



INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

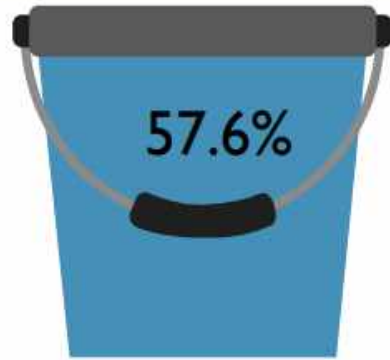
# THE MOVEMENT

When Pennsylvania's schools work, they create thriving communities and launch successful students – but only when **adequately and equitably funded**.

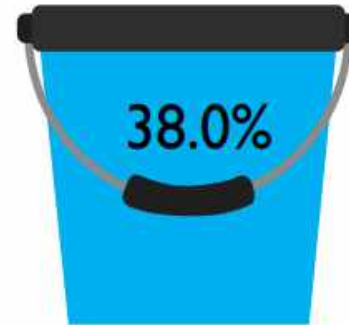
We are calling on the state to pay its fair share and adequately and equitably fund public education in Pennsylvania.

Only a **movement among people** can inspire enough political courage to fund schools adequately. Every child, regardless of their background or where they live, should be attending a public school that has the funds necessary to help them succeed.

## FOUR SOURCES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUE



Local Revenue



State Revenue



Federal Revenue



Other Revenue



# COVID-19 Economic Downturn

*In an economic downturn we know that unemployment goes up, thereby reducing our local income tax revenue, and we know that the real estate market will be affected resulting in a reduction of our real estate transfer tax. We also know that our taxpayers will need more time to pay, thus reducing property tax revenues, and with the significant cuts in the rates, interest earnings will take a hit as well.*

Dr. Timothy J. Shrom, PASBO director of research

# School District Budgets 2020-2021

- PASBO report predicts local revenue shortfall of \$850 million to \$1 billion
- Special education costs are estimated to increase by about \$300 million for 2020-21
- Charter school tuition, which is 100% paid from local resources, is estimated to grow by more than \$200 million for 2020-21 with flat student enrollment b/c of tuition rate increase built into the state formula
- Increased cyber charter school enrollment could mean hundreds of millions of dollars in additional NEW payments to charters for the 2020-2021 school year.



# STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING

Federal CARES Act Funding: \$400 million in one-time emergency federal aid for school districts to pay for COVID-19 related needs.

In May, the PA legislature passed a stopgap budget that provides:

- **Flat funding** for schools for 12 months and funds most other parts of the government for 5 months
- \$150 million in one-time Emergency School Health and Safety Grant funding from COVID-19 relief grants using federal CARES Act money

# Cue the Cuts



## Pottsgrove School District cuts bus transport, furloughs 40

Evan Brandt ebrandt@21st-centurymedia.com @PottstownNews on Twitter Aug 13, 2020 Comments

## Exeter School District to furlough 90 support staff workers

By Michelle N. Lynch mlynch@readingeagle.com @BerksMichelle on Twitter Aug 19, 2020 Updated Aug 20, 2020 Comments

## Teacher shortage forces Boyertown to start school online

Evan Brandt ebrandt@21st-centurymedia.com @PottstownNews on Twitter Aug 23, 2020 Comments

## As schools go virtual, districts look to furlough support staff, saying they don't have enough work for them to do

by Maddie Hanna, Updated: August 25, 2020

# How we avert a crisis

- **Federal:** Immediate, significant, additional federal aid to plug budget holes in the short term.
- **State: No CUTS in state education funding for 2020-2021.**  
For 2021-2022 new, recurring state revenues to increase the state share of funding and provide additional funding for school districts where students are the furthest from equity.
- **Local:** Continued vigilance and attendance at school board meetings to advocate for keeping schools whole.

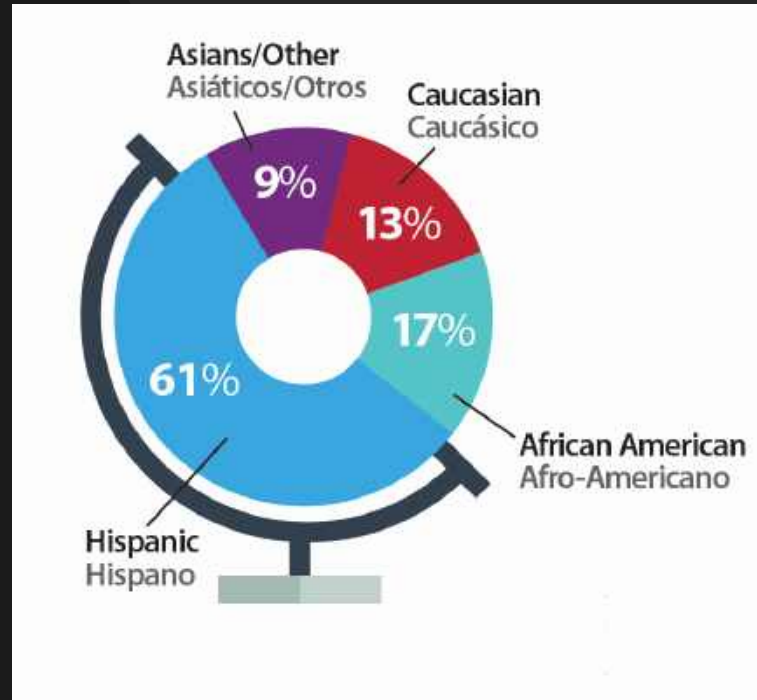




**CHANGE ONLY HAPPENS  
WHEN PEOPLE DEMAND IT**

# THEY DID IT!

**Mara Creswell McGrann & Kareena Rios,**  
School Directors, School District of Lancaster



- Total district enrollment: 11,100
- 53 languages spoken
- 2,000 English learners
- 87% HS graduation rate
- 994 teachers / 519 support staff
- \$233M annual budget

# THEY DID IT, TOO!



**NORRISTOWN AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## PROMOTING RACIAL EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- Established Cultural Proficiency Committee
- Considered diversity in district hiring practices
- Implemented family engagement strategies
- Adopted an academic calendar promoting religious inclusivity
- Adopted a natural hair policy
- Created a holistic anti-racism policy with input from many stakeholders in the community

# 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.

# ZOOM IN LOCALLY

- ✓ Recruit friends to attend School Board Meetings.
- ✓ Attend Zoom meetings and comment or chat about education funding.
- ✓ Organize neighbors, and request agendas prior to the meeting.
- ✓ Post public meeting times on your personal and group social media platforms.
- ✓ **STAY ENGAGED:** Email, tweet or call your state lawmaker as budget season progresses.

# MAKE THE CALL

- ✓ Recruit friends (calls move the ball).
- ✓ **PREPARE:** consistent messages show a community is paying attention, which increases a legislator's interest in the topic.
- ✓ Call the district office and ask to schedule a call with the Legislator.
- ✓ Lawmakers are generally in their home districts on Thursday and Fridays.
- ✓ Use Social Media to recognize the outcome and thank him/her for their time.
- ✓ Send a thank you note. Recap your discussion, repeat the ask.

# JOIN THE WORK


- ✓ GET SOCIAL: Invite your friends to LIKE PA Schools Work on Facebook & Follow on Twitter
- ✓ Write a letter to the editor to your local paper
- ✓ Sign up for email updates
- ✓ Host a zoom party
- ✓ Call your legislator
- ✓ Sign up a Friend







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