



## As We Prepare for Back to School, We're Highlighting Programs Like "Teach to Remember", Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, and more!

We are so excited to welcome all learners, teachers, administrators, and support staff back for the new school year. This month, the Shapiro Administration awarded nearly [\\$7.3 Million to provide fresh fruits and vegetables in school districts](#). This grant will help ensure all students have access to nutritious food, in addition to the free school breakfast program.

This month, we also named [two new student representatives to the State Board of Education](#), and awarded [mini-grants to 14 Pennsylvania libraries](#) to enable librarians and staff to develop new skills and stay up to date on current trends.



## From the Secretary's Desk

Students across the Commonwealth are heading back to school, whether it's pre-K-12, college, grad school, etc., and we at PDE want to wish all learners another successful, fun-filled year of learning and growing. As a former educator and school leader, I remember how exciting and nerve-wracking this time of year can be for both teachers and students, so I am elated and eager to see all of the great things our students and schools will accomplish this school year!

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## PA Libraries Welcome You Back to School

The State Library of Pennsylvania wishes new administrators, faculty, and staff a warm welcome as they begin the 2024-2025 school year. The State Library of PA and your local library can be a source of support that will lead all learners on the path to success! Some resources include:

- **Getting a library card** - A library card is one of the most essential back-to-school supplies. Learners will be able to access digital resources for reading, homework, and more study tools.
- **Learning online** - Lots of local libraries have a wide variety of online resources ranging from Kids eBooks and audiobooks, search hubs like [POWER Library](#) where learners can conduct research and [Ask a Librarian](#) for assistance when referencing materials, and more. Did you know the State Library of PA has an archive of virtual programming ranging from author talks to discussions of local history? These videos are available to all and

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- **High-speed internet access** - Did you know libraries serve many purposes in the community? Although home to a plethora of books, many local libraries provide free high-speed internet, Wi-Fi, and computer access. Learners can use their personal device or a library computer to do homework, research, and study.
- **Afterschool Activities** - Libraries throughout the Commonwealth host afterschool activities that can get young learners engaged with free tutoring, STEM activities, makerspaces, and more. Learn more by visiting your local library's Events page.

To learn where your nearest local library is and how to obtain a library card, visit the [Find a PA Library search](#).



## National Day of Learning - Friends of Flight 93 Registration Now Open

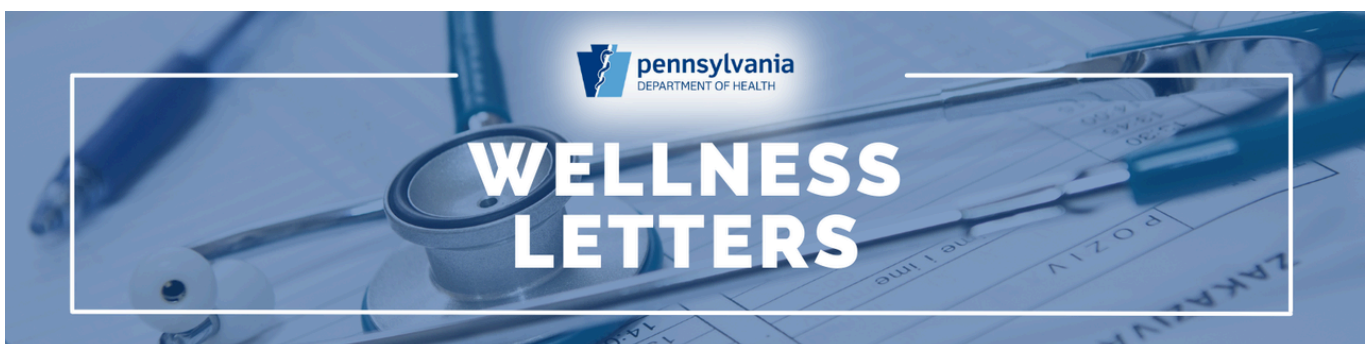
This year, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial has partnered with the National Parks Service for a virtual National Day of Learning "Teach to Remember" and the National Writing Project for "Write to Remember" on **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**.

Programming is designed for grades 6-12 worldwide and includes a combination of pre-recorded lessons plans, live streaming of the Memorial Service, a special Moment of Remembrance and interactive sessions with park rangers.

To register for the ["Teach to Remember" event](#), please sign up using the [Zoom link](#).

To register for the ["Write to Remember" project](#), please sign up on the [National Writing Project webpage](#).

For questions or more information, please reach out to Donna Gibson at **724-472-7933** or at [dgibson@flight93nationalmemorial.org](mailto:dgibson@flight93nationalmemorial.org).

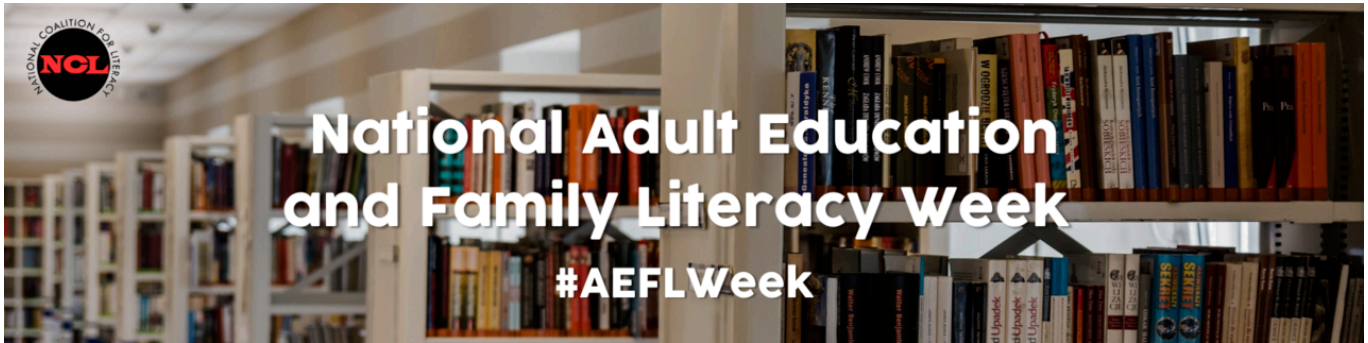


## Look for New Wellness Letter for Growth Screenings

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The PA Department of Health has updated its template letter for parent notification of student growth screenings that are conducted yearly at schools. Note that this template, along with growth screening results, also contains vision, hearing, and scoliosis screening results to help streamline parent/guardian notification of school-based health screenings.

Within the next couple of weeks, we will send another notification with the link to the PA Department of Health's website with the new letter. As a reminder, this letter serves as a template and its use is not mandatory. If you have any questions, please reach out to [cpaschool@pa.gov](mailto:cpaschool@pa.gov).



## Celebrate National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week September 10 - 21!

Each year, we recognize and celebrate [National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week](#). This week raises public awareness about the need for and value of adult education and family literacy. Its goal is to increase financial and societal support for access to foundational education programs for U.S. adults with low literacy, numeracy, and digital skills. Advocates across the country use this opportunity to elevate adult education and family literacy nationwide with policymakers, the media, and the community.

There are several ways to participate in National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, including listening to [adult learners' stories](#) and exploring the National Coalition for Literacy's social media pages on [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#).



## Virtual Mandated Reporter Trainings Now Available

The Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance is continuing to offer virtual Mandated Reporter Training at no cost to mandated reporters in Pennsylvania.

**We are happy to announce virtual sessions that will have both American Sign**

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This three-hour virtual training is approved by the Departments of Human Services, Education, and State and meets all requirements for training on recognizing and reporting child abuse (to include Act 126 for school employees).

It is also approved for continuing education credits under Act 31 (Department of State for health-related licenses) and Act 48 (Department of Education for teachers) at no cost. PFSA will submit your training verification to the Department of State or Education as appropriate on your behalf (details provided during training).

Please register for your preferred training date and time by using one of the session links listed.

[\*\*Mandated Reporter Training - Aug. 29th 9am-12pm\*\*](#)

[\*\*Mandated Reporter Training - Sept. 24th 9am-12pm\*\*](#)

Each person must log in through separate devices, using the unique access link emailed to them after registration to receive credit.

For questions or to schedule a session specifically for your organization, please email PFSA at [\*\*training@pafsa.org\*\*](mailto:training@pafsa.org).



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