

INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

Pennsylvania's constitution reads: The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.

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But Pennsylvania isn't doing what our constitution mandates

STATE SHARE OF **PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING**





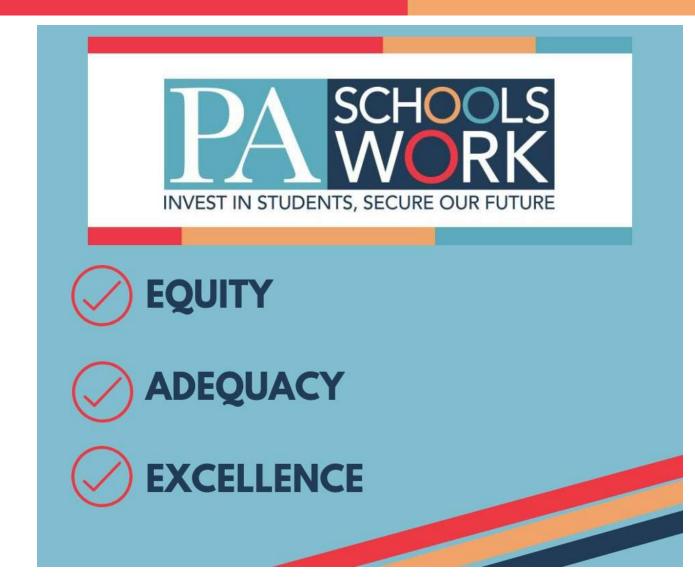
*percentage of classroom expenses covered by the state

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CHANGE ONLY HAPPENS WHEN CITIZENS DEMAND IT



ADVOCACY 101

- Your state senator and representative determine how much state funding your public schools will receive.
- They vote on education policies that support or harm public schools, such as school vouchers, charter school laws, and state testing requirements.
- They care deeply about public perception & need to know parents are watching how they vote on issues related to public education.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LEGISLATOR

✓ Introduce yourself to your state lawmakers.

Send a post card, write a letter, or send an email. Let your legislator know that you support public education and share a story about your school. Ask for a response to learn about their positions.

✓ Sign up for email newsletters from your state lawmakers.
 ✓ Follow your state lawmakers on social media.

✓ Put their local office numbers in your cell phone. Set a reminder to contact them at least once each month.

SCHEDULE & PREPARE FOR A MEETING

✓ Recruit a friend or up to three.

- ✓ PREPARE: Get together and divide up topics—know who will say what before you go to the meeting.
- ✓ Schedule a meeting time by calling the district office.
- ✓ Lawmakers are generally in their home districts on Thursday and Fridays.
- ✓ Most meetings will last ½ hour.

MEETINGS MATTER

- ✓ Introduce yourself and explain to them where you are from and why you are there.
- ✓ **CONNECT:** Use compelling personal stories and data to make your point.
- ✓ If their votes or actions don't reflect your positions, tell them why not.
- ✓ Do not be argumentative or get heated. Be a resource, not an adversary.
- ✓ Stay focused on your issues and make your "ask" clear.
- ✓ Thank them for their time.

LEAVE AN IMPRESSION

✓ Print off a PA Schools Work "leave behind."

- ✓ Leave your contact information and ask the lawmaker or staff to update you on developments.
- ✓ Send a thank you note. Recap your discussion, who was at the meeting, repeat the ask.
- ✓ STAY ENGAGED: Email, tweet or call your state lawmaker as budget season progresses.

JOIN THE WORK

✓ GET SOCIAL: Invite your friends to "Like" Ed Voters and PA Schools Work on Facebook & Follow on Twitter

✓ Write a letter to the editor to your local paper

✓ Sign up for email updates
✓ Have a post card party
✓ Call your legislator

✓ Sign up a Friend



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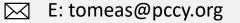
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