

**State Mandates | 2025 - 2026**  
**Summary of Revisions | February 2026**

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
Human Resources	24 Pa. C.S.A. Section 8301(a) 8327	Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS)	Shall Participate	Upon Hire	1	<p><b>Revised Content   Clarification</b></p> <p>Membership is mandatory for any full-time or regular part-time employee who works at least 80 days or 500 hours, with limited exceptions as outlined in Section 8301.</p> <p>School entities are required to contribute an actuarially calculated percentage of the wages/salaries paid to all full-time and regular part-time employees (working at least 80 days or 500 hours).</p> <p>Payments to the fund shall be made each quarter based on the total compensation during the pay periods in the preceding quarter for all employees who were active members of the system during such period, including members on activated military leave and USERRA leave. In certain circumstances, the contribution made by the school entity shall be returned as outlined in Section 8237(d.1).</p> <p><i>Note: Section 8302 outlines the computation of credited school service.</i></p>
			Shall Contribute/ Remit Payment	Upon Hire/ Quarterly		
Human Resources		Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment	Shall Provide	Ongoing	9	<p><b>Revised Content   To reflect 2020 Regulations</b></p> <p>A school entity shall provide all persons equal access to all employment categories, regardless of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, genetic information, pregnancy, or handicap/disability. The school entity shall make reasonable accommodations for identified physical and mental impairments that constitute disabilities, consistent with</p>

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			Shall Comply	Ongoing		the requirements of federal and state laws and regulations.
			Shall Designate	Ongoing		A school entity shall comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX, which prohibit sexual harassment.
			Shall Issue	Ongoing		A school entity must designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities related to nondiscrimination and sexual harassment, referred to as the Title IX Coordinator.
			Shall Post	Ongoing		A notice that the school entity does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment, must be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining agreements with the school entity.
			Shall Complete	Upon Hire		Notices shall be included in each student and staff handbook, and the school entity's Board policy and related attachments must be posted to their website.
			Shall Complete	Prior to Designation		All such notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number, and email address of the individual(s) designated at the Compliance Office/Title IX Coordinator.
			Shall Complete	Prior to Designation		All training materials must be posted on the school entity's website.
			Shall Complete	Prior to Designation		All staff members must complete training to prevent, identify, and address problems of employment discrimination, as well as be educated on issues related to sexual harassment.
			Shall Complete	Prior to Designation		The Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution

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						process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall complete training as required or appropriate to their specific role.
Human Resources	Act 54 of 2025	Pennsylvania Human Relations Act			10	<p><b>Added Notation   Updated</b></p> <p><i>Note: The term “race” includes traits historically associated with the individual’s race, including hair texture and protective hairstyles. The term “protective hairstyle” includes, but is not limited to, such hairstyles as locs, braids, twists, coils, Bantu knots, afros, and extensions. The term “religious creed” includes hair coverings and hairstyles historically associated with religious creeds.</i></p>
Health & Wellness	<p>Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)</p> <p>42 U.S.C. Section 300f et seq</p> <p>40 CFR Part 141 Subpart I</p> <p>25 Pa. Code Section 109.201</p>	Lead Testing			11	<p><b>Added Notation   Updated</b></p> <p><i>Note: The opt-out provision under Act 39 (2018) remains in effect through October 31, 2027, that is, until the federal requirement for testing by community water systems (CWSs) begins on November 1, 2027, per the Environmental Protection Agency’s Final Lead and Copper Rule Improvements regulations. At that point, schools selected for testing by their CWS may no longer opt out of the testing process.</i></p> <p><i>Under this regulation, every CWS must notify the elementary schools that they are eligible for lead sampling and provide a proposed schedule for the water system to conduct the sampling, along with a copy of the EPA’s 3T guidance. Additionally, CWSs must notify secondary schools annually that they may request lead sampling from the water system. Starting in the sixth year following the rule compliance date, all CWSs must annually notify all of the elementary and secondary schools they serve that the water system will sample by request only.</i></p> <p><i>Starting November 1, 2027, any lead sample exceeding the new 10 ppb</i></p>

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						<i>threshold will require immediate public notification, a corrosion control review/optimization, enhanced public education and outreach, and either the installation of filters or remediation steps.</i>
<b>Health &amp; Wellness</b>	1402 Act 20 of 2024	Tick Removal	Shall Comply	Ongoing	13	<b>Added New Section</b> A school nurse, school physician, or a designated employee of a school entity shall remove a tick from a student in accordance with the guidelines of the PA Secretary of Health.
			Shall Preserve or Submit	Upon Removal		After removal, the tick shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be preserved for the parent or guardian of the student to send to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing if they choose to do so. The school entity shall provide the parent or guardian with information on sending the tick to the lab.</li> <li>• Be sent directly by the school entity to the Tick Research Lab of Pennsylvania for testing using the free basic panel tick test.</li> </ul>
			Shall Notify	Upon Removal		Pennsylvania Tick Research Lab: <a href="https://www.ticklab.org/">https://www.ticklab.org/</a> After the tick is removed from the student, the school entity must notify the parent or guardian of the student in writing, using the prompt required by law.
			Shall Send	Upon Receipt		If sent by the school entity, upon receiving the results, the school entity shall send the original results to the student's parent or guardian, without making a copy of the results or including the results in the student's medical record. The school entity, however, may note the disease present in the tick without identifying the child's personal information for data purposes.

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Health & Wellness	1414.12 Act 117 of 2024	Type I Diabetes Education Parental Notification	Shall Provide	Upon Enrollment in Elementary School and Entry into Grade 6	15	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>A school entity and nonpublic school shall make the Type I Diabetes informational materials developed by the PA Department of Health available in writing, electronically, or on the school entity's or nonpublic school's publicly accessible internet website, to the parent or guardian of a student when the student is first enrolled in elementary school and again upon a student's entry into grade six.</p> <p><i>Note: A school entity is defined as a school district, area career and technical school, charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school, or intermediate unit.</i></p>
Health & Wellness	Title 7 Section 210.9 210.13 220.7 42 U.S.C. Section 1758(h)	School Food Safety Program	Shall Comply	Ongoing	20	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School districts shall comply with federal requirements when developing a food safety program that enables them to take systematic action to prevent or minimize the risk of foodborne illness among students.</p>
Health & Wellness	Title 7 Section 210.13 220.7 42 U.S.C. Section 1758(h)	School Food Safety Inspections	Shall Obtain  Shall Post	Two Times Per Year  Ongoing	20	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School districts shall obtain two safety inspections per year in accordance with local, state, and federal laws and regulations.</p> <p>The most recent inspection report must be posted, and a copy of the report must be released to members of the public upon request.</p>
Health & Wellness	Title 7 Section 210.10 220.8	School Meal Nutrition Guidelines	Shall Adopt/ Implement	Ongoing	20	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School districts shall adopt and implement federal nutritional guidelines for food and beverages available in each school building to be eligible for reimbursement for school lunch and breakfast programs.</p>

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Curriculum	1503-N 1504-N 1505-N 1506-N 1509-N Act 47 of 2025	Evidence-Based Reading Instruction	Shall Report	By March 31, 2026	25	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>A school entity shall report to PDE the reading instruction curricula in use by the school entity during the 2025-2026 school year.</p>
			Shall Report	By July 31, 2027 /Annually Thereafter		<p>A school entity shall report to PDE the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence-based reading instruction curricula adopted.</li> <li>• The number of educators who have received professional development under Section 1502-N(b)(3) and the type of professional development received. <i>(Note: Section 1502-N(b)(3) references professional development on reading screening and literacy intervention approaches.)</i></li> </ul>
			Shall Adopt/ Identify/ Approve	No Later Than the Beginning of the 2027-2028 School Year		<p>A school entity shall do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt an evidence-based reading curriculum.</li> <li>• Identify an educator responsible for assisting each school with the implementation of the curriculum.</li> <li>• Approve a professional development program from a list developed by PDE on evidence-based reading.</li> <li>• Demonstrate that its teachers are in the process of completing the professional development program.</li> </ul>
			Shall Screen	No Later Than the Beginning of the 2027-2028 School Year		<p><b>Universal Reading Screener</b></p> <p>A school entity shall screen each student enrolled in kindergarten through third grade for reading competency three times each year: once at the beginning of the school year, once during the middle of the year, and once at the end of the school year.</p>
Shall Utilize	No Later Than the Beginning of the 2027-2028 School Year	<p>A school entity shall use a universal reading screener from the list of approved universal reading screeners.</p>				

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			Shall Identify/ Notify	No Later Than the Beginning of the 2027-2028 School Year		Exception: students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, and gifted students are subject to the requirements, unless the assessment would conflict with the educational program, plan, or service agreement provided in accordance with Federal or State law and regulation.
			Shall Remain	Until At Or Above Identified Threshold Level		<b>Reading Deficiency Identification and Parental Notification</b>  A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above an identified threshold level.
			Shall Notify	After the Third Screening at the end of the School Year		<i>Parental Notification</i> A school entity shall notify, in writing or electronically, each parent of a <b>kindergarten</b> student who exhibits a reading deficiency.
			Shall Notify	After Identification		A school entity shall notify, in writing or electronically, each parent of a <b>first through third-grade</b> student who exhibits a reading deficiency, including periodic updates regarding the student's progress.  <i>Note: Nothing under this section shall be construed to prohibit a school entity from identifying a student at another grade level as needing reading interventions.</i>
			Shall Provide	During the 2027-2028 School Year		<b>Reading Intervention Plans</b>  A school entity shall provide a reading intervention plan to each student in kindergarten through grade three who is identified as having a reading deficiency.

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			Shall Report	Beginning July 31, 2028/ Annually Thereafter On July 31		<p><b>Reporting</b></p> <p>A school entity must report to PDE annually the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number and percentage of students, disaggregated by grade and individual school, identified with a potential reading deficiency at the beginning of the school year, according to the first screening, along with the literacy intervention approaches provided.</li> <li>• The number and percentage of students, disaggregated by grade and individual school, identified as having a potential reading deficiency at the end of the school year, based on the final screening of the year.</li> <li>• The number of students, disaggregated by grade and by individual school, excepted from the assessment under Section 1504-N(b).</li> <li>• Any other information deemed necessary by the PA Secretary of Education.</li> </ul>
Curriculum	24 P.S. 15-1541	Arbor Day	Shall Designate	Annually On Arbor Day	27	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>Each teacher shall designate at least two hours of the school day for students to study birds, trees, and the general conservation of resources on the day designated and proclaimed by the Governor as Arbor Day.</p> <p><i>Note: Arbor Day is on the last Friday in April.</i></p>
Curriculum	24 P.S. 15-1542	Frances Willard Day	May Observe	Annually On or Around September 28	27	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>September 28<sup>th</sup> or the school day nearest such day shall be designated as Frances Willard Day, and in each school district and school, a part of such day may be set apart for instruction in the life of Frances Willard and the principles advocated by Frances Willard.</p>

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Curriculum	24 P.S. 15-1543	William Penn Day	Shall Hold	Annually On or Around October 24	27	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>By proclamation of the Governor, a school entity shall hold appropriate exercises concerning the life of William Penn, the Founder and Proprietor, and Governor of Pennsylvania, and the principles he advocated in founding Pennsylvania.</p>
Curriculum	24 P.S. 15-1544	Free School Day	Shall Observe	Annually From April 1 – April 11	27	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>By proclamation of the Governor, a school entity shall observe Free School Day to commemorate the founding and development of free public schools in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.</p>
Curriculum	24 P.S. 15-1545	Bill of Rights Week	Shall Observe	Annually During the Week of December 15	27	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>The PA Department of Education shall designate a week during each year and prescribe a uniform course of exercises to be carried out during that week in public schools to instill the meaning and importance of the Bill of Rights. Such exercises shall be in addition to the prescribed courses of study in such schools.</p>
Curriculum		Fire Dangers and Prevention			28	<p><b>Revised Content</b></p> <p>The curriculum of all schools shall include regular and continuous study on the dangers of fire and the prevention of fire waste throughout the entire school year.</p> <p><i>Note: The PA Secretary of Education, in consultation with the Pennsylvania State Police, shall prepare books of instruction for teachers of students of all grades, in public and private schools. Such instruction books shall be published at the expense of the State and distributed in sufficient quantities for teachers' use.</i></p>

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Curriculum	34 Pa. C.S.A. Section 2704(g)	Hunter Education	Shall Provide	Upon Request	29	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School districts are required to make a classroom or instructional facility under their control available to the PA Game Commission upon request for the purpose of conducting a hunter education course. Classes may occur as after-school or weekend functions, or on any other day when school is not in session.</p> <p>The commission shall compensate the school for the use of the facility. Fees may not be charged to the public for the service under this section.</p>
Policy & Procedure – Student Procedures	USCA Sec. 168120	Discrimination / Title IX Sexual Harassment	<p>Shall Provide</p> <p>Shall Comply</p> <p>Shall Designate</p> <p>Shall Issue</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	33	<p><b>Revised Content  To reflect 2020 Regulations</b></p> <p>A school entity shall provide students access to the educational programs and activities offered by the school entity without discrimination on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, or handicap/disability.</p> <p>A school entity shall comply with federal law and regulations under Title IX, which prohibit sexual harassment.</p> <p>A school entity must designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with the responsibilities related to nondiscrimination and sexual harassment, referred to as the Title IX Coordinator.</p> <p>A notice that the school entity does not discriminate in any manner, including Title IX sexual harassment must be issued to all students, parents/guardians, employment applicants, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the school entity. Notices shall be included in each</p>

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			<p>Shall Post</p> <p>Shall Complete</p> <p>Shall Complete</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Upon Hire (Staff)</p> <p>Prior to Designation</p>		<p>student and staff handbook and the school entity’s Board policy and related attachments must be posted to their website.</p> <p>All such notices and information shall include the title, office address, telephone number, and email address of the individual(s) designated as the Compliance Officer/Title IX Coordinator.</p> <p>All training materials must be posted on the school entity’s website.</p> <p>Students and staff must complete training to prevent, identify, and alleviate problems of discrimination. Additionally, staff shall be provided with resources available to complainants, as well as information on complaint procedures and Title IX procedures.</p> <p>The Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any individual designated to facilitate an informal resolution process related to Title IX sexual harassment shall complete training as required or appropriate to their specific role.</p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>		<p>Exclusions from School</p>			<p>35</p>	<p><b>Revised Content   To reflect 2020 Regulations</b></p> <p><b>Allegations of Sex Discrimination</b></p> <p>When a student is accused of sex discrimination, including sex-based harassment, Title IX regulations require that the school entity’s grievance process, including any appeal, be completed before any disciplinary sanctions or other non-supportive actions are imposed against the student.</p> <p>The regulations permit the emergency removal of a student respondent prior to the conclusion of the grievance process if, after conducting an</p>

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						<p>individualized safety and risk analysis, the school entity determines that the allegations present an imminent and serious threat to the physical health or safety of any person arising from the alleged conduct. In such cases, the student must be provided with notice of the removal and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal.</p> <p><i>Note: Emergency removal does not modify any rights under the IDEA, ADA, or Section 504 106.44(h).</i></p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>		<p>Student Services Plan</p>	<p>Shall Post</p>	<p>Upon Approval</p>	<p>37</p>	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p>A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.</p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>	<p>24 P.S. 13-1329</p>	<p>Excuses from Attending School</p>	<p>Shall Adopt</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>42</p>	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>As part of its written rules governing pupil absences and excusals, a board of school directors shall adopt a policy permitting a student to be excused for participation in a project sponsored by an organization that is eligible to apply for a grant under the Pennsylvania Agricultural Fair Act.</p> <p><i>Note: The policy shall permit students to be excused from school to present 4-H and FFA projects at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and at County and local fairs.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>	<p>Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Procedure When Child is Truant</p>	<p>Shall Include</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>43</p>	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p>The notice shall also include that a child who is habitually truant may not transfer, during the school year, to a cyber charter school unless a judge determines that the transfer is in the best interest of the child and shall include resources available to assist the child and the person in parental relation with returning the child to compliant compulsory school attendance and opportunities for</p>

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						further academic recovery in response to the truant behavior.
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>	<p>1333.3 Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Procedure When a Child Is Habitually Truant</p>	<p>Shall Take Action</p> <p>May Not</p> <p>Shall Provide</p>	<p>When the Child is Over the Age of 15</p> <p>As of December 12, 2025</p> <p>As of August 1, 2026</p>	<p>43</p>	<p><b>Added Content   Clarification</b></p> <p>If a child continues to incur additional unexcused absences after being referred to a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program or refuses to participate in a school-based or community-based attendance improvement program as recommended through the school attendance improvement conference, the school may refer the child to the county children and youth agency for possible disposition as a dependent child.</p> <p>When referring a child to the county children and youth agency or filing a citation, the school shall provide verification that a school attendance improvement conference was held.</p> <p>A child who is habitually truant may not transfer during the school year to a cyber charter school unless a judge determines that the transfer is in the child's best interest.</p> <p>An educational entity in which the child is enrolled shall provide the child with a school attendance improvement plan and shall continue to pursue remedies to the child's habitual truancy until the child is no longer truant or is no longer of compulsory school age, regardless of whether the child was enrolled at the current educational entity or another educational entity at the time of truancy.</p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>	<p>1339 Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Reports to the PA Secretary of Education</p>	<p>Shall Report</p>	<p>As of August 1, 2026</p>	<p>44</p>	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>A school entity shall report to the PA Secretary of Education information related to student attendance requested by PDE.</p>

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<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Student Procedures</b></p>	<p>1617 Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Free Application for Federal Student Aid</p>	<p>Shall File</p> <p>Shall Provide</p> <p>May Exempt</p>	<p>Beginning with the 2026-2027 School Year/ Prior to Completing High School</p> <p>Beginning with the 2026-2027 School Year</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>44</p>	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>A student, unless exempted, shall file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the United States Department of Education or submit an opt-out form.</p> <p>The parent, legal guardian, or a student who is at least 18 years of age or legally emancipated may opt out of filing the FAFSA by completing and submitting to the school entity an opt-out form developed by PDE.</p> <p>A school entity shall provide a copy of the opt-out form to the parents, legal guardians, and students.</p> <p>A school entity may exempt a student from the requirements if a FAFSA is not complete or if an opt-out form is not completed, if the school entity made a reasonable effort to contact the parent or legal guardian, and provided information on FAFSA.</p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Operations &amp; Transportation</b></p>	<p>Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Construction Contracts, Reconstruction, Repairs, or Work</p>			<p>47</p>	<p><b>Updated Threshold Amounts</b></p> <p>For school districts to contract for construction, reconstruction, repairs, maintenance, or work on any school building or property having a total cost of <b>\$24,500</b> or more, subject to adjustment under section 120, the school district shall seek competitive bids and advertise once a week for three weeks in not less than two newspapers of general circulation.</p> <p>School districts may not contract for services piecemeal to obtain prices under <b>\$24,500</b> to avoid advertising and bidding requirements.</p> <p>Unless exempt by law, at least three written or telephonic price quotations shall be requested for contracts having a total cost value of more than <b>\$13,200*</b> but not less than <b>\$24,500</b>,</p>

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						<p>subject to adjustment under section 120.</p> <p>School district maintenance staff may perform construction, reconstruction, repairs, or work having a total cost or value of less than <b>\$13,200*</b>, subject to adjustment under section 120.</p> <p><i>*15,000 if utilizing funding funds.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Threshold amounts are in effect as of <b>January 1, 2026</b>.</i></p> <p><i>Note: The moratorium for PlanCon 2.0 and the maintenance program has been extended until July 1, 2026.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Operations &amp; Transportation</b></p>	<p>807.1 Act 82 of 2012</p>	<p>Purchase of Supplies</p>			<p>49</p>	<p><b>Updated Threshold Amounts</b></p> <p>For school districts to make purchases of <b>\$24,500</b> or more (subject to adjustment under Section 120), public notice must be given by advertisement once per week for three weeks in two newspapers of general circulation.</p> <p>For any purchases of <b>\$13.200*</b> or more (subject to adjustment under section 120) but less than the amount required for advertised bidding, districts must receive written responses or phone quotes from at least three qualified vendors.</p> <p>School districts may not purchase items piecemeal in an attempt to keep purchases below the <b>\$24,500</b> threshold.</p> <p><i>*\$15,000 if utilizing funding funds.</i></p> <p><i>Note: Threshold amounts are in effect as of <b>January 1, 2026</b>.</i></p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Operations and Transportation</b></p>		<p>Transportation of Pupils</p>	<p>Shall Provide</p>	<p>At All Times</p>	<p>50</p>	<p><b>Revised Content   Clarification</b></p> <p>Any school district that provides transportation for public school students must also provide transportation services to students in the district who attend nonpublic</p>

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						schools within a 10-mile radius of the district’s boundaries, including when the nonpublic school is located out of state. Transportation must be provided on the days and at times the nonpublic school is in regular session, regardless of whether the district is also in session.
Policy & Procedure – Operations and Transportation		Transportation for Charter School Students	Shall Provide	As Needed	50	<p><b>Revised Content   Clarification</b></p> <p>School districts are responsible for providing free transportation for students living in the district and attending a charter school located within their school district of residence, or a regional charter school outside of the district’s boundaries at a distance not to exceed 10 miles by the nearest public highway, on days the charter school is in regular session, regardless of whether the district is also in session.</p> <p><i>(Note: “Free transportation” under the School Code includes public transit and other common carriers.)</i></p>
Policy & Procedure – Operations and Transportation	42 U.S.C. Section 11432	Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness	Shall Provide	As Needed	50	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>A student experiencing homelessness has the right to continue attending the same school the student was attending prior to becoming homeless. This is referred to as the student’s school of origin.</p> <p>A school entity is required, upon parental request, to provide transportation to and from the school of origin, even if the student moves out of the school’s attendance area.</p>
Policy & Procedure – Other	Act 105 of 2024	Older Adult Mentor Volunteer Program (MVP)	Shall Expand	Ongoing	51	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School entities shall expand opportunities for qualified older adult volunteers to work directly with students, before, during, or after school hours, in school buildings and facilities and on school grounds to enable older adults to</p>

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			Shall Furnish	Upon Request		<p>share their professions, skills, and experiences with students and provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest and develop skills, knowledge, and experience in a variety of subjects, trades, and hobbies.</p> <p>School entities shall furnish program applications to older adults upon request.</p> <p><i>Note: A school entity is not required to utilize the services of qualified MVP volunteers or participate in the program beyond the requirements outlined in Section 7(b).</i></p>
<b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Other</b>		Strategic Plans	Shall Post	Upon Approval	51	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p>A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.</p>
<b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Other</b>	24 P.S. Section 4-401 4-402 4-404	Annual Reorganization	Shall Meet/ Reorganize	Annually	52	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>School boards are required to meet and reorganize during the first week of December. During reorganization, school boards seat newly elected members, elect officers, make necessary appointments, and establish a meeting calendar for the year.</p>
<b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Other</b>	511.1 Act 47 of 2025	Admission Fees for School-Sponsored Activities	Shall Accept  May Refuse  Shall Provide	Ongoing  Ongoing  Ongoing	52	<p><b>Added New Section</b></p> <p>If a school entity collects a fee for admission to a school-sponsored activity, cash shall be accepted as payment. The school entity may accept other payment methods.</p> <p>A school entity may refuse to accept payment for admission in a denomination that significantly exceeds the fee amount.</p> <p>If electronic ticketing is the sole method of admission, a school entity shall provide alternative payment methods and designated entry points</p>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
						<p>for individuals who pay in person. A school entity shall make available a support person to assist individuals who experience difficulty using electronic payment systems.</p> <p>A school entity may not impose a surcharge or any other additional fee in excess of the admission fee.</p>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Other</b></p>	<p>Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Funding for Cyber Charter School</p>	<p>Shall Calculate</p>	<p>Annually</p>	<p>56</p>	<p><b>Revised Content</b></p> <p>A cyber charter school student’s school district of residence is responsible for the statutorily set tuition rate.</p> <p><b>Nonspecial Education Tuition Rate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additional deductions were added to the calculation of the existing nonspecial education tuition rate set forth in the School Code section 1725-A(a)(2).</li> <li>• Average Daily Membership: subtract the cyber charter school ADM from the school district’s ADM prior to the rate calculation.</li> <li>• For school districts (other than Class A), the multiplier is 1.</li> </ul> <p><b>Special Education Tuition Rate</b></p> <p>The lesser of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brick and mortar charter school nonspecial education tuition rate plus [selected special education expenditures divided by special education ADM for the prior school year]; or</li> <li>• Cyber nonspecial education tuition rate multiplied by 1.89.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Policy &amp; Procedure – Other</b></p>	<p>Section 1748-A Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Cyber Charter Residency Verification</p>	<p>Shall Submit</p>	<p>By November 1 and March 1 of Each School Year</p>	<p>56</p>	<p><b>Renamed Section   Revised Content</b></p> <p>A parent or guardian of a student enrolled in a cyber charter school must use PDE’s form to submit continued proof of the student’s residence to the cyber charter school and the student’s school district of residence. The notification form for a newly enrolled cyber charter school</p>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
			Shall Notify	Within 10 Days		<p>student shall satisfy the first November or March notification deadline.</p> <p>If the school district determines at any time that a student is not a resident of the school district (i.e., within 10 days of enrollment in the cyber charter school or upon receipt of the Charter School Enrollment Form), the school district shall notify the cyber charter school and PDE that the student is not a resident of the school district. The cyber charter school shall respond within 10 days. If the school district does not agree with the cyber charter school’s determination, the school district shall notify the cyber charter school within 10 days of its response and shall appeal to PDE for a final determination.</p> <p>A cyber charter school that receives notice that a student is no longer a resident of the school district must notify the school district and PDE within 10 days.</p>
Policy & Procedure – Other		Web Content Accessibility	Shall Comply	By April 24, 2026 (Population 50,000 or More) or By April 26, 2027 (Population >50,000)	58	<p><b>Added Content   Clarification</b></p> <p><i>Note: A school district’s compliance date depends upon its population. An intermediate unit’s compliance date depends on the county(ies) population served.</i></p>
Policy & Procedure – Other		Open Meetings	Shall Add	Within 24 Hours	60	<p><b>Revised   Added 4<sup>th</sup> Standalone Exception</b></p> <p>Additions to the agenda not posted may only be made under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For emergency business, which must be “a matter of agency business relating to a real or potential emergency involving a clear and present danger to life or property.”</li> </ul>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
			<p>Shall Vote</p> <p>Must Announce</p> <p>Must Amend</p>	<p>Prior to the Addition</p> <p>Prior to the Vote</p> <p>No Later Than 1 Business Day</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For business arising within 24 hours before the meeting if: “(1) the matter arises or is brought to the attention of the agency within the 24 hours to the meeting” and (2) “the matter is de minimis in nature and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract or agreement by the agency.”</li> <li>• For business arising during the meeting if: “a resident or taxpayer brings a matter of agency business to the attention of the agency, the agency may take official action to refer the matter to staff, if applicable, for the purpose of researching the matter for inclusion on the agenda of a future meeting, or if the matter is de minimis in nature and does not involve the expenditure of funds or entering into a contract or agreement, the agency may take official action on the matter.”</li> <li>• For changes to the agenda, if: “[u]pon majority vote of the individuals present and voting during the conduct of a meeting, an agency may add a matter of agency business to the agenda.”</li> </ul> <p>To implement this fourth exception, entities must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a separate vote to add the matter to the agenda.</li> <li>• Announce the reason for the change to the agenda.</li> <li>• Amend the online agenda and posted agenda to reflect the change. (Reflecting the substance of the matter, the vote on the motion, and the reasons in the minutes of the meeting.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Safety and Security</b></p>	<p>1319-N Act 47 of 2025</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding</p>	<p>Shall Include</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>62</p>	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p>The memorandum of understanding shall include a procedure for timely coordination between its threat</p>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
						assessment team and the law enforcement agency.
School Safety and Security	1303.2 Act 44 of 2025	Possession of Weapons	Shall Notify	Within 24 Hours	63	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p><b>Parental and Employee Notification of Weapon Incidents</b></p> <p>A school entity shall notify parents and guardians and school employees of an incident involving the possession of a weapon on any school property that constitutes a violation of one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Section 1317.2</li> <li>• 18 PA.C.S. Section 912</li> <li>• Locally established policies of the school entity relating to weapons</li> </ul> <p>The notification shall be made using a method of communication that is likely to reach parents, guardians, and school employees.</p> <p>School property includes public school property, a location where a school-sponsored activity is conducted, and a conveyance providing transportation to a school entity, a non-public school, a private school, or a school-sponsored activity.</p>
School Safety and Security	Act 47 of 2025	School Safety and Security Coordinator	<p>Shall Complete</p> <p>Shall Complete</p> <p>Shall Report</p>	<p>Within 1 Year of Appointment</p> <p>As Adopted</p> <p>Beginning June 30, 2026/ Annually Thereafter</p>	65	<p><b>Added Content/Revised Content</b></p> <p>The coordinator shall complete seven hours of training required under section 1316-B.</p> <p>The coordinator shall complete any additional continuing education requirements as adopted by the School Safety and Security Committee.</p> <p>The coordinator shall report to the school entity's board of directors an attendance report of school and building personnel present at school safety and security meetings, including yearly attendance totals.</p>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
			Shall Coordinate	Quarterly		The coordinator shall coordinate school safety and security meetings with school and building leadership.
<b>School Safety and Security</b>	Act 47 of 2025	School Safety and Security Training	Shall Meet	Annually	66	<b>Added Content</b> The coordinator shall meet with school employees for input on the training for the school entity.
<b>School Safety and Security</b>	1305-C Act 47 of 2025	School Police Officers	Shall Complete	Prior to Employment	67	<b>Revised Content</b> A school police officer must complete training for school security personnel in accordance with the standards approved by the commission and with a provider approved in accordance with section 1315-C.
<b>School Safety and Security</b>	1305-C Act 47 of 2025	School Resource Officers	Shall Complete	Prior to Employment	68	<b>Revised Content</b> A school resource officer must complete training for school security personnel in accordance with the standards approved by the commission and with a provider approved in accordance with section 1315-C.
<b>School Safety and Security</b>	Act 47 of 2025	School Security Guards	Shall Complete	Prior to Employment	68	<b>Revised Content</b> A school security guard shall complete training for school security personnel in accordance with the standards approved by the commission and with a provider approved in accordance with section 1315-C.
<b>School Safety and Security</b>	Act 47 of 2025	Safe2Say Something Program	Shall Develop	Ongoing	69	<b>Revised Content</b> Each school entity shall develop a process for assessing, responding to, and disposing of reports within 30 days of receiving them, and for a life safety event, provide a final disposition within 48 hours.

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions
School Safety and Security	Act 47 of 2025	Threat Assessment Teams	<p>Shall be Responsible</p> <p>Shall Include</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	70	<p><b>Added Content (Additional Responsibility/Additional Team Members)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing protocols for timely consultation between the team and law enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, County agencies, health care providers, or behavioral service providers, as appropriate, to refer students whose behavior indicates a potential threat for additional interventions or supports, including the exchange of relevant information in accordance with Federal and State law.</li> <li>An individual who serves on a local or county threat assessment team, if applicable.</li> </ul>
School Safety and Security	Chapter 77 Title 35 Pa. C.S. Section 7701(f)	Disaster Response and Emergency Preparedness Drills	Shall Conduct	Annually	71	<p><b>Added Content</b></p> <p>Schools shall conduct at least one disaster response or emergency preparedness plan drill.</p>
Professional Development		Approval of Induction Plans	<p>Shall Include</p> <p>Shall Post</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Upon Approval</p>	73	<p><b>Revised Content   Added Content</b></p> <p>Induction programs must integrate the Professional Ethics Program Framework Guidelines and cover cultural awareness for new teachers entering a school district.</p> <p>A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.</p>
Professional Development		Cultural Awareness	Shall Include	Ongoing	73	<p><b>Revised Content</b></p> <p>(Culturally Relevant and Sustaining Education (CR-SE) was replaced with Cultural Awareness.)</p> <p>Continuing professional development programs must integrate cultural awareness into the three-year plan.</p>

Heading	Section	Title	Action	Timing	Page #	Highlights of Changes / Revisions												
						School entities are encouraged, but not required, to incorporate the Common Ground Framework into their professional development plans.												
Professional Development		Professional Education Plan	Shall Post	Upon Approval	74	<b>Added Content</b> A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.												
Professional Development		Trauma-Informed Approaches		1 Hour Every 3 Years	75	<b>Revised Content   Clarification</b> <i>Note: Frequency was previously reported as "As Part of Professional Development."</i>												
Professional Development	1503-N Act 47 of 2025	Evidence-Based Reading Instruction	Shall Complete	By 2028-2029	76	<b>Added New Section</b> Educators must complete evidence-based professional development in reading.												
Title 22, Chapter 14 Special Education Services & Programs		Special Education Plan	Shall Post	Upon Approval	77	<b>Added Content</b> A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.												
Title 22, Chapter 14 Special Education Services & Programs	Act 47 of 2025	Reporting Expenditures Relating to Exceptional Students	Shall Compile	Annually	79	<p><b>Revised Content</b></p> <p>For the purposes of reporting expenditures and calculating the costs of educating a special education student, costs shall be in accordance with the PA Department of Education's guidance.</p> <p>School districts and charter schools must report the number of students with disabilities for which expenditures fall in one of five categories. The dollar amounts for the following categories are for the 2024-2025 school year:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Dollar Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1A</td> <td>\$1.00 - \$5,394.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1B</td> <td>\$5,394.79 - \$29,458.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>\$29,458.90 - \$58,917.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3A</td> <td>\$58,917.78 - \$88,376.71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3B</td> <td>\$88,376.72 and over</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Dollar Amount	1A	\$1.00 - \$5,394.78	1B	\$5,394.79 - \$29,458.89	2	\$29,458.90 - \$58,917.77	3A	\$58,917.78 - \$88,376.71	3B	\$88,376.72 and over
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						<i>Note: Appendix AJ of the PIMS User Manual, Vol. 2, exhibits the complete list of monetary values.</i>
<b>Title 22, Chapter 16 Special Education For Gifted Students</b>		Gifted Education Plan	Shall Post	Upon Approval	91	<b>Added Content</b> A school entity shall post the plan approved by its governing board on its publicly accessible website.
<b>Act 1 of 2006 (Special Session) Taxpayer Relief Act</b>		Public Referendum Requirements for Increasing Certain Taxes	Shall Determine	Annually	99	<b>Revised Content</b> For FY 2025-2026, the base index is 4.0%. For FY 2026-2027, the base index will be 3.5%.
<b>At A Glance State Mandates for Public School Districts</b>		School District Websites			100	<b>Revised Content   Clarification</b>  <b>School District Websites</b> should include a repository of all policies and procedures and meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1 standards), with limited exceptions, by April 24, 2026, or April 26, 2027, depending on the entity's population.
<b>At A Glance Major Federal Regulations Impacting K-12 Education</b>		Mandated Training Hours for Educators			101	<b>Revised Content   Clarification</b>  Trauma-Informed Approaches – 1 Hour / 3 Years

*This summary highlights the most noteworthy and significant revisions within the State Mandates document. Concurrently, additional edits were applied to improve formatting and clarity, without altering the original intent of the regulations or School Code. Non-substantive adjustments were made to improve document readability, but are not explicitly detailed in this summary.*

*However, to support clarity and consistency in understanding the mandates outlined in this document, the following terms—**ongoing**, **may**, **must**, **shall**, and **should**—are defined to reflect their intended legal and practical meanings and found on page two of the State Mandates document.*

*These interpretations align with Pennsylvania's rules of statutory construction and established legal drafting practices. They help determine when an action is required, permissible, or advisable, supporting consistent understanding and implementation of mandates.*

**Ongoing**

- **Definition:** Continuing or recurring at regular intervals.
- **Usage:** Indicates a continuous duty or obligation. The statute or regulation should specify the frequency (e.g., annually or monthly).

**May**

- **Definition:** Permissive; denotes discretion or choice.
- **Usage:** Indicates that an action is allowed but not required. It gives the subject (e.g., a school entity) the option to act or not act.  
Example: A school may offer online training.

**Must**

- **Definition:** Mandatory; required.
- **Usage:** Expresses a legal obligation. "Must" is preferred in legal drafting for clarity and precision when a duty is imposed. It is considered clearer and less ambiguous than "shall."

**Shall**

- **Definition:** Traditionally used to indicate a mandatory requirement.
- **Usage:** Still common in statutes to denote obligation, but increasingly viewed as outdated or unclear. Its interpretation depends on context and is sometimes misused to mean 'future tense' or 'permission'. Where clarity is needed, "must" is often preferred.  
Example: A school entity shall provide 180 days of instruction.

**Should**

- **Definition:** Recommended; encouraged but not required.
- **Usage:** Expresses a best practice, advice, or policy preference. It does not impose a legal obligation, but it implies that the action is advisable.

**Resources**

[101 Pa. Code Chapter 13. General Provisions](#) (Legislative Drafting Manual by Legislative Reference Bureau of Pennsylvania)  
[Statutory Interpretation: Theories, Tools, and Trends](#) (Congressional Research Service)



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# STATE MANDATES

## Summary of Revisions

February 2026

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