DALLAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**District Updates**
**Work Session/Regular Meeting**
**Dr. Thomas J. Duffy, Superintendent** 11/9/26
**November 9, 2026**

**Education Updates**
Our October 30 full day Act 80 Day agenda(s) included Act 71 - Youth Suicide: Awareness, Prevention, and Postvention and Cultural Competence and Racial Bias training, completion of quarter 1 checklists, grade entry, checklist updating, career portfolio and intervention planning.

Veterans Day Recognition
Wycallis students will read and discuss current Veterans Day articles in the Junior Scholastic Magazine, stories such as The Wall and A Poppy is to Remember and are making cards that will be given to Veterans at the VA. An Honor Wall will be displayed in 1st grade to honor family members who served.

DIS students created cards for veterans at the VA Hospital in Wilkes Barre. America's White Table is set up at the entrance to the DIS Cafeteria. Teachers will read, "America's White Table" to their classes and explain the symbolism of all items included in the empty setting and why we honor United States Veterans in this way.

DMS will conduct a Veterans Day Assembly on Tuesday, November 10, 2026. Students will learn about the origins of Veterans Day. The Chorus will perform some patriotic numbers and staff members who are Veterans will be recognized.

The Scranton Public Theater Co. will be presenting *The Last Thoughts of Gino Merli* on Tuesday, November 10 at 1:30 in the DHS Performing Arts Center. "The Last Thoughts of Gino Merli" is a one man, one act play about the remarkable true story of WWII Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Gino Merli from Peckville, PA.

American Education Week, observed the week of November 16 - 20, 2026 will include several opportunities for parents and families. Kindergarten has Community helpers and Mystery Readers that come into their classrooms. They will also be inviting their parents to come in and either have lunch with their student or participate in recess games. Grades 1 and 2 will have question readers, parent guests who will participate in educational games, discuss careers and in grade 2 participate in a Native American Writing activity.

Dallas Intermediate hosted Title I family engagement night on October 22 and a career fair with parent involvement the week of November 2. Additional family engagement plans are being finalized and will be communicated via the building principal.

Dallas Middle and Dallas High Schools will celebrate American Education Week by providing opportunities for parents and caregivers to visit our school to see what our students are learning and doing. The following tours are planned for American Education Week:

Monday, November 16, 2026 - 9:00AM and Wednesday, November 18, 2026 - 1:00PM: Student Council representatives will be providing a tour of the building as well as a video presentation in the Media Center of student activities and academic achievements.

**Policy Updates**

In concert with the PSBA, the following policies are under review related to legislative changes prompting updates:

Policy 102. Academic Standards was updated to reflect the requirements of a new section of the PA School Code, 24 P.S. Sec. 15-1556, regarding Social Media Literacy. This law requires that the standards adopted by the State Board of Education in accordance with Chapter 4 regarding academic standards and instruction include instruction to students on the potential health and academic impacts, and safety and security concerns associated with social media use.
The policy was also updated to add the new Chapter 4 requirement for Personal Finance

Policy 204.1. Virtual Attendance and Wellness Checks
The policy has been updated to align with the Act 20 of 2026 provision of Weekly Wellness Checks - to ensure that each student in an online program is visibly seen and communicated with in real time. The wellness checks can consist of the student turning on a webcam during synchronous online instruction, or by virtual or face-to-face instruction in any of the following activities: Health Screenings, Standardized Testing, Academic or Advising Sessions, In-person, school-sponsored activities chaperoned by the district employee/representative.

Policy 209. Health Examinations and Screenings was updated to address the amendments to 24 P.S. Sec. 14-1402 and 14-1408. Height and weight measurements of students are to be conducted by the school nurse or other health care practitioner to track a student's growth pattern, not to calculate the student's weight/height ratio. The student's confidentiality must be maintained and parents/guardians must be provided notification of their right and the procedure to request and exemption from such measurements. A new section of the PA School Code, 24 P.S. Sec. 14-1426, requires the district to make eating disorder awareness and education information and materials available for students in grades six through twelve and posted on the district's website.

Policy 246. School Wellness was updated to address two key elements.
First, the section on Physical Education was updated to comply with amendments to 24 P.S. Sec. 15-1512.1 regarding the requirement to maintain student confidentiality when instruction involves the collection of a student's height and weight measurements. Also use of the measurements to calculate a student's body mass index (BMI) is prohibited. Second is the addition of a section addressing Social Media in compliance with 24 P.S. Sec. 15-1556 Social Media Literacy Education and academic standards. Social media literacy in schools must address the following: Mental, psychological and physical effects of social media and mobile device use; Potential impacts of social media and mobile device use on academic growth and learning; Safe use of social media, including how to recognize suspicious online behavior including, but not limited to: Cyberbullying; Predatory behavior; Potential human trafficking; Personal security and privacy on mobile devices.

249. Bullying/Cyberbullying
The Omnibus Bill amended the PA School Code, 24 P.S. Sec. 13-1303.1-A. Policy Relating to Bullying by adding Cyberbullying to the title. Policy 249 Bullying/Cyberbullying has been updated to include two new definitions from the statute for: Artificial Intelligence-Generated or Modified Media and Cyberbullying. The policy is now required to include "procedures for investigating a report of alleged bullying and cyberbullying".

Additionally, revised draft Policy 707, Facilities Use, is under review. Updates include alignment to a digital application process, clearer delineation of the role of the director of buildings and grounds, and an updated fee schedule for school district use. Clarification on nonprofits and registration fees was added. Fees are being updated for the first time in over 10 years and are reflective of increased facilities costs in the areas of utilities, up-keep, maintenance, and equipment.

339. Uncompensated Leave
The current policy is being updated to the former policy that is less restrictive categorically, allows for a request of 1 year of leave and continues to be via school board approval only.