

# The Patriot-News

## **Formula needed for school funding**

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All schools in Pennsylvania are not equal. Our state government pays only 35 percent of total school revenues, compared to an average of 47 percent in other states. Most of the rest comes from local property taxes. This means that children who live in poorer areas may attend schools where funds are inadequate.

A 2006 costing-out study shows that Pennsylvania is underfunding basic education by over \$4 billion, shortchanging the average student by more than \$2,400. I believe that our state government should provide adequate funding for schools, and a school funding formula that doesn't depend on local property taxes.

In his 2008-2009 state budget for education Gov. Ed Rendell proposed at least \$2.6 billion in additional state funds in six years. We need our legislators to support that idea and support a school funding formula for Pennsylvania.

It is time to provide Pennsylvania school districts with adequate, equitable, and reliable resources so all students can receive a quality education, no matter where they live.

-- CAROL M. BUSKIRK, West Hanover Twp.