



## ***LEGISLATIVE UPDATE***

The House and Senate are in recess this week with the Senate returning on October 18 and the House resuming session on October 25. While legislators may not be in Harrisburg this week, there continues to be significant behind-the-scenes discussions on charter school reform. However, with so many legislative proposals on the table and percolating charter school regulations, conversations will continue.

Before recessing last week, the House approved one education bill, [House Bill 1332](#), which requires all curriculum, materials, assessment techniques, and a syllabus for each course and all changes or updates to curriculum to be available to the public via school websites. The prime sponsor of the legislation, Rep Andrew Lewis (R-Dauphin), says the requirement will create transparency for parents. The legislation, covering all school entities, would be effective for the 2022-23 school year. The bill passed the full House by a vote of 110-89 with a handful of Republicans joining all Democrats in opposition. The opponents argued the bill was a mandate coming at the wrong time and would additionally burden educators who were focused on addressing the negative effects of COVID. To read more about this legislation [Click Here](#).

The House also approved legislation to extend temporary regulations for school bus stop arm cameras, which expire on October 24. The legislation, [Senate Bill 859](#), passed unanimously and will be returned to the Senate before going to Governor Wolf. The prime sponsor of the bill is Senator Wayne Langerholc (R-Bedford); he chairs the Senate Transportation Committee.

The House Education Committee's Subcommittee on Special Education also held a hearing last week on the delivery of special education services in the commonwealth. [Click here to watch the hearing](#).

In other news, the school bus driver shortage continues to get national attention at the state and federal levels. *Stateline* reported yesterday that "rural school districts remain especially hard hit by the national school bus driver shortage that gained widespread attention late this summer." The article ([click here to read in full](#)) says the Philadelphia School District and a Delaware district were offering cash incentives of \$1,500 and \$700 respectively for parents to

transport their students to school. The Associated Press reported last week that the PA Department of Transportation was contacting 375,000 Commercial Driver License holders to encourage compliance to meet school bus driver requirements. You can [read the AP article here](#). Additionally, [PDE has released guidance regarding the use of ARP ESSER funds to provide reimbursement for parents to transport their students to school where a school districts is facing a COVID-related shortage of school bus drivers](#).