



PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOLS WORK for **students, communities, and our economy** when they have the resources to give all students the **OPPORTUNITIES** they need to **SUCCEED.**

PA SCHOOLS WORK is fighting for equitable, adequate funding necessary to support educational excellence. Investing in public education excellence is the path to thriving communities, a stable economy and successful students.

Students in poor school districts are negatively affected by chronic underfunding by the state

- Pennsylvania ranks 44th in the country in state share of funding for public schools.
- Decades of underfunding by the state has left school districts \$4.6 billion short of what is needed.
- 86% of Pennsylvania's students attend schools that are not adequately funded as defined by state law.
- 428 of the 500 school districts are not receiving their adequate share of state funding.
- The state's failure to invest enough in education leaves school districts too heavily reliant on local taxes, which means that poor districts are worse off.
- There is a large and growing gap of \$4,800 per pupil between poor and wealthy districts across the states.
- Students of color are concentrated in deeply underfunded districts: 50% of PA's Black students and 40% of Latinx students are in the poorest one-fifth of districts.
- The costs of educating students with disabilities in Pennsylvania public schools grew by a full \$2 billion over ten years, with the state picking up only a small fraction of those costs.

Students in school districts that are able to spend more get better academic results

- Graduation rates are 20 percentage points higher in the wealthiest districts compared to the poorest (94% vs. 74%).
- Students in the wealthiest districts score 30 points higher in math on standardized tests, 25 points higher in science, and 28 percent in reading.
- The higher performing districts in the state spend about \$4,600 more per student than lower performing ones.

Even before COVID-19, the inequity problem in Pennsylvania was worsening, as mandated costs beyond school districts' control, like pensions, special education, and charter school tuition (which school districts must pay) have increased at rates much higher than what the state has been willing to cover.

Over the past year, the pandemic has forced schools to spend more to educate students and keep them safe, while they take in less local revenue because of the economic downturn. Even with one-time federal relief money, schools will come out of the pandemic worse off financially than before.

Governor Wolf's proposed PA budget for 2021-22 includes an historic additional \$1.5 billion for education with \$200 million of that increase dedicated to special education to help schools provide high-quality special education services to students with disabilities and special needs.

\$1.5 BILLION

**Proposed education funding
increase in 2021-22 PA Budget**

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\$200 MILLION

**proposed funding increase
for Special Education in
2021-22 PA Budget**

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