

Talking Points Memo

FUNDING IN THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2024-25 Pennsylvania state budget marks a significant step towards addressing the unconstitutional school funding system, as ruled by the Commonwealth Court. The legislature has identified a \$4.5 billion gap between what the state has invested in public schools and what school districts actually need. THIS YEAR'S BUDGET INCLUDES A \$1.1 BILLION INCREASE IN K-12 EDUCATION FUNDING WHICH INCLUDES:

- NEW ADEQUACY SUPPLEMENT: \$494 million for 348 school districts with the greatest needs
- BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING: \$225 million increase for all school districts
- SPECIAL EDUCATION: \$100 million more for students with disabilities
- CYBER CHARTER SCHOOLS: \$100 million to help districts with cyber charter school costs
- OTHER INCREASES: Funding for career education, school safety, mental health, and student teacher support

WHY THIS MATTERS:

- IT'S A STEP TOWARDS FIXING THE UNFAIR, UNCONSTITUTIONAL SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM
- IT HELPS SCHOOLS THAT NEED MONEY THE MOST
- IT SUPPORTS VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL NEEDS, FROM SPECIAL EDUCATION TO CAREER TRAINING

WHAT'S NEXT:

- MORE WORK IS NEEDED TO FULLY FIX THE SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM
- LAWMAKERS NEED TO COMMIT TO INCREASING EDUCATION FUNDING IN THE COMING YEARS
- THE GOAL IS TO ENSURE ALL PENNSYLVANIA STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

THE MAIN MESSAGE TO LAWMAKERS:

"FINISH THE JOB" in making school funding fair and adequate for all Pennsylvania students.