

PA SCHOOLS WORK

INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

PA Schools Work: A Movement to Secure Pennsylvania's Future

Pennsylvania schools work - for students, communities and the economy - when they have the resources to give all students the opportunities they need to succeed.

Every child deserves a safe, inviting school that has class sizes small enough for students to receive personal attention, a full range of courses from science to music and art, up-to-date books and technology, special education for children with disabilities, career and technical opportunities, guidance counselors to help students with career decisions, and so much more.

Achieving that vision takes investment from the state, and that's not happening now.

The state has failed to keep pace with the rising cost of special education for students with disabilities, which has increased by \$1.6 billion over the last decade, even as the state's share of the cost has fallen from 36 percent to 25 percent.

Similarly, even as employers across Pennsylvania have complained about the difficulty of finding skilled workers, the state has allowed its share of career and technical education (CTE) funding to fall to eight percent of CTE costs.



This means lost opportunities for students and higher costs for taxpayers. School leaders report that they anticipate taking the following actions in the coming year:

40% increasing class sizes

reducing or furloughing staff **36%**

cutting programs & services **30%**

75% raising property taxes

The PA Schools Work Solution for Investing in Students to Secure Pennsylvania's Future

The state must make greater, sustainable investments in public schools to lift all students by improving their academic outcomes and preparing them for today's competitive workforce.

This will take a \$3 billion investment in state basic education funding over the next several years through the state's fair funding formula, combined with consistent increases in special education, to raise the state share back to 36 percent, and in career and technical education funding to ensure every student who pursues CTE can get the learning opportunities they want.

The state must generate the necessary revenues through sustainable, recurring funding sources to support adequate and equitable funding in these areas, while delivering targeted property tax relief to those who need it.

To achieve PA Schools Work's mission that Basic Education Funding meets the purpose and intent of the current funding formula, the state must pay its fair share of public education costs by:

- Increasing basic education funding by at least \$3 billion through the state's fair funding formula
- Ensuring sufficient resources for special education and career and technical education
- Delivering targeted property tax relief to those who need it
- Generate the necessary revenues through sustainable, recurring funding sources

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