



Graduation Rates & Money

Last Update: 6/02 9:53 pm

“I’m embarrassed almost to say it. We had more students incarcerated than were graduating that year,” says Mayor Stephen Reed.

That was 2001 when the mayor took over control of Harrisburg School District. Seven years later that has changed.

Since then the graduation rate has almost doubled from 177 to 383. The number of students going on to higher education has almost tripled from 100 to 280. The drop out rate was cut almost in half from 261 down to 189.

All of the good news was followed by some bad news. The state cut the district's budget by ten and half million last year; meanwhile, the federal government said we want higher test scores.

“No kidding, so do we. You don't achieve that by having fewer teachers, larger classrooms, and fewer after-school mentoring and tutoring programs,” says Mayor Reed.

However, new funding may save all of these things. The Governor's Education Budget would mean about two and half million more dollars for the next school year and seventeen and half over the next six years.

Now the mayor and parents are lobbying for support.

This additional funding is part of the state budget proposal. The legislature has until the end of June to pass the budget.

Copyright 2008 Newport Television LLC All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.