

PA EdVentures



Photo taken from this year's [2025 Keystone Challenge Academy graduation](#).

June's EdVentures: School Bus Safety Grants, College Application "Last Call for Fall", and More!

This June, Acting Secretary Rowe joined middle school students at [Cumberland Perry Area Career and Technical Center](#) for their middle school summer camp to learn about different hands-on programs while highlighting the Shapiro Administration's dedication to providing increased funding for Career & Technology Centers throughout the Commonwealth.

Additionally, over [\\$3.6 million in grant funding was awarded to 14 educational entities](#) to increase literacy in families and help learners of all ages thrive and continue lifelong educational experiences. PDE also [recognized 15 postsecondary institutes for their commitment to preventing suicide and promoting mental health](#) and wellness for their learners through the newly formed PA CARES recognition program.



From the Secretary's Desk

As the school year wraps up and graduation celebrations come to a close, I want to thank you for the vital work you do to support students, educators, and families across Pennsylvania. While many assume summer is a quiet time in education, we know better. Whether you're running summer programs, planning for the year ahead, managing building upgrades, or leading professional learning, your work continues, albeit at a different rhythm. I know that your leadership during these months is critical to setting schools up for success.

At the Department, our work continues, also. In response to your feedback, we're working to remove outdated barriers, clarify staffing guidelines, and align library regulations with today's needs. These changes are being designed to give you greater flexibility and confidence in addressing staffing demands and resolving other

complexities. We're also monitoring state and federal budget developments closely and participating in key conversations. As soon as we have firm updates, we'll share them with you.

Thank you for your steady commitment to public education and public libraries. So much of your impact happens behind the scenes, but its reach is long lasting. Please know that your work is seen, valued, and appreciated.

C. Rowe

LAST CALL FOR FALL



College Application "Last Call for Fall" To Be Held July 10

The Pennsylvania College Application Campaign's "Last Call for Fall", sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, will take place this July at community colleges across the state. As part of the American College Application Campaign (ACAC) initiative, this program seeks to increase the number of first-time college applicants--especially first-generation college students, students from low-income families, and students who may not otherwise consider college.

"Last Call for Fall" offers a last-chance opportunity for graduating seniors and community members, to apply to college while financial aid is still available for this fall. Students planning to attend community colleges must submit their FAFSA by August 1 to be eligible for Pennsylvania State Grant funding.

Additional information and locations will be announced on the [PDE's Pennsylvania College Application Campaign webpage](#).



Nominations Now Open for Cooperative Education Coordinator of the Year

Pennsylvania Cooperative Education Association (PCEA) is seeking nominations for the Cooperative Education Coordinator of the Year. To be nominated, the Co-Op Coordinator must have made exceptional contributions and dedication to excellence, served at least five years in cooperative education, and must be a member of the PCEA.

The deadline for nominations is **September 26, 2025**. To nominate your outstanding Co-Op Coordinator, please send your letter of nomination to Shelly Ishler at sji11@scasd.org.

Winners of Middle School Civics Bee Announced

This June, 24 middle school students throughout the Commonwealth participated in the Pennsylvania State Finals of the National Civics Bee. These students came together to showcase their civics knowledge and present innovative ideas to improve their communities. Co-chaired by PA Chamber of Business and Industry President and CEO Luke Bernstein and Pennsylvania Lt. Governor Austin Davis, the event highlighted the critical importance of reversing the national decline in civics knowledge and fostering a new generation of informed, engaged, and civil leaders.

- Finalists from the 2025 PA State Finals included:
- First Place:** Millicent Godoy, Hershey Middle School
 - Second Place:** Cooper Palma, Mt. Nittany Middle School
 - Third Place:** Mihir Pilgaonkar, St. Ignatius Loyola Regional School

As state champion, Millicent will represent Pennsylvania at the National Civics Bee in Washington, D.C. this fall, competing against top students from across the country.



School Bus Safety Grants Now Available

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced that \$1.2 million is available in a new grant program to help increase school bus safety. These funds are made available through the newly established School Bus Safety Grant Program.

Grants from the program can be used to promote and increase school bus safety, education, and training, as well as pay for education, training, and other associated costs related to an individual earning their commercial learner's permit, commercial driver's license, or school bus endorsement for the purpose of driving a school bus in Pennsylvania.

Independent school bus contractors, school entities, and municipalities are eligible to apply for grants from the program. Eligible organizations can apply online at grants.pa.gov beginning June 2 through midnight on **July 3, 2025**.

Program information can be found online at [PennDOT's School Bus Safety webpage](#). Application questions should be emailed to RA-PDASBEGP@pa.gov.



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