

PA EdVentures



April's EdVentures: Remake Learning Days, Flexible Instruction Day Survey, & Purple Star School Designation Information!

In April, PDE team members celebrated and recognized several events throughout the Commonwealth, including [National Library Week](#), [World Book Day](#), and [Autism Awareness Month](#).

This month, members of the [State Board of Higher Education](#) continued their statewide stakeholder engagement tour at Saint Joseph's University & Community College of Allegheny County. These meetings continue to foster discussions with community leaders on the creation of a new strategic plan for higher education in Pennsylvania, ensuring all have access to affordable, world-class secondary education.



Purple Star School Designation Information

Purple Star Schools is a program that supports military-connected children as they relocate to new schools due to a parent's change in duty station. This designation is given to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and Private/Non-public schools for their commitment to serving active-duty military families and students. If your LEA or school is interested in applying for this designation and serving military families and military connected students, email RA-EDMILITARYFAMK12@pa.gov to request an application.

The application period is open from April 1, 2025, through August 1, 2025. To learn more about the Purple Star Schools application process, visit PDE's [Purple Star Schools webpage](#).

Information Regarding Penn State PRO Wellness Healthy Champions Program

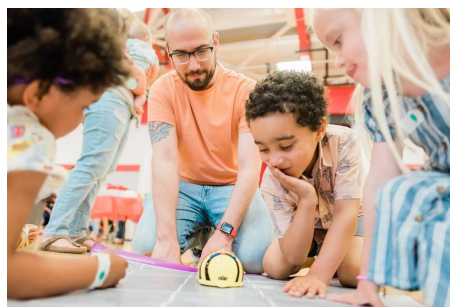
Penn State PRO Wellness and the GIANT Company present...

The Healthy Champions program is a FREE initiative that assists school health leaders with fostering an environment that supports children's health and wellbeing. Schools select a representative (e.g., School Nurse, Health Teacher, Principal) to complete a 10–15-minute School Health Assessment. After, the enrolled school, or "Champion," will receive an evidence-based Star Status Report evaluating their school health climate alongside the following **free** health education materials:

- A welcome email in fall 2025
- An All-Star Kit in fall 2025, mailed to the address provided. This kit includes:
 - 2025/2026 Infographic Poster
 - Signature Events Infographic Posters
 - Healthy Champions Certificate
 - Exclusive Access to the Healthy Champions Resource Portal for the 2025/2026 School Year

The enrollment window for the 2025/2026 School Year is open now until June 27, 2025. [Take your School Health Assessment today!](#)

For any questions, please email PROWellness@pennstatehealth.psu.edu or visit the [Penn State PRO Wellness website](#) for additional information.



Join Us for Remake Learning Days Across PA from May 1-23, 2025!

Celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2025, [Remake Learning Days](#) (RLD) is a global learning festival that brings families, kids, community leaders, and educators together to share the benefits of collaborative, hands-on learning. Founded in 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA by [Remake Learning](#), this celebration highlights transformative experiences and opportunities for youth to develop their sense of creativity, perseverance, curiosity, and fun alongside others. Between May 1-23, the festival features 750+ FREE hands-on learning events designed for kids of all ages. Across Pennsylvania, events will be hosted at libraries, schools, tech centers, parks, museums, play spaces, community centers and more. Youth and families can choose from a variety of activities such as recording podcasts, programming robots, creating art, exploring the outdoors and more. Explore the [events calendar](#) now to find an event that works for you.

Through seven festivals hosted across the Commonwealth, RLD collaborates on several [statewide initiatives](#) including the Career Ready PA Backpack Challenge, providing K-12 learners an opportunity to earn artifacts for their career portfolios, as well as state agency events through the PA Department of Education, PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Labor and Industry, PA Council on the Arts, Office of Commonwealth Libraries, Career and Technical Education, Game Commission, PA FFA Foundation, PA STEM Lab, and more.

Parents and youth can participate as [Ambassadors](#), and schools can partner virtually with other schools in the STEM design challenge, [discoverED](#). As part of the PAsmart initiative, RLD helps provide a touchpoint and deeper experiences centered on employability skills, STEM hands-on learning, and career readiness, as well as provides equitable access for all youth and families to free and live events across the Commonwealth.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Education Programs and Resources

Young Ambassador Program: Students in grades 10 -12 are invited to apply for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's Young Ambassadors program. Ambassadors will train and network with industry leaders, state agencies, local media and the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful network to prepare them to be difference-makers in their communities by building their leadership and problem-solving skills. Job shadow days will also be available to select Ambassadors. Applicants should be passionate about the environment and committed to restoring and protecting Pennsylvania's ecological landscape through volunteerism and leadership. **Applications are being accepted April 1 through June 10.** For additional information, [please visit the Young Ambassadors of Pennsylvania webpage](#).

Open Your Eyes to Litter in a Watershed: Revisions to the activity book, [Open Your Eyes to Litter in a Watershed](#), are complete! Designed for kids in grades 2-4, the book focuses on how illegal dumping and littering affects watersheds. The book includes vocabulary, activities, journal prompts and fun activities that reinforce the concept of a watershed and how litter impacts the people and animals who live there. The book, in English and Spanish, and its teachers guide are available to download on the [Open Your Eyes to Litter webpage](#).

Litter Free School Zone: Schools in Pennsylvania can keep their school grounds litter free with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's [Litter Free School Zone Program](#). The program encourages hands-on activities to teach environmental stewardship and responsibility and can be combined with a lesson on how litter affects animals, people, water quality or economics. Responsibilities include planning two litter sweeps per school year and can include supporting activities like creating and caring for pollinator and rain gardens. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful provides a Litter Free School Zone sign and supplies of gloves and vests! For additional information and to complete an application, please visit the [Litter Free School Zone Agreement form](#).



**TEACH
+PLUS**

Consider Applying to the Teach Plus Pennsylvania Teaching Policy Fellowship

Teach Plus Pennsylvania is currently accepting applications for the [2025-26 Pennsylvania Teaching Policy Fellowship](#). This highly selective leadership opportunity is a **paid** fellowship for 30 outstanding Pennsylvania teachers looking to deepen their knowledge of education policy and amplify the voices of teacher leaders in Pennsylvania.

To learn more and apply, please visit the [Pennsylvania Policy Fellowship webpage](#). If you would like to nominate teachers, please visit the [Teach Plus Pennsylvania Nomination form](#).

Flexible Instructional Days (FID) Survey Now Available

As per Section 1506 of the Public School Code, the Department of Education is required to issue an annual survey on the efficacy of flexible instructional days (FID) to each public school entity with an accepted application for the 2024-25 school year.

A SurveyMonkey link will be sent to the Superintendent/CEOs/Directors of all those public school entities by no later than April 30, 2025. The survey must be submitted by **June 30, 2025**, *regardless of whether an FID was implemented during the 2024-25 school year*. Please check your spam or junk mail folder because some email security settings will direct SurveyMonkey surveys to these folders or in some cases, a setting can be assigned to opt-out of surveys, preventing you from submitting this required survey.

Questions or issues accessing the survey should be directed to RA-FID@pa.gov.

Thank you in advance for your participation!



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