

PA EdVentures



August's EdVentures: Updated PDE 427 Forms, PA State Grant Digital Toolkit, & More!

This July saw the return of the [PA SUN Bucks program](#), with applications still open now through August 31. SUN Bucks serves as the Commonwealth's Summer EBT program that provides households with a one-time payment for each eligible child to buy food while school is out. Earlier in July, Acting Secretary Dr. Carrie Rowe also visited the Gettysburg Area School District to highlight the [importance of keeping students fed during summer months with free, nutritious meals](#).

As we return to school, we encourage all school districts to take advantage of free resources and information, including the [Safe2Say Something program](#), [PennDOT's School Bus Safety Toolkit](#), and [the Office of School Climate and Well-Being webpage](#).



PDE 427 Forms Now Available

Revised PDE 427 Forms Now Available

The PDE 427 form is the summative assessment form that an LEA is to complete when an educator is being evaluated to adjust their certification level from an Instructional I to Instructional II or Educational Specialist I to Educational Specialist II. The 427 Form has been revised and split into two separate forms, one specifically for Classroom Teachers and another for Non-Teaching Professionals.

PDE 427a: This form is for Classroom Teachers and uses language from the Classroom Teacher Framework for Observation and Practice. This form is used when a teacher is being evaluated to move from an Instructional I to an Instructional II certification.

PDE 427b: This form is for Non-Teaching Professionals and uses language from the Non-Teaching Professional Framework for Observation and Practice. This form is used when a non-teaching professional is being evaluated to move from an Educational Specialist I to an Educational Specialist II certification.

Both forms are completed by the educator's evaluator and must be kept in the educator's personnel file at the LEA.

For additional forms and information, please visit the Certification — [Fees and Forms](#) webpage.



PA State Grant Toolkit

With the 2025-26 academic year fast approaching for many institutions, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has been actively monitoring 2025-26 PA State Grant completion rates since the process launched in early June 2025. While many PA State Grant applicants have successfully completed their 2025-26 PA State Grant record, a significant number still need to take action. We continue to email students regularly to encourage them to act, and **PHEAA is now also asking for help in communicating with students who graduated in 2025** to ensure they do not miss out on their PA State Grant.

We are excited to announce the [PA State Grant Program Communication Toolkit](#). Schools and partners can use the toolkit items to remind students about the PA State Grant Program and to encourage them to apply. The PA State Grant Program Communication Toolkit includes social media posts and images, newsletter content, email templates, and more!

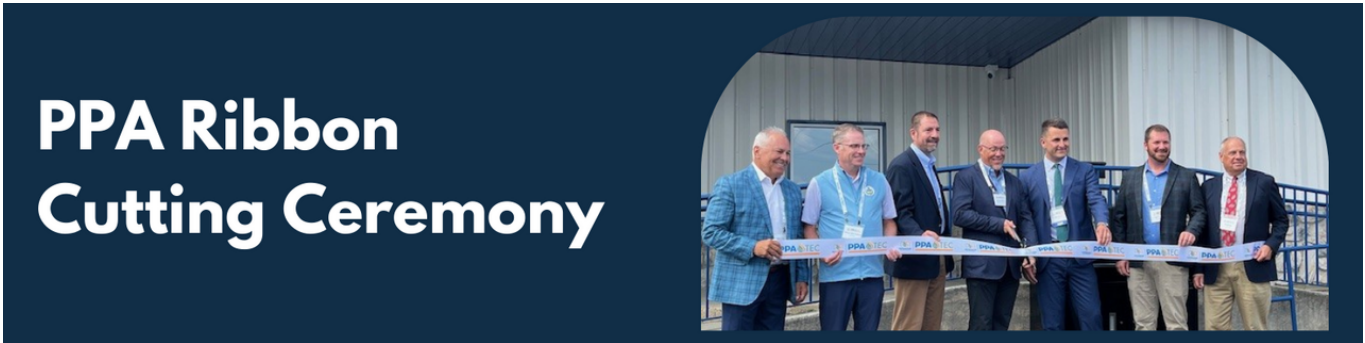
Please encourage students to sign in to [Account Access](#) to complete their certification signatures or the SGF as soon as possible so their 2025-26 PA State Grant eligibility can be determined.

Recognizing August 1 as PA Donor Day

Governor Shapiro [issued a proclamation](#) designating August 1, 2025 as Pennsylvania Donor Day. This proclamation recognized how organ and tissue donation acts as a life-saving and life-enhancing opportunity, with each donation potentially saving up to eight lives and healing the lives of seventy-five others.

Did you know PDE overseas the Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness (OTDA) program grant through the Governor Robert P. Casey Memorial Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness Trust fund?

For additional information, individuals can visit the [IU-13 Organ and Tissue Donation Awareness website](#) and learn more about the 2025 Organ Donation PSA Contest winning video, training opportunities, and additional resources.



Grand Opening of PPATEC Training Facility Held

The Pennsylvania Petroleum Association (PPA) recently celebrated the completion of a 12,000+ sq ft building located in Grantville, PA. This location now serves as the association headquarters and operates the training facility of the Pennsylvania Petroleum Association Technical Education Center ([PPATEC](#)), a Pennsylvania Private Licensed School. The \$2.5 million project features significant building renovations and customized technical training equipment. The move makes PPATEC one of the largest industry-owned and operated trade schools in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Approximately 9,000 sq ft of the existing building is dedicated to training related activities, establishing five (5) live-fire labs and three (3) classrooms in addition to numerous outdoor spaces. In total, the new property triples the capacity of PPATEC’s current offerings and creates expanded space to pursue its core competency of hands-on technical training solutions. The lab designs include a robust expansion of air conditioning, electrical, heat pump, gas-fired systems, oil-fired systems, and propane appliances already offered by PPATEC. Additional lab space is dedicated to the buildout of new training offerings for equipment installation/replacement, light commercial, and plumbing applications.

The facility will position PPATEC to offer more hands-on technical training solutions for individuals employed in the HVAC and energy industry. PPATEC also operates a postsecondary entry-level career training institution licensed by the State Board of Private Licensing Schools and is approved by the VA to accept GI Bill® benefits.



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