

Timeline for Events Related to 2026 and 2027 Calendar Year Budget Process

Special Session Act 1 of 2006

Dates in Timeline Apply Only to Pittsburgh SD and Scranton SD

Date	Description	Section
September 1, 2025 (Annual deadline)	Department of Education publishes the 2026-2027 base index in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The 2026-2027 index applies to the 2027 calendar year.	Section 333(l)
September 30, 2025 (Annual deadline)	Department of Education notifies school districts of their 2026-2027 adjusted index.	Section 313(2)
No later than December 1, 2025	School District deadline to adopt 2026 proposed version of the final budget and upload the Certification of Use document into the Consolidated Financial Reporting System (CFRS) application.	Section 687(a)(1) (School Code)
December 1, 2025	Deadline for school districts to report to the Department of Community and Economic Development, tax enactments, repeals, and changes to require withholding of a new tax, withholding at a new rate or to suspend withholding of such tax effective January 1, 2026.	Section 351(f)(2)
December 11, 2025 (20 days prior to final budget adoption deadline)	School district deadline to make 2026 proposed version of the final budget available for public inspection.	Section 312(c)
December 15, 2025 (Annual deadline)	School districts with residents paying tax on compensation imposed by Philadelphia under the authority of the Sterling Act certify to the Department of Education the total amount of 2024 tax credits provided based on the tax rate of the school district. (Applies only to school districts that had an earned income and net profits tax in the 2024 calendar year.)	Sections 503(b)(2); 324(2)
December 21, 2025 (10 days prior to final budget adoption deadline)	School district deadline to offer public notice of the intent to adopt the 2026 final budget.	Section 312(c)
December 30, 2025	Department of Education deadline to notify school districts of school year AFR data to be used when calculating referendum exception in Section 333(f)(2)(v).	Section 333(j)(4)
December 31, 2025 (Annual deadline)	School district deadline to adopt the 2026 final budget.	Section 312(a)

Taxpayer Relief Act, SS Act 1 of 2006: Timeline for Events Related to 2026 and 2027 Calendar Year Budget Process

Date	Description	Section
December 31, 2025 (60 days prior to March 1 application deadline)	School districts send notification, by first class mail, to owner of each parcel of residential property – which can be limited to owners who are not currently approved or whose approval is due to expire – stating that the owner must submit a completed application to county assessor to qualify for homestead exclusion. Mailing must include application, instructions, and deadline to apply.	Section 341(b)
January 15, 2026 (Annual deadline)	School district deadline to submit 2026 final budget to Department of Education in the CFRS application.	Section 687(b) (School Code)
No later than March 1, 2026 (Annual deadline)	Deadline for homeowners to file a homestead application (and, if applicable, a farmstead application) with county assessor indicating property is owner-occupied. Resubmission of application required no more than one time every three years. No application fee for filing. (See December 31, 2025.)	Sections 341(c), (e), (i)
April 15, 2026 (Annual deadline)	Secretary of the Budget certifies the total amount of revenue in the Property Tax Relief Fund and the Property Tax Relief Reserve Fund and the total amount available for distribution in 2026-2027.	Sections 503(a)(1), (e)
April 20, 2026 (Annual deadline)	Secretary of the Budget notifies Department of Education whether it is authorized to provide school districts with property tax allocations under Section 505.	Section 503(d)
May 1, 2026 (Annual deadline)	Department of Education notifies school districts of the amount of their state allocation of property tax reduction funding. This only occurs if the Secretary of the Budget certifies, by April 15, 2026, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts in 2026-2027.	Section 505(a)(4)
May 1, 2026 (Annual deadline)	Assessor provides each school district with a certified report with information on homestead and farmstead properties, as provided in 53 Pa CS §8584(i).	Section 341(g)(3)
No later than May 31, 2026 (Optional action)	Deadline for school districts electing to adopt resolution rejecting 2026-2027 property tax allocation. This action can only occur if the Department of Education has notified school districts by May 1, 2026, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts in 2026-2027.	Section 903(a)
June 1, 2026	Deadline for school districts to report, to the Department of Community and Economic Development, tax enactments, repeals, and changes to require withholding of a new tax, withholding at a new rate or to suspend withholding of such tax effective July 1, 2026.	Section 351(f)(1)
June 5, 2026	School district deadline to submit copy of resolution (if adopted) rejecting 2026-2027 property tax allocation to Department of Education in the CFRS application. (See May 31, 2026.)	Section 903(b)

Taxpayer Relief Act, SS Act 1 of 2006: Timeline for Events Related to 2026 and 2027 Calendar Year Budget Process

Date	Description	Section
July 16, 2026 <i>(110 days prior to general election)</i>	School district deadline to make 2027 proposed preliminary budget available for public inspection or adopt resolution pursuant to Section 311(d)(1) indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.	Sections 311(c); 311(d)(1)
July 21, 2026 <i>(5 days after resolution adoption)</i>	School district deadline to submit a copy of resolution adopted pursuant to 311(d)(1) and proposed tax rate increases to Department of Education in the CFRS application.	Section 311(d)(2)
July 26, 2026 <i>(10 days prior to preliminary budget adoption deadline)</i>	School district deadline to give public notice of the intent to adopt the 2027 preliminary budget unless resolution was adopted under Section 311(d)(1) indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax by more than its index.	Section 311(c)
July 31, 2026 <i>(10 days after receipt of resolution)</i>	Department of Education deadline to notify school districts that adopted a resolution pursuant to Section 311(d)(1) whether the 2027 proposed tax rates are equal to or less than their Index.	Section 311(d)(4)
No later than August 4, 2026 <i>(60 days after receipt of resolution)</i>	Department of Education deadline to notify election officials of each county of the school districts in that county that have taken action to reject their 2026-2027 State property tax relief allocation under Section 903(a). (See May 31, 2026.)	Section 904(b)
August 5, 2026 <i>(90 days prior to general election)</i>	School district deadline to adopt the 2027 preliminary budget unless resolution adopted under Section 311(d)(1).	Section 311(a)
August 10, 2026 <i>(85 days prior to general election)</i>	School district deadline to submit 2027 preliminary budget containing proposed tax rate increases to Department of Education in the CFRS application.	Section 333(e)
August 13, 2026 <i>(1 week prior to filing of request for referendum exception)</i>	School district deadline to publish notice in newspaper of intent to request approval from Department of Education for a referendum exception.	Section 333(j)(2)
August 20, 2026 <i>(75 days prior to general election)</i>	Department of Education deadline to notify school districts that submitted 2027 preliminary budget whether the proposed tax rates are equal to or less than their Index.	Section 333(e)
August 20, 2026 <i>(75 days prior to general election)</i>	School district deadline to seek approval from Department of Education for referendum exceptions requiring their approval.	Section 333(j)

Taxpayer Relief Act, SS Act 1 of 2006: Timeline for Events Related to 2026 and 2027 Calendar Year Budget Process

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August 27, 2026	Department of Education pays school districts 50 percent of their state allocation of property tax reduction funding. This only occurs if the Secretary of the Budget certifies, by April 15, 2026, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts in 2026-2027.	Section 505(b)
September 4, 2026 (60 days prior to general election)	School district deadline to submit referendum question seeking voter approval of tax rate increase in excess of index to the county board of elections unless request for referendum exception has been submitted to Department of Education. If the school district's proposed tax rate increase would exceed the index even if all its referendum exception requests were approved, and if it intends to submit a referendum question for that part of the tax rate increase, it must do so by this date.	Section 333(c)(3)
September 9, 2026 (55 days prior to general election)	Deadline for Department of Education to issue ruling on school district's petition for referendum exception.	Section 333(j)(5)
September 14, 2026 (50 days prior to general election)	School district deadline, if the Department of Education denies all or a part of the school district's request for referendum exception, to submit to the county board of elections referendum question seeking voter approval of tax rate increase in excess of index for the portion of the referendum exception request denied.	Section 333(j)(5)
October 22, 2026	Department of Education pays school districts 50 percent of their state allocation of property tax reduction funding. This only occurs if the Secretary of the Budget certifies, by April 15, 2026, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts in 2026-2027.	Section 505(b)
Prior to November 3, 2026	Municipal election. County election officials, in conjunction with board of school directors, shall draft a non-legal interpretive statement to accompany referendum question that references items of expenditure for which tax rate increases are being sought. (See September 4 or 14, 2026)	Section 333(c)(4)
Prior to November 3, 2026	Municipal election. For school districts that rejected 2026-2027 state property tax relief allocation, county election officials shall place a referendum question on the ballot for voters to determine if the school district will be eligible to receive State property tax relief allocation in 2026-2027. In addition, county election officials, in conjunction with the school board, shall draft a non-legal interpretive statement to accompany the referendum question. (See May 31 and August 4, 2026)	Sections 904(c), (d)

Taxpayer Relief Act, SS Act 1 of 2006: Timeline for Events Related to 2026 and 2027 Calendar Year Budget Process

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No later than December 1, 2026	School District deadline to adopt 2027 proposed version of the final budget and upload the signed Certification of Use into the CFRS application.	Section 687(a)(1) (School Code)
December 1, 2026	Deadline for school districts to report to the Department of Community and Economic Development, tax enactments, repeals, and changes to require withholding of a new tax, withholding at a new rate or to suspend withholding of such tax effective January 1, 2027.	Section 351(f)(2)
December 11, 2026 <i>(20 days prior to final budget adoption deadline)</i>	School district deadline to make 2027 proposed version of the final budget available for public inspection.	Section 312(c)
December 21, 2026 <i>(10 days prior to final budget adoption deadline)</i>	School district deadline to offer public notice of the intent to adopt the 2027 final budget.	Section 312(c)
December 31, 2026 <i>(Annual deadline)</i>	School district deadline to adopt the 2027 final budget.	Section 312(a)
December 31, 2026 <i>(Annual deadline)</i>	School district deadline to adopt a resolution implementing the homestead/farmstead exclusion. For school districts whose voters did not approve a local income tax for the purpose of providing homestead/farmstead exclusions, this only occurs if the Department of Education has notified school districts by May 1, 2026, that there are enough funds in the Property Tax Relief Fund to make a distribution to school districts in 2026-2027.	Sections 321(d), 342, 505(a)(4)
January 15, 2027 <i>(Annual deadline)</i>	School district deadline to submit 2027 final budget to Department of Education in the CFRS application.	Section 687(b) (School Code)