





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.

But Pennsylvania isn't doing what our constitution mandates

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39
40 41 42 43 44 45 46

46th

STATE SHARE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING

1971

54%

2019

31.7%



*percentage of classroom expenses covered by the state



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**CHANGE ONLY HAPPENS
WHEN CITIZENS DEMAND IT**



INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

-  **EQUITY**
-  **ADEQUACY**
-  **EXCELLENCE**

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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voices
together


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