-22-2021

**[Mask up or go home: Riverside recesses meeting when some refuse to wear masks](#)**

NORTH SEWICKLEY TWP. — If you want your children to be able to attend school five days a week, then state recommendations have to be followed, Riverside officials told a group of angry parents Tuesday night. And officials backed up their position immediately, ending Tuesday's... - [Beaver County Times](#)

09-22-2021

**[What can we learned from Central York's book ban? Free speech experts weigh in](#)**

Issues surrounding censorship are hardly new for school districts but Central York School District included a racial component that made it the epicenter of a national discussion. The board reversed course Monday amid protest from parents, students and alumni.... - [York Dispatch](#)

09-22-2021

**[Students vandalizing schools as part of TikTok challenge](#)**

A viral TikTok challenge that encourages students to vandalize school property is sweeping across the United States, and kids in schools in Washington, Greene, and Fayette counties are participating. Thank you for reading! Please log in, or sign up for a new account and purchase a subscription to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)

09-22-2021

**[East Lyco keeps mask medical exemption requirement](#)**

East Lyco keeps mask medical exemption requirement - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

09-22-2021

**[Lehigh Valley schools are now keeping hundreds of kids home to quarantine in COVID fight](#)**

Most Northampton County public schools have remained open for five-day-a-week, in-person instruction despite the continued spread of COVID-19. Still, hundreds of children are missing days when they contract the disease and even more are missing days because they were near COVID-positive... - [Easton Express-Times](#)

09-22-2021

**[Mask mandate will remain in place at Greater Latrobe](#)**

Mask mandate will remain in place at Greater Latrobe - [Latrobe Bulletin](#)

09-22-2021

**[LHCS to focus on compassion, patience, humility during school year](#)**

LHCS to focus on compassion, patience, humility during school year - [Lock Haven Express](#)

09-22-2021

**[Smethport schools create program to encourage academic achievement](#)**

SMETHPORT — This summer, personnel at Smethport Area Junior-Senior High School enlisted local businesses and teachers in the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment/Keystone Incentive Program that supports student academic achievement. Assisting Principal Douglas Dickerson were Michelle Acker, a teacher who... - [Bradford Era](#)

09-22-2021

**[County school district gives guidance for short-term closure](#)**

Warren County School District has issued guidance related to a possible short-term closure due to COVID-19. The district is not saying that a closure is imminent, but it wants parents, students, and others to know what would happen in the event of a closure. The guidance issued Tuesday relates to a theoretical closure at the middle... - [Warren Times Observer](#)

09-22-2021

**[Parents push back on mask mandate at Milton](#)**

MILTON — Parents in Milton Area School District protested mask mandates at the public school board meeting on Tuesday night. The school board meeting brought out nearly 60 people with many of the residents asking the school board to defy the state mandate to have... - [Sunbury Daily Item](#)

- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Editorial: The other TikTok challenge is teaching kids right from wrong\*\*](#)  
 Social media's latest must-have app is creating problems in local schools. TikTok is the app. Today's incarnation is an example of a mainstay of the video-sharing app's collaboration. It was formed by the merger of Chinese company ByteDance's product, started in... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Northwestern Lehigh homecoming dance being put on by parents because of COVID-19 concerns\*\*](#)  
 This Lehigh Valley high school had its homecoming dance canceled again by COVID-19. Parents found an alternative location to hold one. Heather Utt of Lynn Township has always tried to be as involved as possible in her children's lives both at home and at their school.... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Solicitor advises Greater Latrobe School Board to honor mask mandate as protests continue\*\*](#)  
 Greater Latrobe School Board this week amended its health and safety plan to formally include a state mask mandate that has been in place since Sept. 7. Several residents called for the school board to contest it, but Solicitor Ned Nakles advised the panel to honor the order while legal challenges play... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Tamaqua Area School District reverses course, will comply with state mask mandate\*\*](#)  
 Tamaqua Area school directors changed their tune Tuesday evening and agreed to comply with the state's mask mandate. Directors voted 6-3 to reverse a motion they passed at a Sept. 1 emergency meeting. At that time, directors voted 5-2 to uphold the district's health and safety plan and allow for... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*COVID-19 issues affecting WPIAL high school football games\*\*](#)  
 Although high school sports are pretty much back to normal in Western Pennsylvania this school year, COVID-19 is still having an effect on teams and forcing cancellations of games. A handful of WPIAL football games were canceled during the first four weeks of the season, but three games are off this Friday and the status of a... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Cumberland Valley school board votes to keep masking, other COVID rules in place\*\*](#)  
 Cumberland Valley School Board voted 8-1 Monday to stick with an existing health and safety plan that requires students, staff and visitors to school buildings to wear masks while inside in order to try to limit the spread of the coronavirus. The board's vote came after a lengthy public comment period that saw a... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Hempfield school directors consider joining lawsuits against school mask mandate\*\*](#)  
 Members of the Hempfield Area School Board are considering whether to join a lawsuit or file their own against a mask mandate issued by the state earlier this month. In a 7-1 vote Monday night, board members directed Solicitor Michael Korn to gather information regarding already filed suits that are working their... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Cafeteria worker faces charges for bringing gun to Pittsburgh elementary school\*\*](#)  
 A Pittsburgh Public Schools employee was arrested after bringing a gun to Grandview Elementary in the city's Allentown neighborhood on Monday, school officials confirmed. "While the employee does have a license to carry a firearm, they are not permitted on school grounds," said district spokeswoman Ebony Pugh.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Allegheny County parents react to news that 5- to 11-year-olds could be vaccine eligible by Halloween\*\*](#)  
 On Monday morning, Pfizer-BioNTech announced that a low dose of its COVID-19 vaccine is safe for children ages 5 through 11 and could arrive by late October if approved by the Food and Drug Administration. For Allegheny County parents, that news couldn't come soon enough amid... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Hill District residents hear bids from prospective grocers\*\*](#)  
The Hill District has spent most of the past 40 years without a full-service grocery store. Now, several grocers are vying to change that after the neighborhood's most recently available grocery store shut down in 2019. On Monday night, more than 100 Hill District residents heard presentations... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*'You're stuck between Tom Wolf and us!': Lancaster County parents still polarized over school mask mandate\*\*](#)  
The Pennsylvania Department of Health's school mask order remains a contentious topic at school board meetings across Lancaster County. While crowds have diminished slightly, school boards on Monday were met with many parents who have made it abundantly clear that they're not... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Social media threats have Interboro School District on guard\*\*](#)  
Police departments in the Interboro School District were on a heightened state of alert Monday after an individual made some posts on social media Friday in which Interboro High School and Norwood School were mentioned on a state representative's Facebook page, Prospect Park Police Chief... - [\*Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*North Penn board candidates spar over middle school air conditioning\*\*](#)  
TOWAMENCIN — The debate is continuing about when and how to install air conditioning in the North Penn School District's three middle schools. School board members fielded several questions last Wednesday night on recent building projects, including air conditioning, from candidates... - [\*Lansdale Reporter\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*N.Y.C. Schools' Covid Strategy: Test More, but Keep Classrooms Open\*\*](#)  
Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on Monday that New York City would take two new steps to address fears over the full reopening of schools: require weekly coronavirus testing of unvaccinated students and relax quarantine rules to keep more students in classrooms.... - [\*New York Times\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Rural Policy Summit on education reviews trends in public schools\*\*](#)  
HARRISBURG — A virtual Rural Policy Summit, the second in a series hosted by The Center for Rural Pennsylvania, focused on education. "As a new school year begins, faculty, staff, students, and parents are no doubt envisioning a successful year ahead. Administrators are also... - [\*DuBois Courier-Express\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Mask opponents address OC board\*\*](#)  
An Oil City High School student and two parents of Oil City students spoke at Monday's Oil City School Board meeting and voiced their opposition to the mask mandate currently in place at all K through 12 schools in Pennsylvania. About a dozen people, including several children, attended the meeting.... - [\*Oil City Derrick\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*School board members deserve to be treated with respect, even if you disagree with them\*\*](#)  
In good times, serving on a school board is not exactly thankless work, but it's hardly glamorous. School board members typically sign off on textbook choices, hire everyone from cafeteria personnel to superintendents, read the fine print in budgets, and consider nuts-and-bolts questions like whether the high school... - [\*Lewistown Sentinel\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Group pleads with Crawford Central to allow mask exemptions with no medical documentation\*\*](#)  
VERNON TOWNSHIP — A passionate group of 15 people, more than half wearing white masks featuring the phrase "I can't breathe" in bright red letters, called on Crawford Central School Board to begin accepting mask exemption requests with no medical documentation from a... - [\*Meadville Tribune\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Church bus from Lancaster crashes on I-81, sends 32 to hospitals, some critically hurt\*\*](#)  
Church bus from Lancaster crashes on I-81, sends 32 to hospitals, some critically hurt - [\*Carlisle Sentinel\*](#)
- 09-21-2021 [\*\*'To me, it's very racist': Alumni, authors react to Central York book ban\*\*](#)  
Alumni and the authors themselves are reeling from the Central York school board's teaching resource ban, which targeted works by creators of color or concerning racial issues. "You have this all-white school board

banning articles of people of color. To me it's very racist," said Don Dehoff, who graduated from the high... - [York Dispatch](#)

09-21-2021

**['We don't have the authority': Mask mandate sets up conflict at local school boards](#)**

Margie Walker stood firm: "The mandate is in effect." A line of people extended out the door of the Northeastern School District administration center, waiting to sign up for public comment. Murmurs of commentary filtered through the audience as masks were passed throughout... - [York Dispatch](#)

09-21-2021

**[Central York school board votes unanimously to rescind book ban: 'It has taken far too long'](#)**

Shortly before 5 p.m. Monday, about 200 people gathered in the grassy lot across the street from the Central York School District administration building to demand that the school board rescind its nearly year-long ban on a list of books intended to teach diversity.... - [York Daily](#)

09-21-2021

**[As Philly School Board continues to silence parents, City Council stays quiet too | Opinion](#)**

Just weeks into the new school year, Philadelphia school communities find themselves already dealing with chaos. Parents, students, and school staff, many navigating toxic flood waters after a devastating storm, were not notified of the district's decision to open schools late until two... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-21-2021

**[WPIAL will not require vaccinations for officials in playoffs](#)**

While high school sports officials will be required to be vaccinated to work PIAA playoff games, the WPIAL has decided not to require vaccinations to work WPIAL postseason contests. Last week, the PIAA decided to require the vaccinations for the state playoffs, but left it up to the 12 districts around the state to decide if... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

09-21-2021

**[Pittsburgh Public Schools outlines what COVID-19 levels could lead to building closures](#)**

The Pittsburgh Public Schools on Tuesday identified several circumstances in which a COVID-19 outbreak would make the district consider closing a school. The district's procedures align with recommendations that the state Department of Health updated in August.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)

09-21-2021

**[In Central York, kids rose up to save books on MLK, Rosa Parks from their parents | Will Bunch Newsletter](#)**

Imagine the story of Charlie Brown, Lucy, and the football "but substitute a baseball. That's been my backstory as summer comes to an end, and my fervent hope that the Phillies are actually in a pennant race is yanked away again and again by baseball's most annoying... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-21-2021

**[Seven Philadelphia-area schools win National Blue Ribbon honor](#)**

Seven local schools have been named National Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. The schools, among 13 in Pennsylvania that won the coveted distinction are Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP), and Penn Alexander, Philadelphia; St.... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-21-2021

**[Parents who push for medical exemptions to school mask rules get pushback from doctors](#)**

After the mother missed the deadline to sign up for remote schooling, she begged her son's pediatrician to sign a letter exempting the 5-year-old from the Philadelphia School District's mask mandate. The child had mild asthma, and she thought a mask would make it worse. She... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-21-2021

**[Urgent changes are needed to COVID-19 protocols, say Philly school nurses in a recent survey](#)**

The Philadelphia School District is putting students and staff at risk and needs "urgent course corrections" in COVID-19 protocol, nurses and teachers told their union in a survey released Tuesday. And while some of the 4,000 teachers, nurses and other Philadelphia... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-21-2021

**[Wilson Area chief logo debate continues](#)**

The debate over Wilson Area School District's use of a Native American headdress logo continues to flare, but Monday night brought a new area of contention: too many options. Superintendent Doug Wagner presented different design schemes of what clubs and teams can use at Monday night's school board meeting,... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)

- 09-21-2021 [\*\*Pennsylvania Republican lawmakers consider pushback on statewide school mask order\*\*](#)  
 Republicans in the state Legislature on Tuesday contemplated pushback on the Democratic Wolf administration's controversial statewide school mask order but took no action. On the first day in three months that both chambers held voting sessions in Harrisburg, several House Republicans said a legislative counter to the... - [\*Allentown Morning Call\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Pennsylvania independent school association investigating parent complaints against Sewickley Academy\*\*](#)  
 The executive director of the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools is investigating formal complaints from parents against Sewickley Academy over the school's reaction to their concerns of racism related to numerous incidents that occurred over the summer.... - [\*Pittsburgh Post-Gazette\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Foreign exchange: German student donates part of his liver to former host father in Regent Square\*\*](#)  
 Eric Baysinger messaged a photo of himself hooked to an oxygen machine, plastic tubing in his nose, to help him breathe. "This is my current situation," Baysinger said. The recipient of the picture, Mortiz Jahr, was 4,026 miles away. The minute he saw the image he asked what was wrong. Baysinger shared the story of his... - [\*Pittsburgh Tribune-Review\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*LCBC bus carrying high school students, volunteers crashes on way home from fall retreat, multiple injuries reported\*\*](#)  
 A bus carrying high school students and volunteers home from a Lancaster County church retreat has crashed, according to multiple media reports. The crash happened on Interstate 81 in Frailey Township, Schuylkill County, according to Abc27 News. Three buses chartered people to a high school ministry retreat, Abc27 News... - [\*Lancaster Intelligencer Journal\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Lawmakers return to Capitol with school mask controversy swirling\*\*](#)  
 HARRISBURG — Both chambers of the General Assembly are returning to the Capitol today for an early start to the fall legislative session. Responding to Gov. Tom Wolf's school mask mandate will likely be on their agenda, though legislative leaders are stopping short of saying... - [\*Meadville Tribune\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Shikellamy school board gives back to employees\*\*](#)  
 SUNBURY — A program designed by a Shikellamy school director is bringing joy to employees of the district. School director Lori Garman said she wanted to give back to all the employees of the district by giving them a small token of appreciation for working through COVID-19, and continuing to provide quality education to... - [\*Sunbury Daily Item\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Two Carlisle school district administrators will receive major salary hikes due to revised job titles and duties\*\*](#)  
 A change in job title and scope of duties has resulted in a substantial salary increase for two top administrators of the Carlisle Area School District. School board members Thursday voted unanimously to accept the September personnel report, which was prepared and recommended by Superintendent... - [\*Carlisle Sentinel\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*TikTok 'devious lick' challenge has students trashing school bathrooms, stealing. Bucks, Montco schools are not immune\*\*](#)  
 Your kid could miss out on scholarships or admission to a top school because of a stupid TikTok school bathroom challenge. Videos of students trashing school bathrooms and stealing common items are getting tens of thousands of views on TikTok as part of a "devious lick"... - [\*Levittown Bucks County Courier Times\*](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*A New Covid Testing Model Aims to Spare Students From Quarantine\*\*](#)  
 When the schools in Marietta, Ga., opened their doors on Aug. 3, the highly contagious Delta variant was sweeping across the South, and children were not being spared. By Aug. 20, 51 students in the city's small school district had tested positive for the coronavirus. Nearly 1,000 others had been flagged... - [\*New York Times\*](#)

- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Police: 2 people wounded in shooting at Virginia high school\*\*](#)  
Two people were wounded in a shooting at a Virginia high school Monday afternoon, police said... - [AP](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Former Pittsburgh Public Schools principal faces \\$750 fine for state ethics violations\*\*](#)  
A former Pittsburgh Public Schools principal is facing a \$750 fine from the Pennsylvania State Ethics Commission for failing to complete statements of financial interests between 2016 and 2018. Deonne M. Arrington has until Oct. 17 to pay the civil penalty, the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Which central Pa. high schools ranked among the best in a recent study?\*\*](#)  
Which central Pa. high schools ranked among the best in a recent study? - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*New search policies worry Sewickley Academy parents\*\*](#)  
Policies that have appeared this year in Sewickley Academy student and employee handbooks that assert broad powers by school officials to search private communications and possessions have sparked fears in a parents group that was critical of the academy this summer that speaking out could... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Two teenagers shot outside West Philadelphia football game\*\*](#)  
Just 21 days after gunfire killed an 8-year-old girl outside a Delaware County football game, the tragedy came eerily close to repeating itself. This time, police were able to stop the violence from escalating. This time, a child's life didn't end. It was just after 8:40 p.m. Friday when numerous gunshots rang out near a... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Deer Lakes School District parents encourage school board to defy state mask mandate\*\*](#)  
Parents of students at Deer Lakes School District urged school board officials Tuesday to fight back against the state's mask mandate. Superintendent Janell Logue-Belden addressed the mandate as the meeting started. She told parents that the school must follow any mandates issued by the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Some local school districts maintain updated covid trackers while others keep counts internally\*\*](#)  
As the number of covid-19 cases rises in Pennsylvania and the region and vocal groups of parents and students continue to rail against a state mandate to wear masks in public schools, it is hit or miss whether local districts publicly report the number of infections among their students and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Some local school districts maintain updated covid trackers while others keep counts internally\*\*](#)  
As the number of covid-19 cases rises in Pennsylvania and the region and vocal groups of parents and students continue to rail against a state mandate to wear masks in public schools, it is hit or miss whether local districts publicly report the number of infections among their students and... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Wolf proposing new regulations to increase charter school transparency and accountability\*\*](#)  
Gov. Tom Wolf is proposing new regulations he claims will increase charter school transparency and accountability. - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Boards shouldn't compromise on safety\*\*](#)  
School boards have much more than a mere legal mandate to ensure students' safety. It's a moral obligation that can't be subject to compromise, much less ill-informed, politically inspired arm-twisting. - [Scranton Times](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Emergency permits necessary to staff Scranton classrooms\*\*](#)  
At least two dozen Scranton School District educators started the year without the traditional certifications needed to teach students. - [Scranton Times](#)

- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Serve on a school board? You deserve respect\*\*](#)  
 In good times, serving on a school board is not exactly thankless work, but itâ€™s hardly glamorous. School board members typically sign off on textbook choices, hire everyone from cafeteria personnel to superintendents, read the fine print in budgets, and consider nuts-and-bolts questions like whether the high school... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Heated exchanges on mask mandate highlight Nazareth Area School Board meeting\*\*](#)  
 Dissent over the Pennsylvania governorâ€™s mask mandate in schools prompted a special Nazareth Area School District meeting to allow people to voice their opinions. The Nazareth Area School Board met Thursday at the high school to allow parents and students to share their thoughts on Gov. Tom Wolfâ€™s... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Weekly Pa. COVID update: Almost 550 Lehigh Valley kids diagnosed with COVID this week as cases, hospitalizations continue to rise\*\*](#)  
 Pennsylvania has not had this many coronavirus patients in intensive care since last February, when vaccines were not widely available and the state was coming out of the deadly 2020 holiday surge. There were 2,337 coronavirus patients hospitalized across Pennsylvania... - [Easton Express-Times](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Lick stop: Hopewell Senior High School speaks against 'devious licks' trend, involving stolen property\*\*](#)  
 Clicks are not worth a trip to the jail, local school leaders say. A viral TikTok trend is leading one local school to threaten legal action against students. Good TikTok: Couple who met on TikTok to have Las Vegas wedding on Valentine's Day In a message to all students via the Schoology app, Hopewell Senior High... - [Beaver County Times](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Blue Mountain School Board upholds mask exemption policy\*\*](#)  
 The Blue Mountain School Board has upheld its decision made at an emergency session on Sept. 8 allowing mask exemptions without a doctorâ€™s verification. The board met again the week after the decision was rendered and voted 8-1 in favor of keeping it in place. Herman Fligge cast the only dissenting... - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Chestnut Hill Elementary will switch to virtual learning next week because of COVID cases\*\*](#)  
 Chestnut Hill Elementary School in Millcreek Township will temporarily shift to all-virtual instruction next week due to a "cluster" of COVID-19 cases reported at the school. Millcreek Township School District Superintendent Ian Roberts said a cluster is defined as three cases that can be traced back to the same... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*School nurses deal with COVID-19 issues, care for our children \[column\]\*\*](#)  
 Professionally, I am privileged to teach nurses advancing their education, and currently I am teaching a graduate course in an online leadership and management program. My students are nurses working in various settings. An ultimate aim of my graduate course is to encourage nurses to ponder... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Here's how many COVID-19 cases were reported at Lancaster County schools this week\*\*](#)  
 COVID-19 cases continue to climb at several Lancaster County school districts two weeks after the Pennsylvania Department of Healthâ€™s mask order went into effect. While the order was effective Sept. 7, school administrators and school board members at most county school districts have received pushback from... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Pa.'s school mask mandate is law. Will Lancaster county officials enforce it?\*\*](#)  
 Many school districts in Lancaster County are preparing to roll out Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolfâ€™s Sept. 7 mask mandate for the first time after allowing students, parents and administrators a short grace period. But itâ€™s not clear who â€œ if anyone â€œ will... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Elanco ditches doctor's exception as other Lancaster County schools crack down on mask noncompliance\*\*](#)



While some Lancaster County school districts will begin strictly enforcing the Pennsylvania Department of Health's school mask order next week, one school district is headed in the opposite direction. Eastern Lancaster County School District is accepting a signed form from... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

09-19-2021

**[How will the shift to online learning impact students long term? Students, teachers, others share their stories](#)**

What makes a well-rounded school year? Cramming for an exam. Proms and sporting events. Hanging out with friends after school. As the 2020-21 school year progressed, more students and educators returned to a version of that reality across Lancaster County. Others, though,... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

09-19-2021

**[Pandemic prompts more teachers to consider early retirement or new career | Opinion](#)**

The COVID-19 pandemic reduced teachers' commitment to remain in the classroom, our study on teacher turnover found. When schools resumed classes in the fall of 2020, teachers faced a host of new challenges. These included things such as adapting to combinations of... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

09-19-2021

**[Cumberland Valley school board refuses in-person comments about COVID-19, cites safety issues](#)**

A Cumberland County school district reconsidering its COVID-19 safety plan is eliminating public comment on the matter after a number of residents expressed concerns with attending meetings filled with anti-maskers. In an email to the community, the Cumberland Valley School District... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

09-19-2021

**[Columbus City Schools nurses plead for help, saying they're overworked, overwhelmed](#)**

More than 100 Columbus City School nurses sent a letter to the district and school board members, saying they're overwhelmed, tired and left doing it all when it comes to dealing with COVID exposures because of unclear directives. The letter was sent Thursday to Superintendent Talisa Dixon, Columbus Board... - [Columbus Dispatch](#)

09-19-2021

**[Banning transgender athletes has no shot in liberal N.J. So why is this politician pushing for it?](#)**

The legislation sent tremors through the New Jersey sports world, in nearly unprecedented fashion: State politics "especially the arcane process of proposing and passing new laws aren't supposed to get in the way of high school football practices and track... - [Trenton Times](#)

09-17-2021

**[New Kensington-Arnold prepares for work on bridges at Valley High School](#)**

New Kensington-Arnold School District is preparing to repair or replace the four bridges spanning Little Pucketa Creek in front of Valley High School. The bridges consist of the main entrance bridge, a pair of identical pedestrian bridges and a second vehicle bridge near the football stadium.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

09-17-2021

**[Burrell gives families more time to complete documentation for mask exemption](#)**

About 3.5% of Burrell School District's 1,825 students have been granted medical exemptions allowing them not to wear masks in school, the district's top official said Thursday. Of those granted a medical exemption, a portion have yet to turn in necessary medical documentation, Superintendent Shannon Wagner said.... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

09-17-2021

**[Parents, including a top Pa. Republican, are suing over the school mask mandate. Here's what to know about the cases.](#)**

After months of heated school board meetings, the battle over whether children in Pennsylvania schools have to wear masks has shifted to the courts. At least three lawsuits have been filed challenging the order by Gov. Tom Wolf's administration, which took effect last week and has generated... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

09-17-2021

**[Cornwall-Lebanon School District to now require masks to be worn in all buildings](#)**

Cornwall-Lebanon School District will now require masks to be worn throughout all its buildings, the board decided Sept. 13, reversing its mask-optional policy approved last month. The 155-minute meeting was held in the Cedar Crest High School auditorium, with a virtual live-stream option and about 100 visitors in attendance.... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)

- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Pequea Valley gives families until Oct. 5 to provide doctor's note for school mask exemption\*\*](#)  
The Pequea Valley school board on Thursday agreed to give families who have sought exemptions from the Pennsylvania Department of Health's school mask order but have not yet received a doctor's note nearly three more weeks to obtain one. The decision, approved unanimously, came after about 20 residents, mostly... - [Lancaster Intelligencer Journal](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Local districts see more virus cases\*\*](#)  
Local school district officials are reporting an uptick in COVID-19 cases, with some districts reporting dozens of cases. The Altoona Area School District has reported 45 cases since Sept. 10, according to the district's COVID-19 dashboard. Despite that number of... - [Altoona Mirror](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Dunmore moves to mandate vaccines for staff\*\*](#)  
DUNMORE — The Dunmore School Board began the process to mandate COVID-19 vaccines for all district employees during a meeting Wednesday. - [Wilkes-Barre Citizens' Voice](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*North Schuylkill ends board meeting after 5 minutes due to mask protest\*\*](#)  
FOUNTAIN SPRINGS — The actual time that elapsed from when the North Schuylkill school board convened its regular meeting and then adjourned on Wednesday was less than five minutes, the cause being members of the public not wearing face masks. - [Hazleton Standard-Speaker](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Central Greene SD to allow parents to sign off on masking exceptions\*\*](#)  
The Central Greene School District board of directors voted to allow students' parents, instead of a health care provider, to sign off on exemptions to the state's mask mandate. Thank you for reading! Please log in, or sign up for a new account and purchase a subscription to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Sharon Hill community wants answers to shooting that left 8-year-old dead and others injured\*\*](#)  
Family members of the 8-year-old shot and killed shortly after an Academy Park High School football game last month joined members of the Delaware County Black Caucus and others in presenting questions about the incident and calling for transparency, accountability and timeliness.... - [Primos Delaware County Daily and Sunday Times](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*North Penn mask debate continues with mandate in place\*\*](#)  
TOWAMENCIN — The mask rules are now in place, and parents are continuing to sound off about them. Several North Penn School District parents continued to speak out both for and against rules requiring masks in schools during the first school board meeting since a statewide mask mandate went into effect.... - [Lansdale Reporter](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*After disorderly mask debate, Penns Valley school board takes meetings fully remote\*\*](#)  
Recent meetings of the Penns Valley school board were hybrid, where the public could either attend in-person or participate via Zoom. That changed with Wednesday night's board meeting, following a disorderly work session earlier this month. Wednesday's meeting and all future meetings listed on the Penns Valley... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Carlisle High School students learn the art of compromise in painting the Unity Mural\*\*](#)  
Carlisle High School students learn the art of compromise in painting the Unity Mural - [Carlisle Sentinel](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Cedar Crest forced to postpone Gov. Mifflin game due to COVID\*\*](#)  
COVID-19 concerns have forced another Lebanon County football team to postpone a game. Cedar Crest announced Wednesday afternoon that its Week 4 game at Governor Mifflin originally scheduled for Friday night has been postponed due to COVID-related issues. In an email reply to the Lebanon Daily News, Cedar Crest AD Rick Dissinger... - [Lebanon Daily News](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*York County high school moves to remote learning because of high number of COVID cases\*\*](#)  
Northern High School has switched to remote learning because of a high number of COVID cases in the building, according to a district statement. The high school is reporting 19 confirmed cases of the virus within the 14-day window, the district said. More potential cases are under... - [York Daily](#)

- 09-17-2021 [\*\*COVID-19 continues to affect the football seasons of these two central Pa. teams\*\*](#)  
For the fourth straight week, a high school football game has been bumped from the YAIAA schedule due to COVID-19. Biglerville's home game against Fairfield this Friday has been canceled due to "positive COVID-19 cases within" Biglerville's program, according to an... - [York Daily](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*District ratifies contract with teachers union\*\*](#)  
The Homer-Center school board ratified a contract Thursday with the Homer-Center Education Association, effective through Aug. 14, 2025. The HCEA represents 64 employees in the district, said Gregg Kalemba, business manager. The contract is retroactive to Aug. 15.... - [Indiana Gazette](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Parents are sending children to school full time, despite concerns about COVID, masking\*\*](#)  
Sariem Rivera is torn about letting her daughter, Giana, go to school in person. As she sat outside Central Elementary School Friday waiting for her daughter to be let out of school, Rivera said she understands the importance of normalcy for children. And Giana was looking forward to being... - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Tony Norman: Eyes wide shut at Central York High School\*\*](#)  
Let's face it. No matter how principled the cause, there's a performative aspect to every protest. Dull complacency sets in if stupidity and injustice aren't quickly and publicly confronted. For nearly a week, students at Central York High School in York, Pa.,... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Mold flagged by a Philly teacher will be remediated - after the union's environmental expert was escorted out of the school\*\*](#)  
With mold growth everywhere, a malfunctioning HVAC system and a persistent odor at one city high school, a worried teacher at Frankford High sounded an alarm this week about potentially hazardous environmental conditions. Because the issues represent a possible imminent health hazard,... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Philly students should be eating lunch outside as COVID-19 continues | Opinion\*\*](#)  
In the School District of Philadelphia, as in districts all across the country this fall, school has started against the backdrop of the coronavirus delta variant. Currently, nearly one in four of every new COVID-19 infection is in children. A little over two weeks into the new... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Fear is our worst enemy when it comes to COVID-19 and children | Opinion\*\*](#)  
Just as children return to classrooms, our country, unfortunately, finds itself in the midst of a COVID-19 resurgence that is heightening anxiety and leading many school communities to revisit their health and safety plans. As they do, it is essential that school leaders, teachers, and... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Chartiers Valley School Board moves meeting outside to escape mask conflict\*\*](#)  
A number of attendees at a recent Chartiers Valley School Board meeting refused to wear masks, prompting the board to convene the meeting outdoors. The Sept. 14 meeting was to be held in the Intermediate School auditorium. "We had a group of community members in attendance. A number of... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*North Allegheny grad vying for national video prize, needs votes\*\*](#)  
A North Allegheny graduate who is studying film production is a finalist in a national contest for her video explaining the physics concept of string theory. Faith Nguyen, 17, of Marshall, entered the 2021 Breakthrough Junior Challenge during her senior year at North Allegheny. She is now a freshman... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*Some Kiski Area parents, students call on district to make mask wearing optional, despite state mandate\*\*](#)  
Tensions remain high in Kiski Area School District over the state-imposed mask mandate. More than 100 parents and children showed up for Wednesday's school board meeting to express their opposition to the mandate that took effect Sept. 7. Nearly 30 of them addressed the board, including 7-year-old... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

09-17-2021

[Laurels & lances: Winning, losing and playing by the rules](#)

Laurel: To a spectacular run. Victory Brinker's parents knew what they were doing when they named her. The pint-sized opera singer with a voice as big as all outdoors showed "America's Got Talent" exactly what kind of talent resides in Unity with her... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)

## Higher Ed In the News

09-23-2021

[Judge dismisses ex-head football trainer's breach of contract suit against Penn State](#)

WILLIAMSPORT – A federal judge has thrown out the breach of contract suit against Penn State brought by the former director of athletic training services and head football trainer. U.S. Middle District Judge Matthew W. Brann on Wednesday granted the university's motion to dismiss the complaint of Henry T. Bream III, who... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

09-23-2021

[Pa. state universities' faculty given job assurance as morale booster as it prepares to consolidate schools](#)

Faculty at the 14 state universities will get a three-year reprieve from having to worry about losing their job, provided additional one-time state funding promised by Gov. Tom Wolf and the General Assembly comes through. The State System of Higher Education's governing board made that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)

09-23-2021

[Penn State Suspends 117 Students for Not Complying with COVID-19 Testing Requirements](#)

Penn State so far has suspended 117 University Park students who have not submitted proof of vaccinations for missing three weeks or more of required COVID-19 testing, the university announced on Tuesday. Students who have not provided proof of full vaccination for COVID-19 are... - [State College News](#)

09-23-2021

[Local colleges commemorate 9/11 with volunteer hours and memorials](#)

To honor the 20th anniversary of 9/11, Lycoming College and Lock Haven University held separate events to stand in solidarity with those that were lost. Seventy-five Lycoming students, faculty and staff completed more than 223 volunteer hours at 11 different city organizations for 9/11 Day of... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

09-23-2021

[Lyco students able to start college abroad before being on campus](#)

Lycoming College launched an exciting partnership with Verto Education, an organization that enables students to start college abroad before continuing their studies on campus in Williamsport. Students who wish to spend their first semester or year of college in... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

09-23-2021

[LEAP Center eases transition for new Penn College students](#)

The newly launched LEAP Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology, which helps first-year and transfer students "learn, evolve, adapt and prepare" for rewarding futures, is already fulfilling its promise. Headquartered on the first floor of the Student & Administrative Services... - [Williamsport Sun-Gazette](#)

- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Funding could bring reprieve for at-risk PASSHE faculty\*\*](#)  
 Faculty at the 14 state universities will get a three-year reprieve from having to worry about losing their job, provided additional one-time state funding promised by Gov. Tom Wolf and the General Assembly comes through. The State System of Higher Education’s governing board made that... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 09-23-2021 [\*\*Temple nurses say staffing issues could mean dangerous conditions\*\*](#)  
 Nurses and technicians at Temple University Hospital say they’re experiencing staffing shortages that are putting patients and staff at risk, and are calling on hospital administration to hire more nurses and do more to retain staff. Hospital staffers held a news conference outside Temple’s main... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Pitt staff members launch unionization drive\*\*](#)  
 Union organizers at Pitt have launched a campaign to unionize staff members at all five of the university’s campuses, according to the Pitt Staff Union website, which went public on Tuesday. The “staff” category encompasses an amorphous group of individuals at Pitt — those who are employed by the university but aren’t... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Alvernia University officially opens downtown Reading CollegeTowne campus\*\*](#)  
 Alvernia University officially opens downtown Reading CollegeTowne campus - [Reading Eagle](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Pitt-Johnstown faculty senate calls for vaccination mandate across system\*\*](#)  
 JOHNSTOWN, Pa. – By a 29-10 vote , the faculty senate of the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on Sept. 15 passed a resolution urging the Pitt system “to mandate vaccination for COVID-19 for all faculty, staff and students.” “We just hope that as more faculty voices come together as one and say,... - [Johnstown Tribune-Democrat](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Penn State suspends 117 students without proof of COVID vaccination for missing required testing\*\*](#)  
 Some 117 Penn State students who are unvaccinated and/or haven’t submitted proof of their COVID vaccination have been put on temporary suspension by the university after missing several consecutive weeks of testing. That means they cannot attend classes, visit campus or attend... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 09-22-2021 [\*\*Black women faculty treated as ‘second-class’ citizens at Morgan State, professor alleges in pay-discrimination case\*\*](#)  
 Professor Leah Hollis has built a career studying workplace bullying in higher education, examining how it affects women and people of color. At Morgan State University, she alleges in a federal lawsuit, she experienced that subject firsthand. In a complaint filed this summer, Hollis says the school has paid her tens... - [Baltimore Sun](#)

- 09-22-2021 [Million dollar investments from Penn, the city, and William Penn Foundation push us closer to climate crisis | Opinion](#)  
Philadelphia's leaders said all the right things when Hurricane Ida's remnants left us submerged, promising they understood that the storm was painful proof that our city is not safe from the climate crisis. But some of our most important and wealthiest institutions aren't... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-22-2021 [Court allows Dickinson College grad's lawsuit to move forward over school's handling of sexual assault report](#)  
The lawsuit filed by a former student against Dickinson College may move forward in federal court after a new ruling came down this week. Rose McAvoy sued the Carlisle college in July 2020, saying officials there mishandled the investigation when she reported a sexual assault.... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-22-2021 [More than 100 Penn State students suspended for bucking vaccine-or-test requirement](#)  
More than 100 Penn State University students are on interim suspension for failing to comply with the university's covid-19 testing requirement, according to a release from the school. As of Tuesday, according to the release, 117 students at University Park... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-22-2021 [Pa. state universities' faculty given job assurance as morale booster as it prepares to consolidate schools](#)  
Faculty at the 14 state universities will get a three-year reprieve from having to worry about losing their job, provided additional one-time state funding promised by Gov. Tom Wolf and the General Assembly comes through. The State System of Higher Education's governing board made that... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-21-2021 [Higher education examined in rural and urban communities](#)  
HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania has the fifth largest number of post-secondary institutions out of any state in the union, based upon 2019 data discussed at the recent virtual Rural Policy Summit on Education hosted The Center for Rural Pennsylvania. The center compiled some data over time indicating the percentage of... - [DuBois Courier-Express](#)
- 09-21-2021 [Martin Short throwing a 'party with Marty' at Mercyhurst University on Thursday](#)  
At this point in Martin Short's decades-spanning career, what he is most recognized for depends on demographics. "I always find that it varies from the age and description of the person approaching me," Short recently told the Post-Gazette. "I'm a mom and dad who are 45, it's..." - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-21-2021 [City owes apology to families of Black men abused by notorious Penn doctor | Opinion](#)  
On Aug. 20, the University of Pennsylvania issued an apology concerning Albert M. Kligman, a longtime faculty member and esteemed dermatologist at the medical school whose controversial research included both groundbreaking contributions and terribly disrespectful research procedures... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Feds ask for feedback as majority of public service workers denied student loan forgiveness\*\*](#)  
 For masses of people who took out student debt on the promise that after working 10 years in public service their remaining debt would be forgiven, the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program has been a light at the end of the tunnel — a definite end date to their debt burden.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Testing, vaccines & Beaver Stadium: Penn State group release COVID-19 projections, recommendations\*\*](#)  
 A team of Penn State professors, scientists and Ph.D.s recently published a COVID-19 report on fall infection projections at University Park, finding — among other things — that testing all vaccinated students once every three weeks could potentially reduce the total number of university... - [State College Centre Daily Times](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*LHU opens Student Success Center as central location for student support on campus\*\*](#)  
 LOCK HAVEN — Lock Haven University recently celebrated the opening of the new Student Success Center (SSC) on campus during an open house event on Tuesday, Aug. 24. For the first time, LHU students will have access to a concierge-like experience, where their needs and concerns can be met and addressed by both... - [Lock Haven Express](#)
- 09-20-2021 [\*\*Feds ask for feedback as majority of public service workers denied student loan forgiveness\*\*](#)  
 For masses of people who took out student debt on the promise that after working 10 years in public service their remaining debt would be forgiven, the federal Public Service Loan Forgiveness program has been a light at the end of the tunnel — a definite end date to their debt burden.... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Pittsburgh's 21-year-old chess queen's next big move: Helping campaigns engage the youth vote\*\*](#)  
 Running one nonprofit is a big ask for any college student. But three? You might have to miss a few parties in south Oakland to balance those responsibilities with your school work. Only someone as driven as Ashley Lynn Priore, a 21-year-old Shadyside resident and University of Pittsburgh senior, could juggle the operations... - [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*WCCC trustee says he's being punished for speaking out about school mask policy\*\*](#)  
 Controversial statements that criticized a mask mandate at Westmoreland County Community College could result in the ouster of a member of the school's board of trustees. A majority of trustees met behind closed doors this month to discuss potential censure of Doug Weimer, who publicly questioned the... - [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*NCAA's Nassar acrobatics\*\*](#)  
 Simone Biles, the world's best gymnast, put it plainly Wednesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee about sexual abuse against gymnasts by convicted team doctor Larry Nassar. Already a Subscriber? Home delivery print subscribers, your subscription also includes FREE... - [Scranton Times](#)

- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Cal U students discuss community, campus leadership on Constitution Day\*\*](#)  
When the voting age in the United States was lowered from 21 to 18 in 1971 thanks to the ratification of the 26th Amendment, the student newspaper at California University of Pennsylvania was largely silent on the topic. Thank you for reading! Please log in, or sign up for a new account and purchase a subscription to... - [Uniontown Herald-Standard](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Mercyhurst University to hold anti-racism march on Monday\*\*](#)  
Mercyhurst University will hold a march against racism Monday as part of a new annual tradition to educate and energize students on themes of racial justice. Called the "Mercy March for Anti-racism," the event will build on last year's "Mercy March for Black Lives," while expanding to... - [Erie Times-News](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Man charged with making terroristic threats against Lehigh University fraternity\*\*](#)  
Man charged with making terroristic threats against Lehigh University fraternity - [Allentown Morning Call](#)
- 09-19-2021 [\*\*Sports betting in Maryland leads to new concern for colleges: 'insider' leaks from students\*\*](#)  
The message from the University of Maryland to its football players was topped by the words "SPORTS WAGERING" in oversized, bold lettering. But the preseason memo, obtained by The Baltimore Sun as part of a public records request, didn't just caution athletes against point... - [Baltimore Sun](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*PHEAA to offer financial incentive to retain employees until their jobs are eliminated\*\*](#)  
The state's student aid agency is looking to offer a financial incentive to a quarter of its employees in an attempt to convince them to stick around until it completes its transition out of its role as a federal student loan servicer. The Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency's executive... - [Penn Live, Patriot-News](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*The PSERS board once again rejects its staff's investment advice\*\*](#)  
For the second time in a month, board members at Pennsylvania's largest pension fund have rejected a staff investment proposal — and this time almost unanimously. The PSERS panel voted 14-1 Wednesday night against a recommendation that the plan pump at least another \$25 million into one of its largest... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*A tornado caused millions of dollars in damage to Temple's Ambler campus. Recovery could take decades.\*\*](#)  
Graduate student John Harre was in an online class at Temple University's Ambler campus when the internet went out. Then the power. He heard what sounded like trees banging, rain pounding, and hail hitting. Harre, a resident adviser, directed more than a dozen students to shelter... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)
- 09-17-2021 [\*\*University Park Airport Expecting Historic Flight Numbers Ahead of Penn State-Auburn Game\*\*](#)  
When you think of Penn State football traffic, you think about trying to get down Atherton Street or making



your way through Seven Mountains or perhaps coming in on I-99. But do you think of the sky? University Park Airport Director Bryan Rodgers does. In fact, he's been... - [State College News](#)

09-17-2021

[Temple researchers take another step toward curing HIV](#)

In 2014, Temple University researchers proved they could use state-of-the-art molecular scissors to cut out dormant HIV hiding in human cells in lab dishes. Now, seven years later — the blink of an eye in basic research — the approach has received Food and Drug Administration approval for testing... - [Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

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