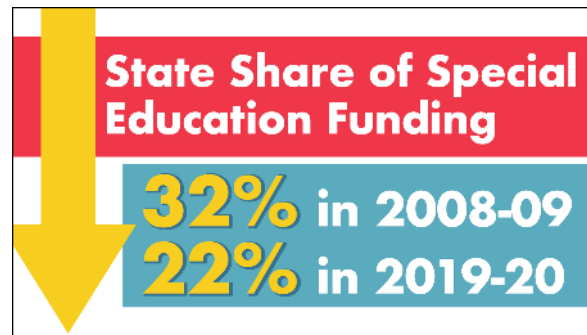


## STATE FUNDING FLAT AS SPECIAL EDUCATION COSTS GROW



One of the most important constitutional responsibilities of the Pennsylvania General Assembly is to provide Pennsylvania students with a “thorough and efficient system of public education.” Despite the growing enrollment in special education and higher costs, state funding has remained stagnant leaving this responsibility to local communities. State lawmakers have left our children and our school districts behind - especially when it comes to funding special education.

In 2008-2009, the state paid one of every three dollars in special education funding; by 2019-2020, that dropped to just over one in five dollars, leaving local taxpayers with the remaining balance. Overall, the General Assembly has only provided 38% of current basic education expenditures and less than 22% of special education costs. That is unacceptable.

[A new report from the Education Law Center \(ELC\)](#) lays out several recommendations for the General Assembly to make good on its responsibility to students by increasing funding for basic and special education. ELC recommends that the General Assembly:

1. Restore the state’s share of special education funding to at least one-third of total costs within five years, with a longer-term goal of an increased state share of special education funding.
2. Add \$200 million in special education funding this year to cover expected cost increases.
3. Allocate \$1.55 billion in new funding for basic education to begin to address the adequacy gap.
4. Eliminate the special education charter school loophole.

The General Assembly has a chance to right its wrongs. With a significant revenue surplus, the General Assembly can finally begin to address the large and long-standing gap in both basic and special education funding. Our children deserve better.

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.**