

## WHAT DOES OUR BROKEN STATE SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM MEAN FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITIES?

**"I see the opportunities they're not getting, and it's not fair."**

- Panther Valley School District Superintendent David McAndrew

**The trial that could completely reshape the way schools are funded in Pennsylvania recently wrapped up after weeks of illuminating testimony in Commonwealth Court about how the state's school funding system leaves students who need the most with the least, specifically because of where they live.**

The testimony in the trial was illuminating – especially testimony from petitioner school districts. Here's what we learned about one of those districts, Panther Valley, which is representative of the difficulties faced by districts in all parts of the commonwealth:

- Panther Valley School District is a rural school district spread across parts of Schuylkill and Carbon County.
- The school district needs nearly \$6,000 more per student to reach the state's own benchmark for adequate education funding.
- Superintendent David McAndrew says elementary students must deal with a leaky roof and 75 kindergarteners must share one toilet and the high school locker room does not have working showers.
- The district cannot pay competitive salaries – some neighboring districts pay as much as \$23,000 more to start – so turnover of experienced teachers is high.
- There is only one guidance counselor serving 400 students.
- Homeowners in the community have had to pay more because the state is not paying what it should.

**Without a substantial increase along the lines of what Governor Wolf has proposed this year, thousands of kids will go without the basics because of where they live. The state has the money to make this kind of investment in 2022-23, and we cannot let our kids fall further behind.**

CLOSE PENNSYLVANIA'S **\$4.6B** PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING GAP

Property taxes are rising, and public schools are struggling.

**A major down payment in the FY 2022-23 budget is an urgent necessity.**