

House Resolution 318: Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association

Released: 3/24/2026

House Resolution 318 of 2025 (HR 318) directed the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) to conduct a contextual review and analysis of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), including its finances, policies and procedures, and governance structure. Key highlights from this study include:

Based on our findings, we recommend the following:

1. PIAA should establish a statewide body to independently record, monitor, and adjudicate student-athlete transfers among member schools.
2. PIAA should revise its feeder school policy, including adding content regarding feeder schools for public schools, charter schools, and other schools of choice. The feeder school definition for private schools should be refined and strengthened to ensure that member schools across the state are operating under uniform, clearly specified guidelines.
3. PIAA should document clear requirements for potential championship host venues; clear procedures for its championship site selection process; and the extent to which each championship site proposal meets the requirements listed in its RFP.

❖ **PIAA oversees and organizes interscholastic athletic competitions across the state.** As of 2025, PIAA consists of 1,431 member schools, including most public middle/junior and high schools, as well as many private and charter senior high schools. The organization sponsors 34 sports and has over 350,000 student-athletes participating.

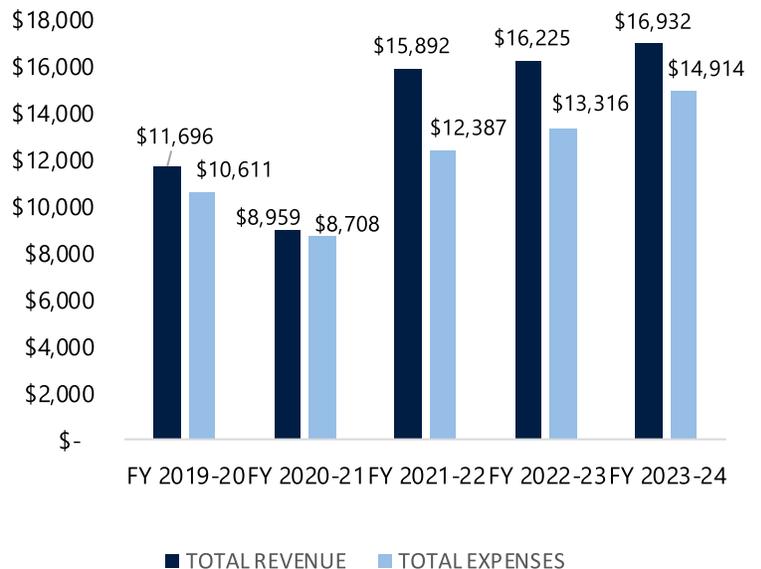
❖ **PIAA’s revenues and expenses have both increased by more than 40 percent over our review period.** Except for FY 2020-21, when public gathering restrictions were in place due to COVID-19, PIAA’s revenues and expenses increased every year. PIAA’s total revenues increased from \$11.7 million in FY 2019-20 to \$16.9 million in FY 2023-24, an increase of over 44 percent. As of June 30, 2024, it reported total assets of \$17.5 million and total liabilities of \$2.4 million.

❖ **PIAA outsources matters related to student transfers and eligibility to its 12 district committees, which may result in varying levels of enforcement across the state.** Additionally, PIAA administrative staff and member schools track student-athlete transfers. Since district committees already receive school-provided transfer information to determine competitive classifications, PIAA’s administrative processes for verifying transfers may be duplicative.

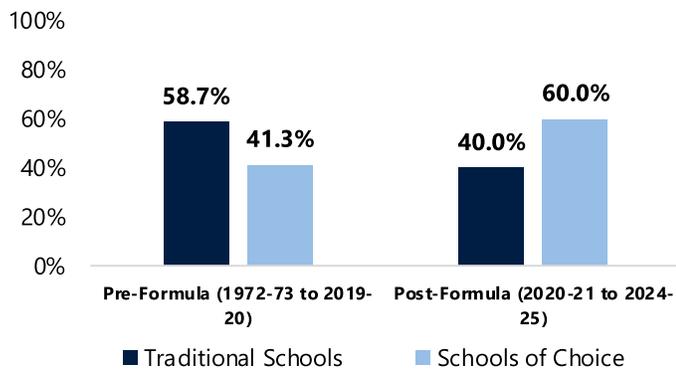
❖ **We found private schools to be wrongfully listing public middle schools as their feeder schools, suggesting a lack of enforcement of PIAA’s feeder school policy or a misunderstanding of the definition of a feeder school.** Feeder schools are junior high or middle schools that advance students to a specific senior high school, usually in the same district. During a 2025 meeting of the Pennsylvania Athletic Oversight Committee (PAOC), PIAA officials stated they identified cases in which private schools listed local public schools as feeder schools. PIAA’s Board of Directors created a subcommittee in 2024 to address concerns regarding feeder schools.

❖ **We found that PIAA does not define explicit criteria for its competitive formula.** PIAA introduced the competitive formula in 2018 to address concerns about competitive equity. Additionally, PIAA has modified the formula at least seven times, with some changes made before it was implemented. Most recently, PIAA changed the threshold for the number of postseason wins necessary to consider changing a team’s classification.

PIAA Revenues and Expenses (in thousands)
Fys 2019-20 to 2023-24

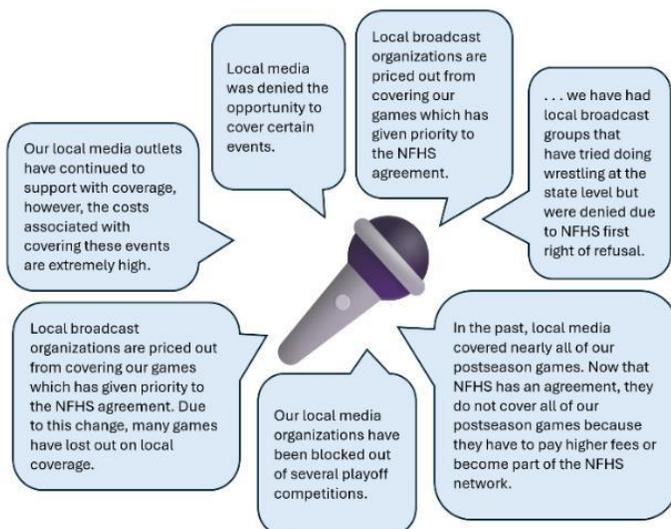


- ❖ **Following the implementation of the competitive formula, short-term trends have favored schools of choice in championship wins over traditional (public) schools.** We found multiple sports that saw increases in the proportion of championship titles won by non-public schools of choice compared to the period before the formula was implemented.



Total Football, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball
Championship Proportions by School Type

- ❖ **Since the introduction of the competitive formula, most championship titles in football and basketball have been won by teams in four districts.** Of 90 total titles across those sports, 75 (83.3 percent) were won by teams from Districts III, IV, VII, and XII. Teams from Districts VIII and IX have not won any titles since the first changes to the competitive formula took effect.
- ❖ **The exclusivity and rights-fee provisions of PIAA's broadcast agreements affect how spectators can watch postseason events.** If they can't attend in person, spectators can usually only watch games that PIAA's rightsholders broadcast. Individual PIAA districts may enter into agreements with local media to broadcast certain games; however, according to our survey of athletic directors, the cost can be prohibitive for some outlets. However, PIAA's media rights provisions are similar to those in other states.



Responses about Local Media from LBFC's
Survey of High School Athletic Directors

- ❖ **Championship sites for many sports, including basketball, football, and baseball, have varied during PIAA's existence as an organization.** In recent years, championship sites have been located closer to the state's center, such as Hershey and Mechanicsburg.
- ❖ **While PIAA lists criteria for assessing championship site location proposals in its handbook, the organization does not have a defined procedure for comparing bids, nor does it formally document the outcome of each request for proposal (RFP) process.** PIAA considers factors such as security, accessibility, facilities, and geographic location, among others, when evaluating championship site proposals. However, documenting RFP processes would ensure equity in stakeholder awareness, enable RFP respondents to make better bids to PIAA, and provide PIAA with more actionable data for the selection process.
- ❖ **Three-fourths of PIAA's current Board of Directors are either athletic directors or administrators of member schools.** PIAA also has seats on its board designated for representatives from specific organizations, such as the Pennsylvania Coaches Association. In other states, such as Delaware, the board of directors of its interscholastic athletic association has a higher proportion of representatives who are not affiliated with any specific school.
- ❖ **Current legislative oversight of PIAA and its activities is limited to addressing the organization's compliance with a 2002 law.** PAOC is charged with examining PIAA's compliance with Act 91, but it has no other direct influence over the organization's executive operations. The boards of directors of certain other state-affiliated entities, such as the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board and Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, have members appointed by the governor. Similar organizations in other states also have more direct state oversight.

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