

INEQUITY IN PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

MAY 2021

EXAMPLES ACROSS THE STATE

Pottstown School District, Montgomery County

- No Elementary School Counselors • No Middle School Foreign Language Classes • No Middle School Music Classes
- No Athletic or Non-Athletic Intramural After School Activities • Nurses and Librarians Shared Among Schools

Columbia Borough School District, Lancaster County

- No Reading Specialists in the Entire District • No Advanced Placement Classes Offered at the High School
- No Intervention Specialists in the District to Provide Support to Students in Need of Remediation

Scranton School District, Lackawanna County

- School Buildings are Old and in Disrepair • Very Low Starting Salaries Do Not Attract Highly Qualified Educators
- Pre-Kindergarten Eliminated from the Curriculum Because of Cost

Upper Darby School District, Delaware County

- Rented Inadequate Schools Outside of District to House Overflow of Students • Overcrowded, Old School Buildings
- Inadequate and Inexperienced Staff Due to Low Salaries

Philadelphia School District, Philadelphia County

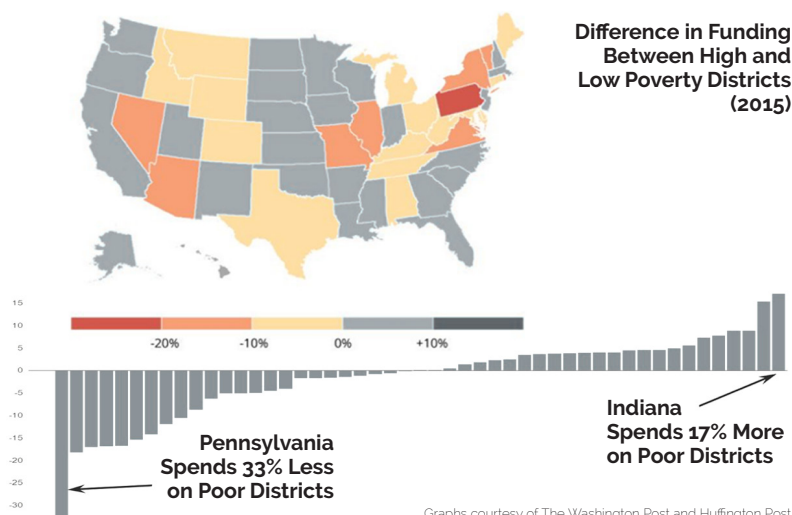
- Buildings in Disrepair: Leaded Water, Lead Paint, and Asbestos Contaminating Some Buildings • Classes Overcrowded and Schools Understaffed at All Levels • Physical Education Teachers Use Stairwells, Hallways as Learning Spaces

William Penn School District, Delaware County

- Two Social Workers for More Than 5000 Young People • Few School Counselors and Little Mental Health Support
- Poor Athletic Facilities; No Track • No Adequate Theater Space for the Arts • Old, Inadequate Buildings

***These shortfalls in student resources are not unique. Hundreds of poorer school districts across the commonwealth lack the basic facilities and programs that more wealthy school districts take for granted.**

LAST IN THE NATION



In Pennsylvania, kids who need the most get the least.

Pennsylvania ranks very last among all 50 states when it comes to providing additional funding to school districts in poverty.

PA is the only state that does not increase funding as student populations grow year after year. If the student population has increased, the district will receive the same amount of money: losing funding per student.

Communities across Pennsylvania deserve an equitable funding model to be totally implemented in order to level the playing field for our children.

A CLEAR RACIAL BIAS

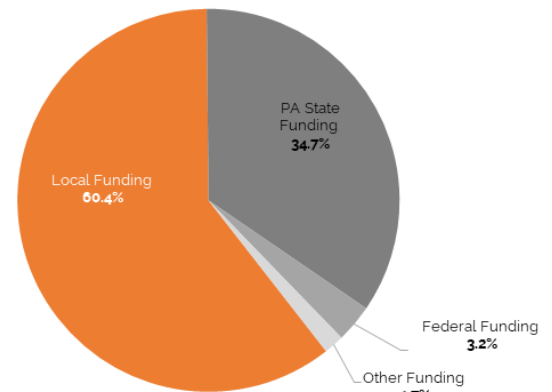
More racially diverse districts in Pennsylvania almost always get less than their fair share.

The whiter the district, with few exceptions, the more money PA state funding provides to the school district. The more diverse the district, with few exceptions, the less money it receives from PA state funding.

For communities of color, the lack of education funding causes real social harm. Educational attainment is closely linked to health outcomes and economic achievement. Creating a truly fair funding formula makes our communities stronger and benefits us all.

SHIFTING THE BURDEN

The inequities in state funding pass along the burden of funding school districts to local residents, often through higher property taxes. This system leaves poorer communities no choice but to raise new taxes on residents who are the least prepared to pay more in order to provide adequate educational opportunities for our children.



RESOURCES FOR CHANGE

- Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding: pafairfunding.org
- PA School Boards Association: psba.org/issues
- POWER: powerinterfaith.org

Data Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2019

Less than Fair Share

Philadelphia City SD -\$401,239,860			
Scranton SD -\$32,490,316		Harrisburg City SD -\$31,025,366	
Reading SD -\$100,250,934		Wilkes-Barre Area SD -\$27,911,555	
Lancaster SD -\$25,190,237			
Bethlehem Area SD -\$20,141,471	Erie City SD -\$12,112,845	Hazleton Area SD -\$11,581,114	Pocono Mountain SD -\$10,989,000
Central York SD -\$9,277,000	State College Area SD -\$9,198,000	Lebanon SD -\$9,130,000	Central Dauphin SD -\$8,620,000
East Stroudsburg Area SD -\$15,413,836	North Penn SD -\$7,820,000	Jim Thorpe Area SD -\$7,820,000	Manheim Township SD -\$7,820,000
Allentown City SD -\$85,207,441	Dallastown Area SD -\$15,413,836	Shenandoah Valley SD -\$15,413,836	Stroud Township SD -\$15,413,836
Upper Darby SD -\$15,413,719	Southeast Delco SD -\$15,413,719	Waller SD -\$15,413,719	Gov. Mifflin SD -\$15,413,719
Norristown Area SD -\$13,664,354	York Suburban SD -\$13,664,354	West York SD -\$13,664,354	West Mifflin SD -\$13,664,354
York City SD -\$54,860,772	Pottstown SD -\$13,479,134	Muhlenberg SD -\$6,480,000	Whitehall SD -\$6,480,000

More than Fair Share

Pittsburgh SD \$78,614,936			
Altoona Area SD \$14,790,563		Connellsville Area SD \$13,086,988	
Penncrest SD \$12,411,623		Pleasant Valley SD \$12,278,606	
Butler Area SD \$12,024,607		Armstrong SD \$10,958,197	
Warren County SD \$10,782,464			
Punxsutawney Area SD	Penn-Trafford SD	Forest Hills SD	Norwin SD
Hempfield Area SD	Keystone Area SD	Hopewell Area SD	Ellwood City Area SD
Bethlehem Area SD	Southampton SD	Oil City SD	Mifflin County SD
Corry Area SD	Susquehanna Area SD	Shamokin Area SD	Harbor Creek Area SD
Cambria Area SD	New Brighton Area SD	Coatesville SD	South Butler SD
Conneaut SD	Seneca SD	Cone Area SD	Wilkinsburg SD
United SD	Troy Area SD	Central Valley SD	Westmoreland SD
Karns City Area SD	Yough SD	Ambler SD	Southampton SD
Laurel SD	Chestnut SD	Penns Manor SD	Brown Station SD
Franklin Area SD	Berwick Area SD	Shenandoah SD	Keystone SD
Clearfield Area SD	Blairsville SD	Delaware SD	Centerville SD
Freedoms Area SD	Northwest Area SD	Penn Hills SD	Port Allegheny SD
Avon Grove SD	Meyerdale Area SD	Valley Forge SD	Iroquois SD
Reynolds SD	Athens Area SD	Lakeview SD	Cone Area SD

More Students of Color

Fewer Students of Color