

PA EdVentures



February 2025: A Message from Acting Secretary Rowe, State Library America250 Resources, and OCDEL Early Childhood Ed Conference Registration Information!

This February, we marked the second annual [Governor's School Breakfast Challenge with a visit to Brookville Area School District](#), highlighting the importance on nutrition in student success. We also celebrated Ashlie Crosson, Pennsylvania's 2025 Teacher of the Year, as she was [named as one of the four finalists of the National Teacher of the Year](#) by Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

We also recognized Career and Technical Education (CTE) month, which included a standout moment, watching a former PA student from Southern Columbia Area School District take the stage on ABC's *Shark Tank*, where he pitched his [STEM-focused company, Lectec](#), which manufactures assembly kits for electric skateboards, scooters, and more -- engaging users in engineering, physics and sustainability processes in innovative ways.



From the Secretary's Desk

I am honored to be nominated to lead the Department of Education in service of the Commonwealth's learners, educators, librarians, and communities. I look forward to working with Governor Shapiro, the General Assembly, and partners in the field to ensure that all Pennsylvania learners have access to a world-class education and library system and all of the possibilities they bring.

While we have a lot of exciting things to celebrate—like the governor’s proposed investments in public education at all levels—we also have a lot of hard work to do. Together, we will continue to provide a world-class education to learners from all walks of life and from all corners of the Commonwealth, all having one thing in common—they are the future of Pennsylvania.

C. Rowe

Publicly Placed Student Complaints Public Notice

Publicly Placed Student Complaints Public Notice

The Pennsylvania Department of Education is dedicated to equality, so all students in the Commonwealth have access to a high-quality, safe, and appropriate education, regardless of location. To ensure parity for one of the most vulnerable populations, the Department has created a Publicly Placed Complaint process to be utilized by anyone to raise concerns regarding the education and treatment of school-aged students placed by a court or child welfare agency in a facility with an on-grounds school or educational program.

Under this system, the Department will review and, to the extent permitted by law, investigate complaints regarding the education of publicly placed students. With notice from concerned persons in the Commonwealth, the Department will increase the oversight of all publicly placed students attending on-grounds schools or on-grounds educational programs. For additional information or information on how to submit a Publicly Placed Education Complaint, please visit the [Publicly Placed Complaint webpage](#).

Publicly Placed Complaint | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



2025 Lyme Art Contest Now Open For Students in Grades 1-6

The Shapiro Administration invites first through sixth grade students in Pennsylvania to enter the 2025 Lyme Disease Student Art Contest by creating a short video or poster focusing on the theme: “Protect. Check. Remove.”

The annual contest helps students, scout troops, and community youth programs learn how to prevent Lyme disease by educating them about ticks, including where they live, how to prevent bites, and how to remove ticks that do bite.

The deadline for entries is 11:59 PM, March 14, 2025. [Contest information](#) can be found on the [Department of Health's website](#).

2025 Lyme Art Contest Poster



State Library Provides Primary Sources to Learn about America250

The State Library of Pennsylvania invites you to engage with its unique collections and explore what Pennsylvania was like 250 years ago, when leaders gathered in Philadelphia to sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Interact with primary sources selected from the collections of the State Library to illustrate various themes of Pennsylvania from its inception to about 1800. Through the lens of historical works such as Benjamin Franklin's newspaper *The Pennsylvania Gazette*, the publications of the period shine a light on what Pennsylvanians were thinking, feeling, and doing as our nation was forming.

This project by the State Library of Pennsylvania is part of a larger initiative, [America250](#), and its counterpart specifically for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, [America250PA](#).

Explore more about the commonwealth in the colonial, revolution, and early republic eras on the State Library's [America250 digital exhibition webpage](#).

Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Process (FRCPP) Hosting Open Office Hours

The Future Ready Comprehensive Planning Process (FRCPP) has begun hosting open office hours. These sessions will address frequently asked questions as well as an opportunity for attendees to ask questions relative to FRCPP.

Beginning February 5th, open office hours for FRCPP support will be held from **2:30 - 3:30 pm** on the **1st Wednesday of each month** via Teams.

Teams Meeting ID: 215 061 850 632 Passcode: jes6AG

In addition, Act 45 open officer hours are also being provided. These sessions will address frequently asked questions as well as an opportunity for attendees to ask questions relative to Act 45 and the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership (PIL) program.

Open office hours for Act 45 and PIL support will be held from **10am to 11am** on the **4th Wednesday of each month** via Teams.

Teams Meeting ID: 251 629 634 856 Passcode: xt627Ct6

A banner image featuring a white background with various colorful children's toys scattered around. On the left, there are several colored pencils (blue, yellow, orange, pink) and a black pencil. On the right, there are colorful geometric shapes (blue, orange, purple, green) with holes, resembling building blocks or toys. The text "OCDEL Early Childhood Education Conference Registration" is centered in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

OCDEL Early Childhood Education Conference Registration

OCDEL Early Childhood Education Conference Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2025 Pennsylvania Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) Early Childhood Education Conference, *Stable and Secure: Supporting Children Through Trauma Sensitive Approaches*. This two-day conference is scheduled for April 22-23, 2025, at the Wyndham Grand Pittsburgh Downtown in Pittsburgh, PA and is free for attendees. In addition, up to two overnight rooms will also be paid for by OCDEL. This conference is open to all child care providers, but due to attendance limitations prioritized attendance will be for early childhood directors and teachers. Registration is limited to two staff per program.

The conference is a transformative event, focused on deepening our understanding of child and adult well-being through trauma-sensitive approaches. This unique gathering brings together experts, practitioners, and educators, committed to creating stable and secure environments for young children, their families, and the adults who serve them. Attendees will be able to earn professional development credits including Act 48 and PA ECE Registry hours.

For additional information and to register for the conference, please visit the [PA KEYS OCDEL Conference webpage](#).



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