



PA **SCHOOLS**
WORK

INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE



OUR PARTNERS

A+SCHOOLS
PITTSBURGH
Inform. Engage. Mobilize.

aft AFT Pennsylvania
A Union of Professionals

ALLIES
FOR CHILDREN

EDUCATION
LAW CENTER

EDUCATION VOTERS
of Pennsylvania

KEYSTONE
RESEARCH
CENTER

Keystone State
Education Coalition

PENNSYLVANIA
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR CHILDREN
A VOICE FOR KIDS SINCE 1992

PENNSYLVANIA
PRINCIPALS
ASSOCIATION
SUPPORTING EDUCATIONAL LEADERS

PACTA
PENNSYLVANIA
Association of Career & Technical
Administrators

PAIU Pennsylvania Association
of Intermediate Units

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION
OF RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS

PASA

PASBO
PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOL BUSINESS OFFICERS

PENNSYLVANIA
Budget and Policy Center

pft
PHILADELPHIA
FEDERATION of TEACHERS

PSBA
Pennsylvania School Boards Association

PSEA
PENNSYLVANIA STATE
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

PCCY
public
citizens for
children + youth

THE
PUBLIC
INTEREST
LAW CENTER
Action. Access. Progress.

Urban League of
Philadelphia

PA SCHOOLS
WORK
INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

Fund Basic Education

\$400 million
FY 2019-20



Fund Special Education

\$100 million
FY 2019-20



Fund Career and Technical Education

\$10 million
FY 2019-20



Today's Agenda

- 1** Building relationships with state lawmakers
- 2** Resources
- 3** Next steps

Advocacy with state lawmakers

- 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 lawmakers

- **Introduce yourself to your state lawmakers**—send a post card, write a letter, or send an email— tell them 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** and plan to contact them at least once each month.

Set up & prepare for a meeting

- Find a friend or up to three.
- Call the lawmaker's district office to schedule a time.
- Most meetings will last ½ hour.
- Lawmakers are generally in their home districts on Thursday and Fridays.
- Get together before the meeting to divide up topics with members of your group—know who will say what before you go to the meeting.

At the meeting

- Introduce yourself and explain them where you are from and why you are there.
- Use compelling personal stories and data where appropriate.
- If their votes or actions don't reflect your positions, tell them why not.
- Stay focused on your issues and make you “ask”—what you want them to do.
- Do not be argumentative or get heated. You want to be a resource, not an adversary.
- Thank them for the visit.

After the meeting

- Provide a simple and clear “leave behind.”
- Leave your contact information and ask the lawmaker or staff to update you on developments.
- Send a thank you note and a recap of what you discussed and who was at the meeting.
- Plan to stay engaged and email or call your state lawmaker as budget season progresses.

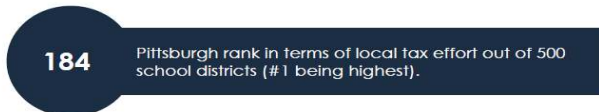
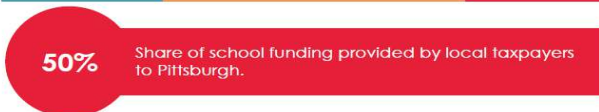
Resources

School District Fact Sheets

- Find the fact sheets here:
<http://paschoolswork.org/school-district-data/>
- New tool providing data on 500 PA school districts
 - state & local funding for public schools
 - special education funding
 - charter school payments
 - property tax burden on local taxpayers
 - amount districts would receive from the state if fully & equitably funded

Pennsylvania is not paying its fair share for public schools. It ranks 46th in the country in state share of education costs. Pennsylvania also has the widest gap in the U.S. between the highest and lowest spending school districts.

What does this mean for the Pittsburgh School District?



How much is spent to educate district students?



Contact these elected officials to let them know you support more funding for your schools and sensible property tax relief:

Senators

- Sen. Lindsey Williams (D)
- Sen. Wayne Fontana (D)
- Sen. Jay Costa (D)

Representatives

- Rep. Jake Wheatley, Jr. (D)
- Rep. Adam Ravenstahl (D)
- Rep. Sara Innamorato (D)
- Rep. Dan Frankel (D)
- Rep. Ed Gainey (D)
- Rep. Daniel Deasy (D)
- Rep. Harry Readshaw (D)
- Rep. Daniel Miller (D)

Here is what has changed for the district since 2011 when the state dramatically reduced education funding.



Performance - Students on Grade Level	
Reading: 3rd	Math: 7th
57%	21%

Child Poverty Rate	
School District	Statewide
32%	18%

To view sources of this information please visit

Website

- Advocacy tools (under summit tab)
- 1-pager
- Research and reports
- Regional and statewide news stories
- Press releases
- Budget updates

www.paschoolswork.org

You are already an expert

- Stories of real experiences are more powerful than facts and figures.
- Resources are there to help you learn more and build confidence, not replace your stories.

Next Steps

PA Schools Work – Social Media

- Amplify the message!
- Like us on Twitter and Facebook!
 - Twitter: [@PASchoolsWork](https://twitter.com/PASchoolsWork)
 - Facebook: [PASchoolsWork](https://www.facebook.com/PASchoolsWork)
- Invite your friends to like the Facebook page and to visit the website to sign up for updates directly from the campaign.

Ask your school board to pass a resolution

**RESOLUTION URGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
TO ADEQUATELY INVEST IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS**

**BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students deserve the highest quality education, and the state's public schools work best when they have the resources to give all students the opportunities they need to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania ranks 40th among the 50 states in the amount of state subsidies allocated to support elementary and secondary education, among the lowest in the nation, with state's share of funding public education at 20%, and Pennsylvania has the widest funding gap between wealthy and poor school districts of any state in the country; and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to keep pace with the rising cost of mandated special education for students with disabilities, which has increased by \$1.8 billion over the last decade, even as the state's share of the cost has fallen from 26% to 23%; and

WHEREAS, the state has failed to keep pace with the costs of providing career and technical education (CTE) pathways to students, allowing its share of CTE funding to fall to 6%, leaving school districts with a 94% share of the CTE budget; and

WHEREAS, inadequate state funding places additional burden on local taxpayers to pick up a greater share of public schools' costs to ensure that our students' education is not jeopardized; and

WHEREAS, the state must make greater, sustainable investments in public schools to lift all students and prepare them for today's competitive workforce;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ School District urges the General Assembly to take legislative action for public education by increasing basic education funding through the state's set funding formula, ensuring sufficient resources for special education and career and technical education, and generating the necessary revenue through sustainable, recurring funding sources;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the _____ School District in the General Assembly and to the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2018.

Signed _____
School Board President Board Secretary



After the board passes a resolution:

- Send a copy to state lawmakers who represent your district.
- Send a copy to your local newspaper.
- Send a copy to either Sandra Miller or Susan Spicka. We will keep a list of all resolutions passed.
- smiller@circuitriderforpaschools.org
- sspicka@educationvoterspa.org

Postcards



- Have a post card party at your house.
- Ask your PTO to have parents write post cards at a meeting.
- Bring post cards to a school board meeting and ask board and community members to write them.
- Ask parents to write them when you are waiting to pick students up from school.

Budget season activities

- Sign and share a petition urging the legislature to provide the funding our schools need
- Participate in social media events
- Invite your network to join us
- Share info with your network
- Visit and call your lawmakers
- Send post cards & get others to join in
- Organize a local event and invite a speaker

Thank you and keep up the
good **Work!**

www.paschoolswork.org