

The logo for PACTIE, with the word in a bold, black, sans-serif font inside a white rectangular box.

MARCH 2025 *Update*



The official newsletter for the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators.
Published 10 times per year. Contact: joel@pac-te.org

Time is running out!

Hurry and Register for our Annual Spring Conference

In just three weeks, our spring conference begins.

[Register here](#) \$75 fee for this virtual conference.

You will find an incredible convergence of key leaders of state organizations in support of educators at our 2025 conference, "Creating Synergy in Teacher Education by Leveraging Relationships". The date is Wednesday, March 26.

Not only are we all busy with our own roles, but this conference helps us take steps to grow our networks and make a difference. Tune in to one session or all sessions! That's the value of this virtual event—there is no need to drive anywhere. Tune in and tune out as your schedule permits.

This conference is designed to 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. PDE is providing an afternoon session, as usual.

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.

Two Advocacy Days This Year

Come to one or both! Consider bringing some students!!

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

PAC-TE is collaborating with Pa CASE and PEDC for an Advocacy Day at the State Capitol on **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** on April 10 or 11.

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**. Like the April event, a noontime press conference is featured, plus 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 will elevate the energy level.

PAC-TE urges you to do the following:

- Discover the details of the governor's budget message [here](#)
- Decide which of the advocacy events you can attend
- Describe the goals and opportunities for advocacy with your students and encourage their attendance because legislators respond to the stories our students share. We encourage 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?"
- Training sessions will be provided to assist you with expectations and schedules for the day(s).

Please share this information. If you have a student willing to speak about how recent legislation impacts them, let Executive Director Joel Geary know! joel@pac-te.org

To learn more and register for April 8: click on

[🌐 PEDC, PAC-TE, and PaCASE Advocacy Day Registration](#)

To learn more and register for May 6: click on [🌐 May 6 Capitol Day Registration](#)

What if I'm too far from Harrisburg to attend, or the date doesn't work for me?

This year we are trying a new option: in-district meetings with your state representative or state senator at their local office. On Thursday and Friday, April 10/11, you are encouraged to arrange an appointment to visit your legislator(s) locally. Local visits are

typically more laid back, and reps are not as busy as they might be on a day at the Capitol. If you choose this option, please let us know by registering at <https://forms.gle/efByd7UmfFioT8d87>

You can even set up a virtual meeting if that works for you! Use the link above to sign up.

How do I locate the name of my representatives?

Click here: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/>



Thinking about the TEA?

Your fall conference committee has been working hard to develop a theme for this year's Teacher Education Assembly, held on October 22-24 at the Best Western Premier Hotel and Conference Center in Harrisburg, PA.

The Call for Proposals will be sent out in a few weeks, but if you need a little idea for what is coming, let's just say that the theme is *Bridging Innovation and Care: The Evolving Landscape of Teaching.*



Today's Message from PDE

If you didn't receive it directly, Carissa's latest email message was sent out on Friday, 2/28. Topics included:

1. Two new sets of framework guidelines for Special Education certificates
2. Reminder: Admin Supervisory Certificate Candidates need to meet the years of experience requirement to be recommended for certification.
3. Reminder: Second Annual PDE Advancing Education Together Summit on July 10, 2025.

4. Answers to two important questions:

- a. Would other coursework be acceptable for the structured literacy requirement as per statute? When are the structured literacy requirements due?
- b. How do we send proof of completion of the School Safety Training Requirements?

PAC-TE thanks PDE for its efforts to keep us informed of policies, legislation, and upcoming training events.

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](#).



IMPORTANT DATES TO KNOW:

- March 26: PAC-TE Spring Conference (virtual) Register [Here](#).
 - Advocacy Day at the State Capitol – April 8.
 - #PA Needs Teachers Coalition Capitol Day – May 6.
 - Fall Conference October 22-24, Harrisburg, PA
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