


The Impact of Pennsylvania's Adequacy Supplement

Early evidence shows adequacy dollars are strengthening classrooms across PA - now lawmakers must keep following through.

Pennsylvania school districts depend on state and local funding to deliver high-quality public education, but in many communities, local revenue simply can't meet students' needs. After the Commonwealth Court ruled Pennsylvania's funding system violated the state Constitution, lawmakers created the **adequacy supplement** to direct additional funding to districts with the greatest gaps.

In the first year alone, the Commonwealth invested **\$494 million** through the Ready to Learn Block Grant, reaching **348 school districts**, serving **1,494,950 students (88% of students statewide)**. PA Schools Work's new report documents how districts are already putting adequacy dollars to work - and what's at stake if the Commonwealth slows down now.

PA Schools Works' latest report, *The Impact of Pennsylvania's Adequacy Supplement*, details how Pennsylvania's first year of the new adequacy supplement is helping school districts hire essential staff, reduce class sizes, expand career and technical education, strengthen early literacy, and improve student well-being.



"We are seeing students better prepared academically and behaviorally, with improved attendance, performance, and confidence. These resources are transformative for our district, ensuring all students have access to the supports and high-quality instruction they need to succeed."

- Superintendent Mike Vuckovich, Windber Area School District, Somerset County

Where the dollars are going

1 Academic performance of students \$123.3M

2 Early childhood & kindergarten \$89.6M

3 STEM & foundational academic supports \$72.7M

4 College & career readiness \$34.1M

PA SCHOOLS WORK
INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE

What districts are doing with adequacy dollars

Interviews with more than 40 superintendents demonstrate that this new state policy has widespread appreciation among rural, suburban, and urban districts. Those interviewed described the adequacy supplement as a “lifeline” and emphasized that the new state investment is not an add-on; it is essential to delivering a high-quality education.

Examples highlighted in the report include:

- **Hiring essential staff** (counselors, social workers, special education staff, instructional support)
- **Reducing class sizes** in early grades to strengthen foundational learning
- **Expanding full-day kindergarten** and early learning opportunities
- **Investing in curriculum, instructional materials, and interventions** to improve outcomes
- **Strengthening career & technical education (CTE)** and workforce-ready pathways

These investments help build Pennsylvania’s future workforce, and give every community greater confidence that local public schools can be a real pathway to opportunity.

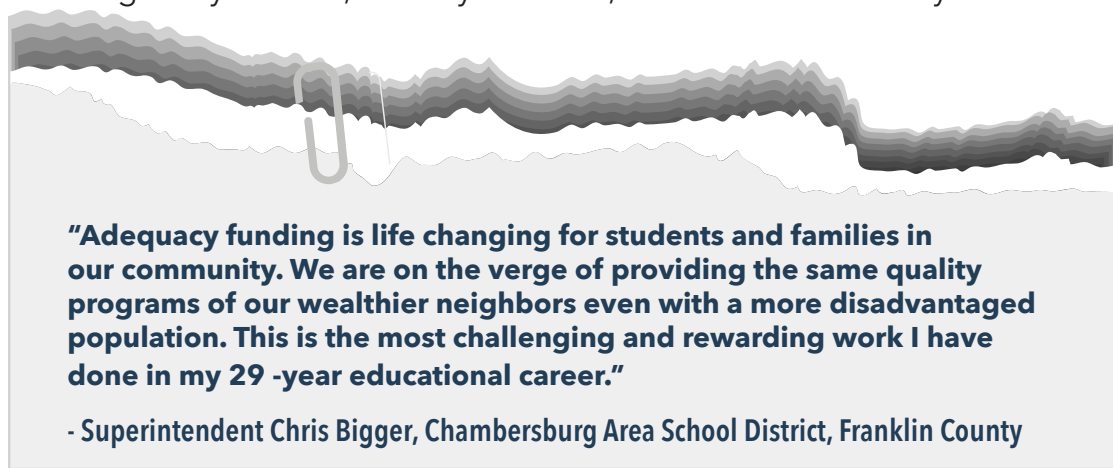
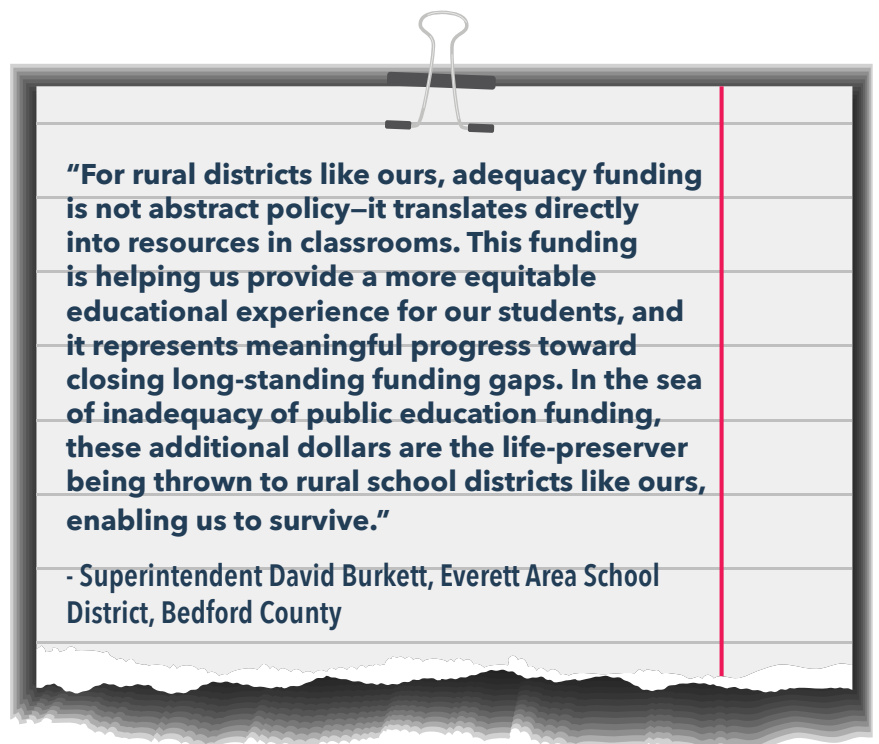
What’s next

State lawmakers have the opportunity to build on early results by adopting a FY27 budget that includes at least:

\$565 million in adequacy funding

\$50 million each for Basic Education and Special Education funding

Continuing these investments is essential to meeting Pennsylvania’s constitutional obligation and ensuring every student, in every ZIP code, has the resources they need to succeed.



Read the full report here:

