



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

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

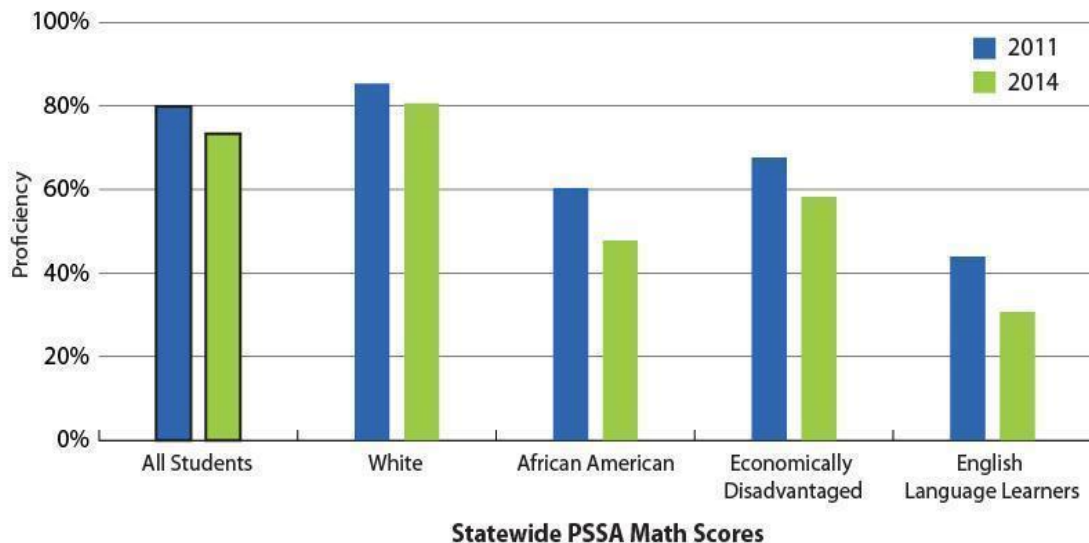
- We are **one of only three states without a basic education funding formula** to distribute sufficient resources both fairly and predictably.
- **Pennsylvania has the widest funding gap between wealthy and poor school districts of any state in the country.** Per-pupil spending in PA's poorest districts is 33% less than in PA's wealthiest districts.
- **The absence of a funding formula, combined with state funding cuts in recent years, shows that in order to balance 2015-16 budgets:**

**70%**  
of school districts  
plan to raise  
local property taxes

**41%**  
of school districts  
will reduce  
staffing

**29%**  
of the poorest districts  
will reduce or eliminate  
valuable programs

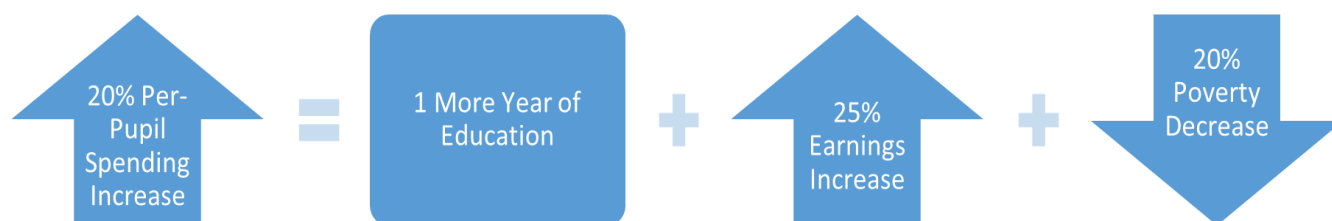
And that has hurt students across Pennsylvania, as performance has lagged.



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 providing 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.



***The Campaign for Fair Education Funding supports 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 bipartisan Basic Education Funding Commission recently reached unanimous agreement on recommendations for a new school funding formula. This is a step in the right direction but more must be done. A formula must be enacted and fully funded for the long-term.

**The Campaign advocates for enactment of a school funding system that:**

- Directs adequate funding to districts and students based on real costs, addressing student challenges like poverty and English proficiency; and district factors like district size and sparsity, local tax effort and district wealth, and charter school enrollment.
- Does not perpetuate the current economic and racial disparities in school funding that contribute to existing achievement gaps.
- 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.