

HELP WANTED: SUPPORT FOR OUR TEACHERS IN THE FACE OF HISTORIC SHORTAGE

GREATER STATE INVESTMENT IN OUR SCHOOLS IS NEEDED.

The teacher shortage crisis continues to plague Pennsylvania's education system, resulting in lower student performance, high turnover rates among teachers, and a lack of diverse, highly-qualified teachers, according to a recent report from PA Schools Work partner Teach Plus.¹

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT:

- The number of teachers in Pennsylvania has plummeted by two-thirds over the last decade, and the number of PA teachers certified annually has dropped from 20,000 to just 7,000 since 2013.
- Urban, rural, and low-income communities suffer the most, as a lack of adequate funding has made it harder for schools to hire and retain highly qualified teachers. Teachers are stretched too thin and are struggling to accommodate larger class sizes with less support.

ENDING THE TEACHER SHORTAGE CRISIS IN PENNSYLVANIA WILL REQUIRE URGENCY AND LONG-TERM, SYSTEMIC SOLUTIONS THAT FACE THE PROBLEM AT ITS ROOTS. THAT INCLUDES:

- Improving the working conditions of teachers, as a well-funded classroom allows teachers to focus on doing the important work of educating the next generation.
- Creating more effective incentives for high-quality teacher preparation.
- Investing in well-defined career ladders so that teachers don't leave the profession.
- Expanding the pathways into teaching for youth through new high school career-and-technical pathways all across Pennsylvania.
- Bolstering and improving the financial value proposition for becoming a teacher, by expanding apprenticeship and service scholarship programs, stipends, and pay increases for teachers.

All this takes significantly more resources. That starts by closing the more than \$4 billion school funding adequacy gap in Pennsylvania, so that historically underfunded school districts can offer competitive salaries and benefits to high-quality educators.

The recent state court decision determining that the school funding system in Pennsylvania is unconstitutional underscores the need for action.

¹ #PANeedsTeachers: Addressing Pennsylvania's Teacher Shortage Crisis Through Systemic Solutions

LEARN MORE BY VISITING WWW.PASCHOOLSWORK.ORG

PASCHOOLSWORK.ORG

WWW

FACEBOOK.COM/PASCHOOLSWORK



TWITTER.COM/PASCHOOLSWORK

