

Pennsylvania School Superintendents Comment on the School Funding Lawsuit

These superintendents, who are not from petitioner school districts that are suing the state but lead other, inadequately and inequitably funded districts in Pennsylvania, are available for comment.

Stephen Rodriguez, Superintendent of the Pottstown Area School District

“Twelve urban school districts educate one of every seven students in the commonwealth, but our school funding system continues to shortchange districts and deny our students a chance to become fully contributing citizens. Our taxpayers are doing their part. So why must Pennsylvanians bring its own government to court to get the necessary funding to ensure that Black and Brown students finally receive the resources they need? Let's give all students, regardless of ZIP Code, the opportunity to pursue the American Dream.”

Contact: Stephen Rodriguez: Srodriquez@pottstownk12.org

Joe Roy, Superintendent of the Bethlehem Area School District:

“This lawsuit shines a light on two key facts: 1) Pennsylvania underfunds its schools, putting the burden on local taxpayers; and 2) State funding is unfairly distributed to districts, with the greatest amount of underfunding in the districts that teach more poor students and students of color. This inequitable system is a *choice* that the General Assembly has made over the decades. It's time to make the right choice for fair funding.”

Contact Barbara Clymer: Bclymer@basdschools.org

Mark Holtzman, Superintendent of the McKeesport Area School District

“COVID has dealt another blow to our already struggling community. Almost 70% of our students are economically disadvantaged and need greater resources than our beleaguered taxpayers can provide. Our kids are fighters and when finally given the same resources as our neighboring school districts, nothing will stop them. This lawsuit will give them a fighting chance.”

Contact Dr. Mark Holtzman: Mholtzman@mckasd.net

Daniel McGarry, Superintendent of the Upper Darby School District

“Like other richly diverse, high-tax communities we need the state to do its part to adequately and equitably fund our schools. Upper Darby School District serves over 12,000 students, and among our 12,000 students, there are over 1,477 English learners representing 94 different languages from over 80 countries, more than 2,200 special education students, and over 1,000 students living in a multiple occupancy setting. Our tagline in the Upper Darby School District is Opportunity, Unity, Excellence. We need the state to be Unified in its effort to provide Opportunities for ALL students to reach Excellence. I am grateful for the school districts and families who have taken on this lawsuit, and I look forward to the day when our schools are funded appropriately.”

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