



Timely Updates from PAC-TE

This *Update* shares important news: Spring Conference Information, Advocacy Days at the State Capitol, and more.

Hurry up and Register for our Annual Spring Conference!

In just a few weeks, a special event is occurring for you, the members of PAC-TE, and others interested in teacher education. [Register here](#)

We are excited to bring you timely and important information and opportunities at our 2025 conference, "Creating Synergy in Teacher Education by Leveraging Relationships".

Not only are we seeing tremendous change across the nation in policies, law, economies, and government, but our Pennsylvania leaders are developing a budget that will impact our pre-service teachers and colleagues across the Commonwealth.

Speaking up for our profession and our students impels us to learn who are allies are and the strategies that we can employ to make a difference. This conference will help you make connections to groups and individuals who share many of your professional priorities.

Let's all find an hour or more to tune in to this special conference on Wednesday, March 26. Many thanks to Co-chairs Dr. Ashley Rowe and Dr. Amanda Stutzman and their conscientious and persevering conference committee for the efforts made so far!

The great feature of virtual conferences is the ability to tune in from home, work, basketball practice, even your car! You can enter and exit as it suits your schedule, and

you can listen without even turning on your camera if you're under the weather.

PDE is providing an afternoon session, as usual. It's always useful to hear directly from PDE leaders and ask your questions directly.

We look forward to seeing you at the virtual conference. Let Executive Director Joel Geary know if you need assistance with registration. joel@pac-te.org or 717-516-8893

*Creating Synergy in Teacher Education
by
Leveraging Relationships*



Wednesday March 26, 2025

Advocacy for our Future Educators

This spring, you have two options to consider for participating in organized events intended to raise awareness about the issues that impact our work.

1. Advocacy Week April 8-11 (in collaboration with Pa CASE and PEDC)
2. Capitol Day May 6 (in collaboration with #PA Needs Teachers Coalition)

PAC-TE is collaborating for the second year with Pa CASE and PEDC for an Advocacy Day at the State Capitol. This year, that date is Tuesday, April 8, with opportunities to visit your representative(s) and attend a noon press conference in the Main Rotunda.

New this year is an additional emphasis on local meet-ups in the home districts afterwards.

As partners with Teach Plus in the #PA Needs Teachers Coalition, you have an **additional opportunity** to participate in a Capitol Day on Tuesday, May 6. Much like the April event, this includes a noontime press conference and individual meetings with legislators. Unlike the first event, it falls during the waning days of the spring semester. Yet, the

coalition is broader and the nearness to the state's budget deadline may elevate the energy level.

Governor Shapiro outlined his budget priorities on Tuesday, February 4, which including a large increase in expenditures related to public education. We know the increase makes for a robust debate within the legislature, not to mention at home. PAC-TE urges you to do the following:

- Discover the details of the governor's budget message [here](#)
- Discuss the issues in order to sharpen your understanding and the justifications for supporting a robust investment in education
- Decide which of the advocacy events you can attend
- Describe the goals and opportunities for advocacy with your students and encourage their attendance. Legislators respond to the stories our students share pertaining to their financial and opportunity struggles. To be impactful, we need you to invite student teachers who filled out the student teacher stipend application—those who received the stipend **and** those who were not awarded the stipend, as well as those who plan to student teach in 2025-26.
- Develop a clear and concise position on the relevant issues to share when a legislator asks, "What do you want me/us to do?"

Please share this information with your Director of Field Experiences and Student Teaching or the person who supervises placements. Details and links to register will be made available as soon as possible. Watch your inboxes for a message from joel@pac-te.org in the coming days.



Today's Message from PDE

Released on Friday, February 7, 2025

Dear Partner in Education,

I am reaching out today to assure you that the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) is closely monitoring the orders and guidance being issued by the incoming federal administration. The Department is continually reviewing the guidance being issued and rescinded in real time and, to the

extent possible, is consulting with colleagues at the federal and state levels to determine the potential impact on Pennsylvania schools.

As ever, we will continue our work to ensure our schools and educators can continue to provide a world-class education to learners, and our libraries remain strong community centers.

We will pass along accurate, relevant information as it becomes available, and as our federal partners provide clarity regarding the intended scope of these recent pronouncements. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us at PDE if there is assistance that we can provide.

Thank you for all that you do for Pennsylvania.

Angela Fitterer | Interim Acting Secretary, PA Department of Education

Do you follow us on LinkedIn?

Our social media efforts are being concentrated on LinkedIn, a platform designed specifically for professionals to share industry and professional insights and events. We still have a Facebook page, but recognize that that platform has its drawbacks. Would you please consider looking at our LinkedIn page and clicking the link to Follow. Each person who shares one of our posts is helping spread the news about our work and the opportunities we provide for our members to connect with fellow teacher educators and related fields in professional education. Check out our LinkedIn page [here](#).



OTHER IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW:

- March 26: PAC-TE Spring Conference (virtual) Register [Here](#).
 - Advocacy Day at the State Capitol – April 8. Information coming soon.
 - #PA Needs Teachers Coalition Capitol Day – May 6.
-