



**Marc Stier**

Director

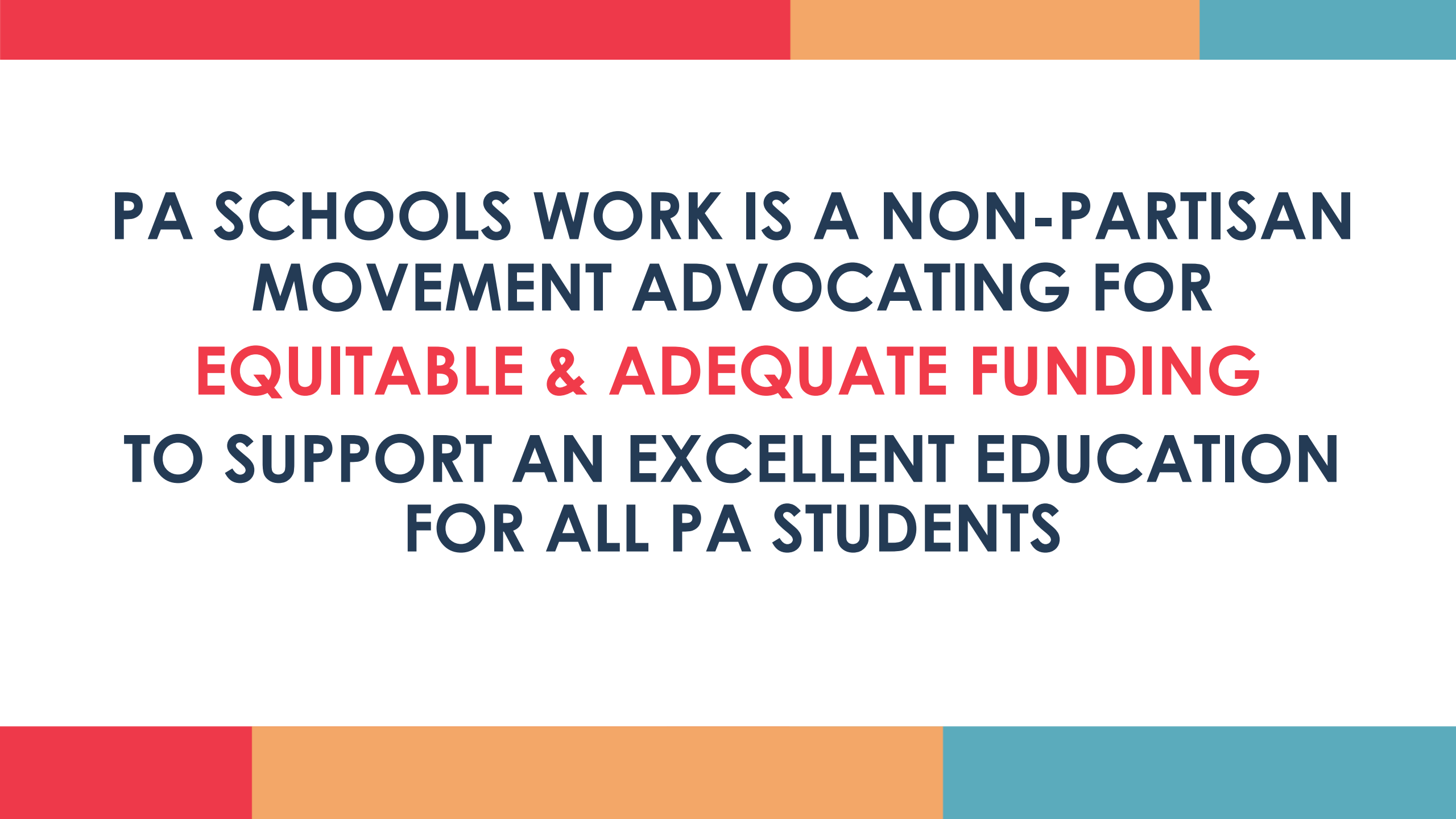
PA Budget and Policy Center



**KEYSTONE RESEARCH CENTER**  
AND  
**PA BUDGET AND POLICY CENTER**

**Deborah Gordon Klehr**  
Executive Director  
Education Law Center





**PA SCHOOLS WORK IS A NON-PARTISAN  
MOVEMENT ADVOCATING FOR  
EQUITABLE & ADEQUATE FUNDING  
TO SUPPORT AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION  
FOR ALL PA STUDENTS**

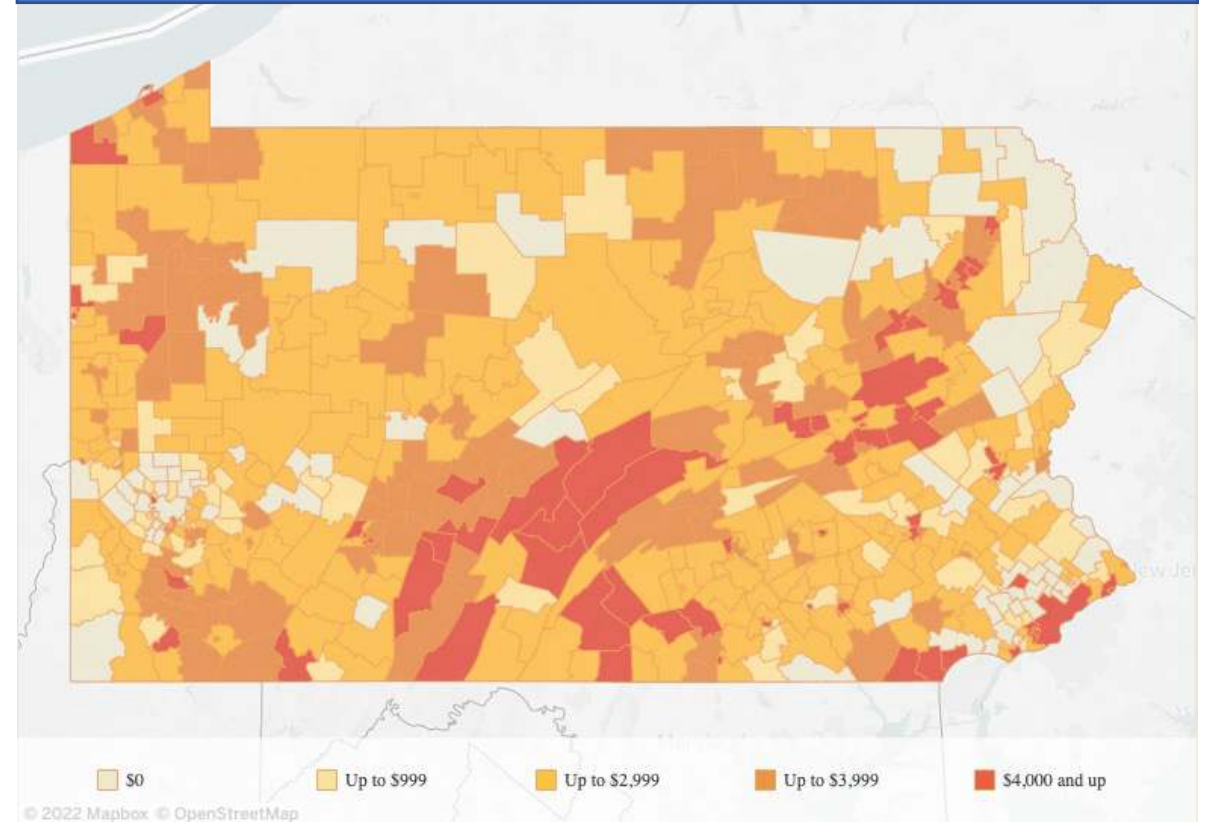
# THE ADEQUACY GAP IN PA PUBLIC EDUCATION

Since 2008, Pennsylvania state law has set a benchmark for calculating the resources that schools need so that their students have a shot at reaching state academic standards.

Penn State College of Education professor Matthew Kelly found that, according to the state's benchmark, 277 Pennsylvania districts need more than \$2,000 more per student to adequately support their students' learning needs, **totaling a need of \$4.6 billion statewide to adequately educate our children.**

Hundreds of thousands of students are going without the basics and without the things they need to reach their potential.

Adequacy Gap Per Student By School District



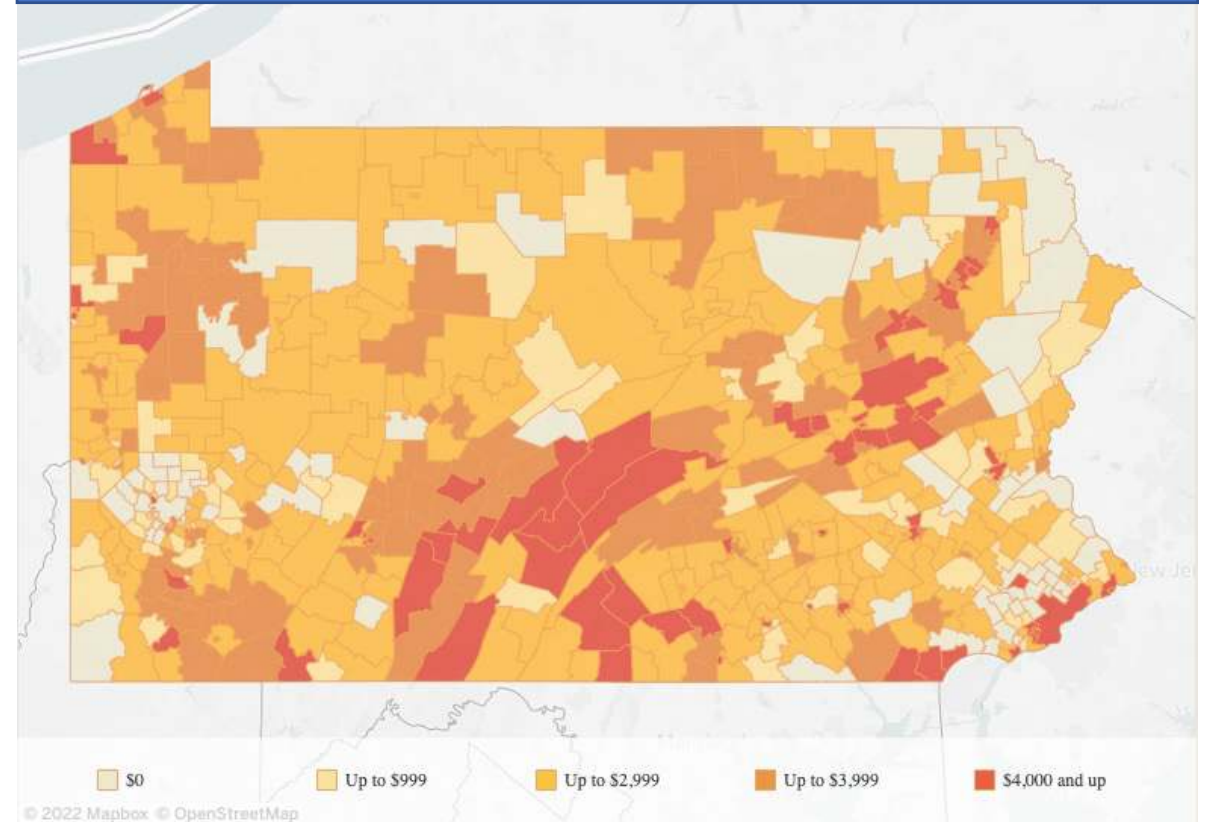
# THE ADEQUACY GAP IN PA PUBLIC EDUCATION

There is no way to solve this problem with the level of funding we have now. If we just split the pie differently, we'll be fighting over crumbs. The hole we have dug is generations deep. Without a substantial increase in funding from Harrisburg, thousands of kids will go without the basics because of where they live.

The low share of funding that comes from the state level is the cause of the inequality and the deprivations that we see across the Commonwealth.

The state legislature, and only the state legislature, can fix the inequality and deprivation that we see in PA. It is their constitutional obligation to do so.

Adequacy Gap Per Student By School District



# THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PUBLIC EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

- Increase in Basic Education Funding (BEF) through the fair funding formula of **\$525 million**
- Increase in BEF through **\$225 million** more in Level UP funding to 100 least well-funded schools
  - \* 19.5% of state funding will now flow through the formula
- **\$100 million** increase in special education funding
- Career and technical education increase of **\$6 million**

# THE 2022-23 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET PUBLIC EDUCATION INVESTMENTS

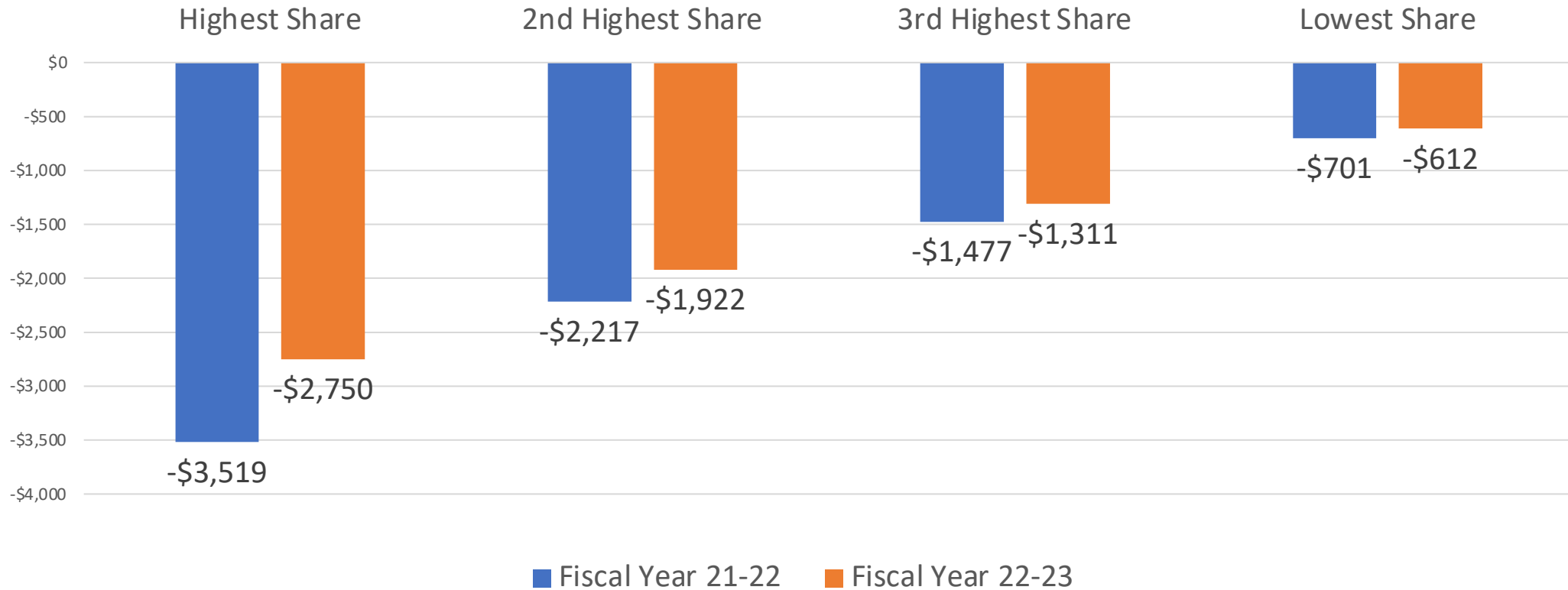
## WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- The increase in funding helps to cover the increase in costs for school districts
- It takes steps to reduce economic, racial, and ethnic inequity

**BUT SUBSTANTIAL INEQUITIES REMAIN.**

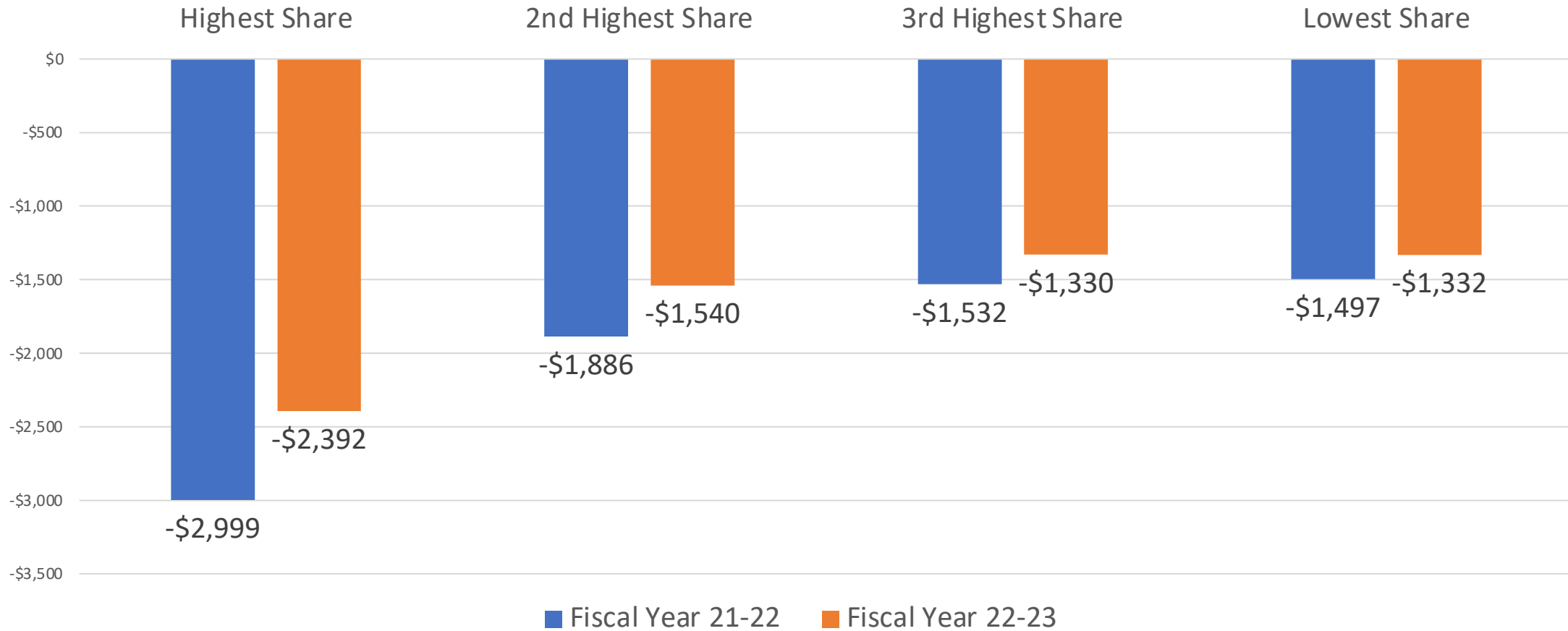


## Adequacy Gap per Student by Share of Families Living in Poverty



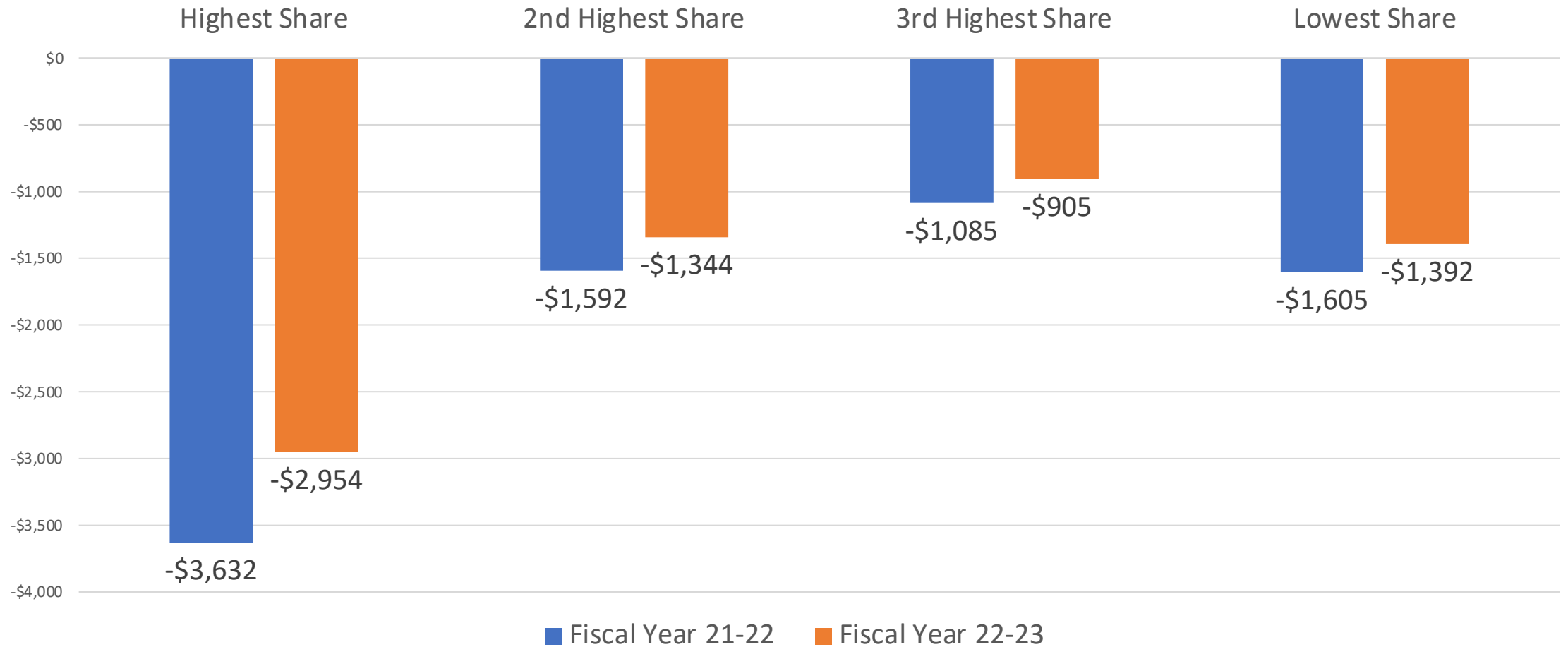
Source: PBPC analysis of updated costing-out study data provided by the Public Interest Law Center and school district data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education

## Adequacy Gap per Student by Share of Black Students



Source: PBPC analysis of updated costing-out study data provided by the Public Interest Law Center and school district data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education

# Adequacy Gap per Student by Share of Hispanic Students



Source: PBPC analysis of updated costing-out study data provided by the Public Interest Law Center and school district data provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Education

Adequacy Shortfall by race and ethnicity per student for all school districts

Race	FY 21/22	FY 22/23	Gap compared to white students	
			FY21/22	FY 22/23
Black	\$2,305	\$1,851	\$730	\$489
Hispanic	\$2,555	\$2,079	\$979	\$718
White	\$1,575	\$1,361		

# ***William Penn SD et al. v. Pa. Dept. of Education et al.***

***“The disparities in funding between high-wealth and low-wealth districts, that’s not just numbers on paper. That’s children, hundreds of thousands of them.” - Petitioners’ opening statement, Nov. 12, 2021***

**Filed:** November 2014

**Court:** Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

- **Count I:** Education Clause

“The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.”

-Article III, Section 14, Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

- **Count II:** Equal Protection

# Underfunded Schools in PA: some examples of trial testimony

- 2 reading specialists for 1,200 kids; no math specialist
- Kindergarten classes of 28-30 kids, 1 adult
- 1 counselor for 799 students
- No AP courses, few CTE programs
- Crumbling buildings
- Classrooms lacking heat or AC
- 6% proficiency only 4 miles away from a wealthy district with 95% proficient

## The long-term problem

1. No goal of fully funding schools
2. Low relative state contribution – 38.5% (prior to this year's budget)
3. Most funding not based on formula
4. Inadequate state funding leads to gross inequities between districts
5. Low-wealth communities need the most, try the hardest, have the least



**QUESTIONS?**