APRIL (REVENUE) SHOWERS BRING BOLD INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION

According to the Independent Fiscal Office (IFO), General Fund collections exceeded the April estimate by $2 billion and are $5.04 billion above estimate for the fiscal year-to-date, which will lead to a healthy budget surplus this year.

If you add in the state’s Rainy Day Fund and unspent American Recovery Plan and other federal dollars, the state will have as much as $12 billion on hand for spending as the state enters the 2022-23 fiscal year.

In the next few weeks, lawmakers will begin serious negotiations around the 2022-23 budget. These rosy revenue projections give legislators no excuse but to make a bold investment in Pennsylvania students.

Governor Wolf’s proposal for this budget year of around $1.8 billion in new school funding is exactly the kind of investment in public education that our children need and deserve - and it is an investment that we can easily afford. Our schools are billions of dollars short when it comes to providing an adequate and equitable education for all PA students. If the legislature enacts a budget with this kind of forward-thinking investment in public education, it will go a long way towards ensuring that, no matter where a child lives, our schools will have the resources necessary to allow that child to reach their full potential.

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.