

Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign

Successful Schools...Successful Children...Successful Communities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PA GENERAL ASSEMBLY INCREASES BASIC EDUCATION FUNDING BY \$275 MILLION; DISTRIBUTION TO DISTRICTS BASED ON COSTING-OUT STUDY

Harrisburg, PA (July 4, 2008) . Today the Pennsylvania General Assembly approved the largest dollar increase . \$275 million . for basic education funding in at least two decades and ensured that public education will remain a priority by locking funding targets into law. The distribution formula is based largely on the findings of the 2007 Costing-Out Study, which indicated that Pennsylvania was under-funding public education by more than \$4 billion in order for students to meet the state's academic standards.

The Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign (the Campaign), a statewide coalition of education and advocacy organizations and individuals, today thanked the Governor and members of the General Assembly for their generous appropriation in a difficult budget year and for using the findings of the Costing-Out Study in developing a new formula to ensure educational opportunities for Pennsylvania's children.

"We appreciate the fact that the distribution of much of this year's state subsidy increase is based on the Costing-Out Study, and this is an important first step toward giving the children and schools of the Commonwealth an adequate, equitable and predictable school funding system," said Ron Cowell, president of The Education Policy and Leadership Center.

The Campaign has focused its efforts on enacting a permanent school funding formula and increasing the state's share of public education funding. The distribution formula approved by the legislature is based on the concept of assuring adequate resources for all students to meet the academic standards mandated for them by the state. The formula is included in a bill adopted along with the budget that sets state funding targets for each school district and a goal of achieving those targets in the next six years.

"Today the General Assembly enacted an historic piece of legislation ensuring that public education funding will remain a priority of state government for years to come," said James Testerman, President of the PA State Education Association.

"Pennsylvania lawmakers put the needs of children first by taking this bold action and assured that every child can share in the promise of a high quality education regardless of where they live," said Joan L. Benso, President and CEO of PA Partnerships for Children. "We join the parents of Pennsylvania in thanking the Governor and General Assembly for making a long-term commitment to the goal of funding the real education needs of every child."

Tim Allwein, PA School Boards Association (PSBA) Assistant Executive Director of Governmental and Member Relations, said "PSBA is appreciative of the increase in state funding for public schools. The key to containing increased property taxes is for the state to increase its share of school costs and to continue to do so. This year's budget is a great step in that direction."

"The substantial increase in funding for public schools is a victory for Pennsylvania's children," according to Ted Kirsch, President of AFT-Pennsylvania. "We applaud the Governor and the legislature for moving toward an adequate funding formula based on the Costing-Out Study."

The Campaign resolved to continue to support efforts to fully fund the formula and to refine it. "There is still much work that lies ahead," Cowell said. "The Campaign remains dedicated to working with the Governor and General Assembly to assure commitment and annual progress to accomplish within six years adequate resources for all students in all districts," he concluded.

The Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign's Steering Committee and Endorsing Organizations are listed below. Please visit the Campaign website at www.paschoolfunding.org for more information.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FUNDING CAMPAIGN
Steering Committee Organizations

AFT . Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center
Education Law Center	Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Good Schools PA	Pennsylvania League of Urban Schools
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania	Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pennsylvania ACORN	Pennsylvania PTA
Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education	Pennsylvania School Boards Association
Pennsylvania Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development	Pennsylvania State Conference of NAACP Branches: Education Committee
Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators	Pennsylvania State Education Association
Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals	Philadelphia Education Fund
Pennsylvania Association of Federal Program Coordinators	Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
Pennsylvania Association of Intermediate Units	Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools	Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia
Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators	The Consortium for Public Education
Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials	The Education Policy and Leadership Center

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL FUNDING CAMPAIGN
Endorsing Organizations

3 Rivers Connect	Newport Public Schools
Abington Heights Education Association	Northern Cambria Education Association
Allentown Education Association	PA Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators (PAC-TE)
Alliance of Charter School Employees, AFT	Parents Unified for Charter (public) Schools
American Association of University Women-Harrisburg Branch	Parents United for Public Education
ARIN IU28 Education Association	Parkland Education Association
Armstrong County CAA Head Start	Pennsylvania AFL-CIO
Asian Americans United	Pennsylvania Alliance for Arts Education
Bainbridge House, Inc.	Pennsylvania Alliance for STEM Education
Baldwin-Whitehall Council of PTAs	Pennsylvania Coalition of Young Democrats
Baldwin-Whitehall School District	Pennsylvania Head Start Association
Baresville Elementary PTA	Pennsylvania Home-based Child Care Providers Association
Beaver County Early Care & Education Council	Pennsylvania League of Women Voters
Bethlehem AVTS	Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool Youth Development Network
Big Beaver Falls Education Association	Philadelphia Home and School Council
Central York Education Association	Philadelphia Student Union
Children's Coalition of the Lehigh Valley	Plum Borough Education Association
Children's Literacy Initiative	Presbyterian Citizens in Action (PCIA)
Communities in Schools of Pittsburgh-Allegheny County	Reading Education Association
Dallastown Area School District	Reading Is FUNdamental Pittsburgh
Dingman Delaware Middle School PTA	Realty World Becky Freeman & Associates
Discovery Charter School	Riverside Beaver County Education Association
Easton Area Education Association	Scientific Learning Corporation
EdStrat21	Shamokin Area Middle School PTA
Education Association of Norristown Area	Shamokin Area Senior High School PTA
Education Voters PA	South Fayette Elementary PTA
Elk Lake School District	Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter Americans for Democratic Action
Erie Education Association	Southern Tioga Education Association
Family Connection of Easton, Inc.	The Educational Advocates
Family Support Policy Board	United School District
FLOC- For Love of Children	Upland Borough Council
Greater Johnstown Education Association	Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
Guilford Hills PTA	Western Pennsylvania Forum for School Superintendents
Hamlin/ Lake PTA	Western Wayne Middle High PTA
Hanover Public Education Support Personnel Association	Whitehall Elementary PTA
Harrisburg Education Association	Whitehall-Coplay Education Association
Lancaster Education Association	Wilkes-Barre Area Education Association
Millcreek Education Association	York City Education Association
Montgomery County Community Action Development Commission	YWCA of York

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