

[House Education Committee Approves Nine Bills](#)

One bill from the Senate was on the House Education Committee agenda on Wednesday—[Senate Bill 375](#). The legislation requires each school entity and nonpublic school that participates in interscholastic athletics to ensure that at each automated external defibrillators (AED) location there are individuals trained and certified in the use of CPR and the use of an AED, and that the individuals have access to the AED. Each school entity shall ensure that at least one individual trained and certified in the use of an AED and CPR is present in each school building during each school day.

The bill also requires cardiopulmonary resuscitation training including proper use of AEDs on school premises at least once every two years. The training shall be offered to all school entity employees and volunteers. The training shall be conducted by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, National Safety Council or an individual certified to conduct CPR training. The bill would also authorize the use of state mental health and safety and security funds for the purchase of AEDs. All school entities and non-public schools are covered by the training requirements. The bill was approved by a vote of 23-3.

Three House bills were approved in committee on party line votes (14-12).

[House Bill 2084](#) creates a college scholarship program—PA Promise—for students attending state owned or state related universities. Community college scholarships would also be funded.

[House Bill 1648](#) would authorize excused absences for student mental health days. The PA Department of Education is required to provide model policies to schools to implement the requirement.

[House Bill 1706](#) would extend mental services availability notification to coaches and extracurricular advisors. The bill also directs the PA Interscholastic Athletic Association to include mental health awareness training to its existing coaches education program.

[House Bill 2176](#) directs the State Board of Education to review their standards to incorporate the effects of social media and mobile device usage on students, including potential mental, psychological, and physical impacts. In addition, the State Board is to study the impacts of social media and mobile device usage on learning.

The committee also unanimously approved four bills.

[House Bill 2152](#) grants school entities authority to delay secondary school start times to allow reduce sleep deprivation. The Joint State Government Commission studied this issue in 2019 and found that “adolescents do not get enough sleep, leading to a myriad of mental, behavioral, and physical effects, as well as public safety concerns....Early school start times run counter to this biological condition, and can contribute substantially to adolescent sleep deprivation.” [You can read the report by clicking here](#). State mental health and safety and security funds can be utilized for transition costs for earlier secondary start times.

[House Bill 2167](#) changes the name of approved private schools to special education schools in the School Code to more accurately reflect their mission and purpose.

[House Bill 2168](#) amends the Early Intervention Services System Act to accomplish the same name change as House Bill 2167.

[House Bill 2169](#) amends the Fiscal Code to accomplish the same name change in House Bill 2167.