



THE CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR EDUCATION FUNDING

Because every child deserves a chance to succeed.

Every Pennsylvania student deserves a quality education no matter where that student lives

But Pennsylvania’s system for funding public schools is broken:

- We are one of only three states without a basic education funding formula to distribute adequate resources both fairly and predictably.
- Pennsylvania has the widest funding gap between wealthy and poor school districts of any state in the country. Per pupil spending in PA’s poorest districts is 33% less than in PA’s wealthiest districts. [NCES 2015]
- The absence of a funding formula, combined with state funding cuts in recent years, hits our students hard.

Since 2010-11:

93%
of school districts reduced staff

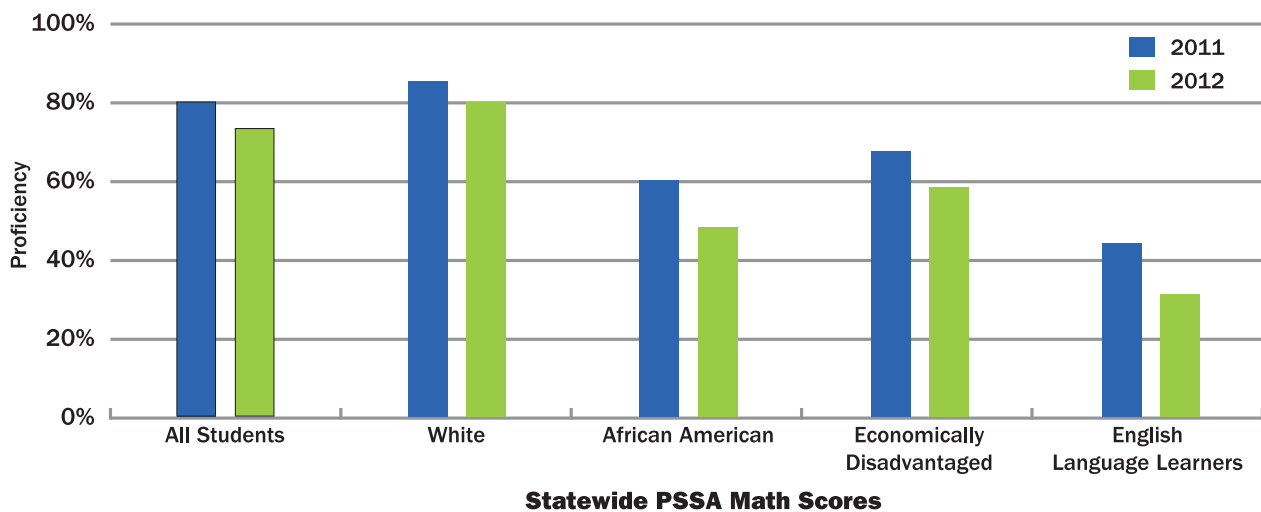
50%
furloughed teachers or other staff

74%
cut or reduced at least one academic program

57%
increased class size

[PASA-PASBO Report, January 2015]

And that has hurt students across Pennsylvania, as performance has lagged.



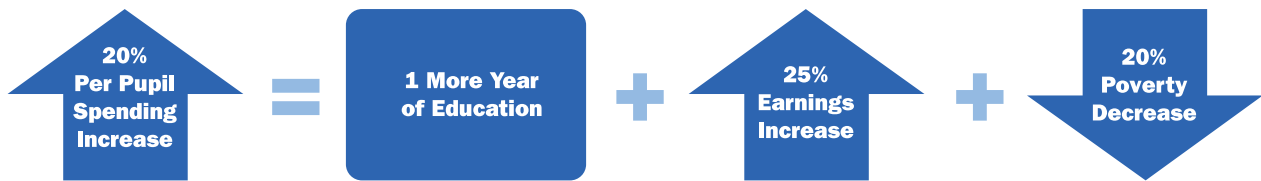
[Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, November 21, 2014]



Our public school funding system fails to provide enough resources to educate all students to academic standards, produces racial disparities and a wide gap between the wealthiest and poorest schools, and is so unpredictable from year to year that school districts cannot effectively budget or plan.

Pennsylvania must adopt an education funding system that provides enough resources so students in every school have a fair shot at academic success.

Research on school finance reform in other states found that sustained, long-term increases in per-pupil spending led to increases in educational attainment and the likelihood that poor children graduate from high school, which in turn increased future family income.



[NBER Working Paper No. 20118, May 2014]

The Campaign for Fair Education Funding Proposal:

A student-driven, long-term, predictable education funding system that equitably distributes adequate state funding to ensure students in every public school meet academic standards and are prepared for success as adults.

The Campaign advocates for a school funding system that:

- Directs adequate funding to districts and students based on real costs, addressing student challenges like poverty, English proficiency, homelessness and foster care placement; and district factors like district size and sparsity, local tax effort and district wealth, and charter school enrollment.
- Ensures that all districts receive minimum funding increases while the new formula is being phased in.
- Calls for schools to invest efficiently, through shared services and other initiatives, and effectively, through stronger academic and fiscal accountability measures at the district and school level.
- Provides for an increased annual state investment of \$3.6 billion to be phased in over six to eight years. For example, an eight-year phase-in would mean annual increases of \$451 million.