



Why Money Matters for Our Schools and Our Students

PENNSYLVANIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING SYSTEM IS FAILING OUR CHILDREN:

- It does not provide enough resources to educate all students to academic standards.
- It contributes to deficiencies in equal opportunity based on factors like income and race.
- It is so unpredictable that school districts cannot effectively budget or plan.

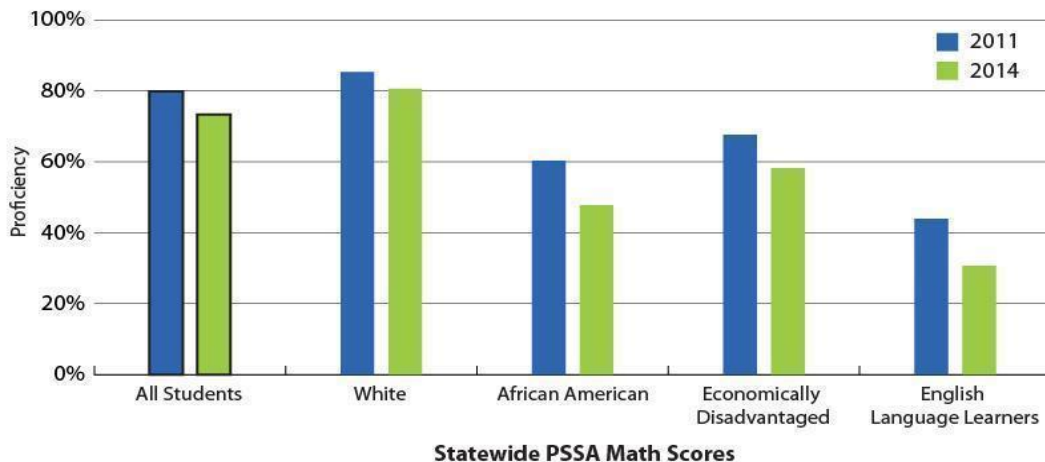
THE RESEARCH IS CLEAR - THE AMOUNT OF MONEY GOING INTO CLASSROOMS IMPACTS STUDENT OUTCOMES:

While many factors – both inside and outside the classroom – can play a role in student success, the experience here in Pennsylvania and across the country demonstrates that increased investment, when used wisely, produces better results for our children.

- 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 Series, 2014]
- Other research shows that improvements requiring more funding, such as reducing class size [Konstantopoloulos and Chung, 2009] and maintaining school libraries [PA School Library Project, 2012], improve student performance.

Here in Pennsylvania, student performance has tracked state funding levels.

- A Pennsylvania study comparing changes in state test scores with changes in funding in all school districts between the 2003-04 and 2010-11 school years found that performance in the 50 lowest-achieving districts increased by 50 percent, on average, as Basic Education Funding to those districts increased by about 40 percent. [Education Law Center, 2011]
- By contrast, as state school funding levels fell in the 2011 to 2014 time frame, leading many schools to cut programs and increase class size [PASBO/PASA Survey, 2015], student performance lagged among all students, but particularly for those facing additional challenges [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette].



THE BOTTOM LINE:

PENNSYLVANIA NEEDS A PREDICTABLE, ADEQUATE, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING SYSTEM TO ENSURE ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL CHILDREN NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE.

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