



#### Member Associations:

- [Agudath Israel-Mid-Atlantic Region](#)
- [American Montessori Society Schools of PA](#)
- [Association of Christian Schools International](#)
- [Association of Christian Teachers and Schools](#)
- [Friends Council on Education](#)
- [PA Association of Independent Schools](#)
- [Teach PA - A Project of the Orthodox Union](#)

February 2026

Friends of PACAPE,

There is a lot going on around the Commonwealth and regarding the Federal Tax Credit. We are all looking for an indication of whether Governor Schapiro will opt in to the program. We are working to update you on some of the things that are happening in our state and around the country.

Here are some news items that you might find helpful:

1. **Safety Grant Announcement:** PCCD has just released the Private School Safety Grant. We are expecting the due date to be March 30 if our reports are correct. Look for that information soon on the PCCD website. To clarify- these are different from the non-profit safety grants that came out earlier in December. **A reminder that** PACAPE has secured two high quality sponsors who provide amazing services and will help you with managing the grant process. They are:
  - a. The **Critical Response Group** who provide mapping services for school buildings to interface with emergency protective services. There is a webinar link from a short PACAPE presentation located at: <https://vimeo.com/1096604374/f61ccdff98?share=copy>. See more information on our website at [www.pacape.org/sponsors](http://www.pacape.org/sponsors) about these services.
  - b. The **Convoy Group** provide facility security assessments, training and resources that are all eligible for PCCD Grants. We hosted a webinar with the Convoy Group on Tuesday, January 6 to learn about their services. You can log into this webinar at: <https://acsi.zoom.us/j/98237774919> . To learn more about these services on our website at [www.pacape.org/sponsors](http://www.pacape.org/sponsors) .
2. **The Federal Tax Credit.** We hosted a meeting of PA coalition team members in December to talk more about how to strategize ways to encourage the Governor to opt into the credit as soon as possible. Since then there has been a lot of information generated around the country. Here are some highlights of that activity:
  - a. **Governor Shapiro has not made a decision to opt-in** to the Federal Tax Credit at this time.
  - b. **Informal National Opt-In Scorecard from Mark Gleason-** If we include D.C., there are 19 states that have not made an indication yet. Of these, 17 have Democratic governors and 11 have Democratic trifectas (Governor/Senate/House). Six of these including Pennsylvania have a divided legislature. One state (Vermont) has a Republican governor and a divided legislature.
  - c. **Comments from Shapiro:**
    - i. For now, most Democratic governors seem content to wait for the IRS rules. As a spokesperson for Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro put it in an email: "The Shapiro Administration is awaiting federal guidance to address key questions about how this program would work, including which students will be eligible, how this federal initiative will interact with existing programs, and more. We look forward to reviewing that guidance." <https://www.the74million.org/article/scholarship-tax-credit-leaves-democratic-governors-with-difficult-choice/>
  - d. **A collection of Media and Activities from Nate Benefield at Commonwealth Foundation:** A few updates on activities and media hits around the federal scholarship tax credit:

- i. The Treasury and Education Departments put out a [joint fact sheet](#) regarding the federal scholarship tax credit. There are now 25 states that have indicated intent to “opt-in”.
- ii. The Pa House Republican Policy Committee [held a hearing last week](#) on educational choice and the federal tax credit scholarship (we testified, as did AFC, and Keisha from CSFP). Following that, Rep. Martina White [called for Shapiro to opt in](#).
- iii. My colleague Megan had a [piece in Real Clear PA](#) about what Pennsylvania needs to do to retake its status as a leaders in educational choice:
- iv. Here is a relatively new [piece in the Washington Times](#) from TEACH.
- v. The Lancaster newspapers [did a story about opting in](#), quoting me along with Rep. Bryan Cutler. Here is the LNP story that quoted me, giving common sense.

**e. Statements Against The Federal Tax Credit**

- i. [National Coalition for Public Education \(NCPE\) FTC Voucher Sign On Letter \(w/sign ons\)](#)
- ii. [Facts — National Coalition for Public Education \(NCPE\)](#)

**f. US Department of Education:**

- i. <https://x.com/usedgov/status/2016585465302790491>

**g. White House Statement:**

- i. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/schoolchoice/>

**3. PACAPE Presents – The Proactive Health Management Plan**

- a. Would you like to add allow your employees to redirect some of their FICA taxes and save money while allowing them to have great access to an amazing Preventative Health Plan? If you consider that your school will also save a significant amount of their payroll tax costs, it makes finding out more information from our PACAPE Sponsor, PHMP, a must!
- b. Check out the short recording about the PA CAPE – PHMP Webinar here:  
<https://youtu.be/60eNvLraexQ>

Look for more information from PACAPE as things move forward for our schools.

Regards,

Merle

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