A TALE OF TWO CLASSROOMS

EDUCATION FUNDING IN PENNSYLVANIA
Where does Pennsylvania stand?

Decrease in State Commitment to Education Funding

![Image showing Pennsylvania's ranking in education funding]

**50%** 1973  
**37%** 2017

Nationally-Ranked Achievement Gaps

- **3rd**: largest achievement gap between white and Latino students
- **6th**: largest achievement gap between white and African American students
- **17th**: largest achievement gap between wealthy and poor students
How does this affect the Southeast?
A closer look at Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties
The top-spending Southeastern PA districts consistently invest $3500 more in each student than the lowest-spending districts.
This means kids in poorly-funded districts receive nearly $88,000 less per classroom than kids in well-funded districts.

(And this gap shows no signs of closing.)
With an extra $88,000, those classrooms could each fund...

1 Smart Board ($6000)
25 Laptop Computers ($12,500)

1 Teacher’s Aid ($31,500)

1 School Mural Project ($5,000)

1 Newly Renovated Lab ($33,000)
Kids in well-funded districts perform better.

In well funded schools: 89% of students score proficient or advanced in math

vs.

In the least funded schools: 74% of students score proficient or advanced in math
Better funding means more successful students.

In well funded schools

87% of students

vs.

In the least funded schools

71% of students

score proficient or advanced in reading
Beyond the achievement disparity, PSSA scores have been falling in the region since 2011.
Too many kids are failing.

Percentage of Students Failing the Keystone State Exam in 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Historically Underperforming</th>
<th>Non-Historically Underperforming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Algebra I</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* In the four southeastern suburban counties of Pennsylvania.

**The Historically Underperforming group consists of students who are: (1) economically disadvantaged, (2) English Language Learners, or (3) have an Individualized Education Plan.
What comes next for these kids?

In a study of 114 high schools nationally:

- 78% of students at the highest-rated school felt prepared for college,
- while only 11% of students at the lowest-rated school felt prepared for college.
These disparities hurt all of us.

$44 billion: the loss to Pennsylvania’s GDP since 2003 because of the opportunity gap.

$1-3 billion: the increase in lifetime earnings of each PA student cohort after closing the gap.
Where do we go from here?

In 2016, Pennsylvania enacted the Fair Education Funding Formula, to ensure that all students are given a chance to succeed.

Now, we need to utilize the formula to make greater, sustainable investments in students and find the revenues to support them.

A $3 billion investment over the next several years will help to secure brighter futures for all of Pennsylvania’s kids.

Find your legislator to write a letter, make a call, or plan a visit at: http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/home/findyourlegislator/

To learn more about how to support this mission, visit pccy.org and fairfundingpa.org.
Resources

• 2013-2014 State Accountability Assessment Results, School Level, http://paschoolperformance.org/Downloads
• The Campaign for Fair Education Funding, www.fairfundingpa.org
• Pennsylvania Department of Education AFR Data- Detailed, http://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/School%20Finances/Finances/AFR%20Data%20Summary/Pages/AFR-Data-Detailed-.aspx#.VZwC6mXD-Uk
• Pennsylvania Department of Education Financial Data Elements, http://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/School%20Finances/FinancialDataElements/Pages/default.aspx#tab-1