



## ***PARSS Legislative Update April 10, 2025***

### ***A Quick Look at Education Legislation Moving in the General Assembly; Sports Participation by Gender Bill Ready for a Vote in Senate***

Both chambers are back at work after reorganizing in January followed by a month of appropriations hearings. This session is not unusual in a slow start; historically it is not a high activity period. Looking at the last five years, a total of 29 new laws were enacted with a high of 14 in 2022 and zero the following year.

To date the most significant education bill moving is [Senate Bill 9](#) which creates the Fairness in Women's Sport Act. The bill mandates that school (k-12 and State System Universities) "athletic teams or sports designated for females, women or girls may not be open to students of the male sex" as determined at birth. The bill came out of the Senate Education Committee by a straight party line vote and is in position for a floor vote following second consideration in the Senate. You can read more on the bill from the prime sponsor, Senator Judy Ward (R-Blair), by [clicking here](#).

So far, the House has voted on three bills approved by the House Education Committee that have been referred to the Senate Education Committee for consideration. [House Bill 190](#), which requires the Departments of Health and Education to develop eating disorder awareness and education for pupils in grades six through twelve to parents, guardians, and key school personnel, passed the House by a vote of 161-41 on February 3. More details on the bill are [available here](#). Also moved to the Senate were House Bills 201 and 354. [House Bill 201](#) provides authority for intermediate units to purchase land

and buildings for instructional use. Currently IUs can only lease land and buildings for instructional use. This legislation also passed the House on March 3 on a vote of 155-47. You can read more details about this legislation by [clicking here](#).

This week the House sent [House Bill 354](#) to the Senate by a margin of 190-13. This legislation directs PDE to “develop and make available to each school entity guidelines regarding ‘What Is Your Pennsylvania Story’ that the school entity may implement for instruction in social studies.” The bill is designed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States by encouraging “students to share their personal experiences and connections to both Pennsylvania and the United States,” For more details on the legislation [click here](#).

The Senate has moved one bill out of the Senate Education Committee and onto the House after a unanimous floor vote. [Senate Bill 315](#) would align data used to determine equipment grants to Career and Technical Centers (CTCs) with the timing now used for calculating Basic Education Funding, Special Education Funding, and state subsidies to CTCs. The data used for equipment grants would have to be final on June 1 for grants distributed the following school year. Here are [more details on the bill](#).

The House will return to Harrisburg following the holiday break on April 22. The Senate is already recessed until May 5.