



Legislative Update: May 7, 2021

Another week down, and another week closer to June 30. Only the House was in session this past week, and only the Senate will return next week. After that, we head into the home stretch and toward a final state budget.

There continues to be more and more discussion of the two-year budget idea. Passing two separate budgets—one for 2021-22 and one for 2022-23—simultaneously, seems like quite a feat for the General Assembly, but we're getting more and more confident that this is becoming a real possibility. Still, what this means for k-12 education is unclear, so we have more digging to do as negotiations continue.

Additionally, Representative Jesse Topper (R-Cambria) put out a co-sponsorship memo for the [Charter School Accountability and Modernization Act](#). The memo lists several policy changes that the bill will seek to enact, including the reinstatement of the charter school reimbursement line item. While there is no language yet, there will certainly be much more to come on this front!

And finally, still not a lot of movement on the federal funding front. PDE is working on its application to U.S. DE. At some point in the near future, the eGrant application will open for school districts and charter schools for ARP ESSER.

With all that, we keep moving towards June 30. Read on for more!

Recap...

With just the House in session this past week, and no **House Education Committee** movement on anything k-12 related (they did hold a hearing on higher education issues), there wasn't a tremendous amount of activity.

However, the **House** moved up the bills below. These are expected to be on the calendar for final consideration later this month when the House returns to Harrisburg.

- **House Bill 358** (Rep. Marshall, R-Beaver), which amends the Public School Code to provide for dual enrollment for charter school students.



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- **House Bill 358** (Rep. Marshall, R-Beaver), which amends the Public School Code to provide for dual enrollment for charter school students.

- **House Bill 602** (Rep. Owlett, R-Tioga), which amends the Public School Code to create the Career and Technical Education Investment Incentive Program.
- **House Bill 1013** (Rep. Gleim, R-Cumberland), which requires CTE certifications be included on transcripts.
- **House Bill 1041** (Rep. Topper, R-Cambria), which requires a school district to allow home schooled students to participate in co-curricular activities in the same way as district students. It also requires home schooled students to participate in CTE programs in the same way district students can participate. The bill was amended on the floor to clarify the process of ADM allocation.

Next Week...

With just the Senate in session next week, there isn't an awful lot on the calendar (at least not yet).

The **Senate Education Committee** is expected to meet on **Monday, May 10** to consider the following bills:

- **Senate Bill 73** (Sen. Langerholc, R-Cambria) – Amends the Public School Code to permit the governing body of a school entity to apply for a waiver that will improve operations or instruction at the school entity.
- **Senate Bill 237** (Sen. Bartolotta, R-Washington) – Amends the Public School Code to permit charter schools to enter into agreements with institutions of higher learning for students to dually attend and receive credits for course completion.
- **Senate Bill 351** (Sen. Langerholc, R-Cambria) – Amends the Public School Code to establish the Community Engaged Schools for Success Pilot Program.
- **Senate Bill 664** (Sen. Corman, R-Centre) - Amends the Public School Code to permit an optional additional year of education at a school entity for the 2021-2022 school year due to COVID-19.
- **House Bill 365** (Rep. Harkins, D-Erie) – Amends the Public School Code to update outdated terminology to conform with modern usage.
- **House Bill 412** (Rep. Gleim, R-Cumberland) – Amends the Public School Code to provide school entities with day-to-day substitute teacher flexibility.
- **House Bill 416** (Rep. Quinn, R-Delaware) – Amends the Public School Code to provide for seizure recognition and related first aid training.

Additionally, we anticipate the full **Senate** to take up two bills that involve Right to Know Law changes:

- **Senate Bill 312** (Sen. Brooks, R-Mercer), which amends the Right to Know Law by allowing entities to charge additional fees for commercial requests.
- **Senate Bill 552** (Sen. Dush, R-Jefferson), which amends the Right to Know Law to allow entities to petition the Office of Open Records for relief from vexatious requestors.