

# THE PENNSYLVANIA BUDGET BASICS



*Your voice will be critical in pushing the Legislature to do the right thing for our students!*

**The coming months will be critical for our students.** It is the time when lawmakers in Harrisburg decide if Pennsylvania's children are worth the investment and if our schools get the funding they need.

**To help, here is a primer on how the state budget works:**

The Governor presented his budget for the 2021-22 budget year on February 2nd. Join the PA Schools Work webinar on February 9th at Noon for a recap of his proposal.

**Budget hearings with state Education Secretary are held:**

Senate Appropriations Committee - Thursday, March 18th at 10:00 AM

House Appropriations Committee - Monday, March 1st at 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM (part 2)

**After the budget hearings, the state House of Representatives will introduce their own budget bills.**

**Behind the scenes, negotiations will take place throughout the spring among the Governor's Office and legislative leaders in the House and Senate.**

**If there is agreement, budget bills reflecting that agreement will move through the House and Senate and go to the Governor for his signature. Once he signs it, the budget is final.**

**If there is no agreement, the House and Senate may pass their own bills and send them to the Governor, upon which he can:**

Sign all or some of the bills into law

Allow the bills to become law without signing them

Veto all or some of the bills, which then go back to the legislature

Use the line-item veto power to strike out certain parts of the bills

**While the official deadline for the budget is June 30, the end of the fiscal year, it has sometimes taken longer to pass a budget by that deadline.**

PA Schools Work is working for enough state education funding so **every child, regardless of background or geographic location, has access to a well-funded public education.**

# YOU CAN HELP!

*Your Voice  
Matters!*

It is important that **the Governor and legislators** hear from their constituents during this budget season.

## Here's what you can do:

- Visit **paschoolswork.org** and sign up to get updates about what is happening with school funding in PA.
- Follow PA Schools Work on **Facebook** and **Twitter** to get the latest news about the budget and other issues affecting public education.
- Get your **friends and family involved** by asking them to follow PA Schools Work.
- **Contact your state senator and representative** by phone, email or letter. PA Schools Work will share how to contact your lawmakers online.
- **Write op-eds** or letters to the editor to your local newspaper.
- **Tell your story on social media** about what more school funding will mean for your school, your family and your community.

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**Get involved and speak up today to help make  
sure Pennsylvania's public schools get what they need.**

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