

Talking Points Memo

SHOW US THE MONEY



Pennsylvania is about to spend a lot of money. At least that's what we think that they should do. The big question is -what will legislators decide to spend it on?

A **recent story by the Associated Press** quotes Governor Wolf as saying he expects state revenue in April to come in around \$1.5 billion above expectations - imagine that. An extra \$1.5 billion to budget around the needs of Pennsylvania families. This on top of the \$2.7 billion in excess revenue already collected in 2022.

Here's the bottom line:

- Far too many students fell behind during COVID and these funds can fund programs to help them catch up.
- Lawmakers must recognize that our schools are currently billions short of what is needed.
- Class sizes are too large, school materials are out of date, and school staff are leaving the profession in droves.
- Better-than-expected revenue numbers this year mean that now is the time to invest in the future of the state's children and support schools in doing their job to prepare students for real world jobs and college.
- Legislators should fully fund Governor Wolf's \$1.8 billion in new school funding.

If the legislature enacts a budget with this kind of bold 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, and many local school districts won't be forced to raise property taxes again to make up for a lack of support from the state.

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.



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