

## **PRESSURES ON TEACHERS ARE MOUNTING -**

**from encroachments on the lesson planning to pressure to boost students' standardized test scores to the daily struggles brought about by COVID-19 - many teachers are choosing to leave the profession.**

In fact, Pennsylvania had a teacher shortage emergency before the pandemic. The supply of teachers in Pennsylvania has **declined precipitously** in the past decade.

### **It's getting worse at a time when Pennsylvania students' academic and mental health needs increase:**

- A January **report** found that labor challenges are the top concern of Pennsylvania superintendents, school business officials, and operational specialists surveyed.
- In February, the School District of Philadelphia released **data** showing that mid-year teacher resignations are up 200%, with higher rates of absence and long-term leave as well.
- Nationally, a recent **National Education Association poll** found that 55% of teachers plan to leave teaching sooner than originally planned.

**Teacher quality is the most important in-school factor affecting student achievement.**

## **PENNSYLVANIA MUST:**

1. Invest in Grow Your Own programs and pathways to recruit youth, paraprofessionals, and other community members into teaching.
2. Invest in high-retention pathways into teaching, including teacher residency programs and other innovative teacher preparation models that attract and prepare diverse teacher candidates.
3. Reduce the cost of college for future teachers.
4. Improve data collection and transparency around educator staffing and diversity.
5. Remove barriers from Pennsylvania's teacher preparation and certification processes.
6. Invest in teacher retention.

**Learn more from PA Schools Work partner Teach Plus in their recent report on teacher shortages [here](#).**

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.**