

# INEQUITY IN PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

2021

## EXAMPLES ACROSS THE STATE

### *Pottstown School District, Montgomery County*

- No Elementary School Counselors • No Middle School Foreign Language Classes • No Middle School Music Classes
- No Athletic or Non-Athletic Intramural After School Activities • Nurses and Librarians Shared Among Schools

### *Columbia Borough School District, Lancaster County*

- No Reading Specialists in the Entire District • No Advanced Placement Classes Offered at the High School
- No Intervention Specialists in the District to Provide Support to Students in Need of Remediation

### *Scranton School District, Lackawanna County*

- School Buildings are Old and in Disrepair • Very Low Starting Salaries Attract Only Newly Graduated Educators
- Pre-Kindergarten Eliminated from the Curriculum Because of Cost

### *Upper Darby School District, Delaware County*

- Rented Inadequate Schools Outside of District to House Overflow of Students • Overcrowded, Old School Buildings
- Many Positions, Such as Much-Needed Reading Specialists, Cut Due to Budgeting Concerns

### *Philadelphia School District, Philadelphia County*

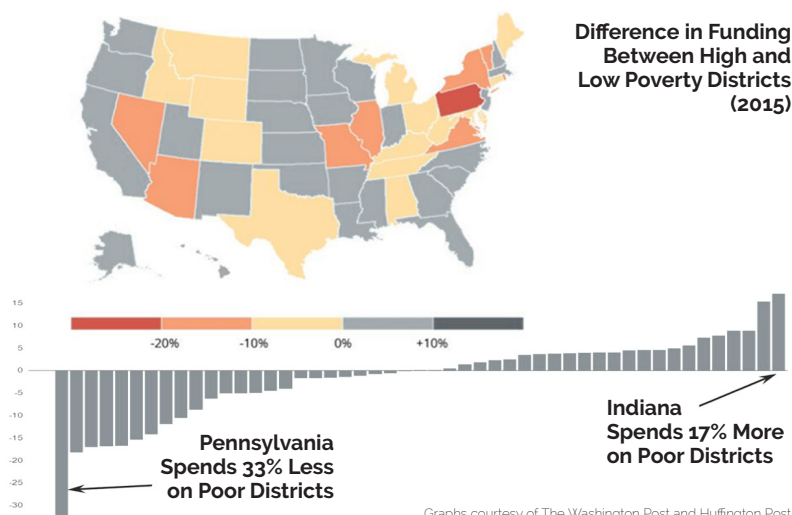
- Buildings in Disrepair: Leaded Water, Lead Paint, and Asbestos Contaminating Some Buildings • Classes Overcrowded and Schools Understaffed at All Levels • Physical Education Teachers Use Stairwells, Hallways as Learning Spaces

### *William Penn School District, Delaware County*

- Two Social Workers for More Than 5000 Young People • Few School Counselors and Little Mental Health Support
- Poor Athletic Facilities; No Track • No Adequate Theater Space for the Arts • Old, Inadequate Buildings

**\*These shortfalls in student resources are not unique. Hundreds of poorer school districts across the commonwealth lack the basic facilities and programs that more wealthy school districts take for granted.**

## LAST IN THE NATION



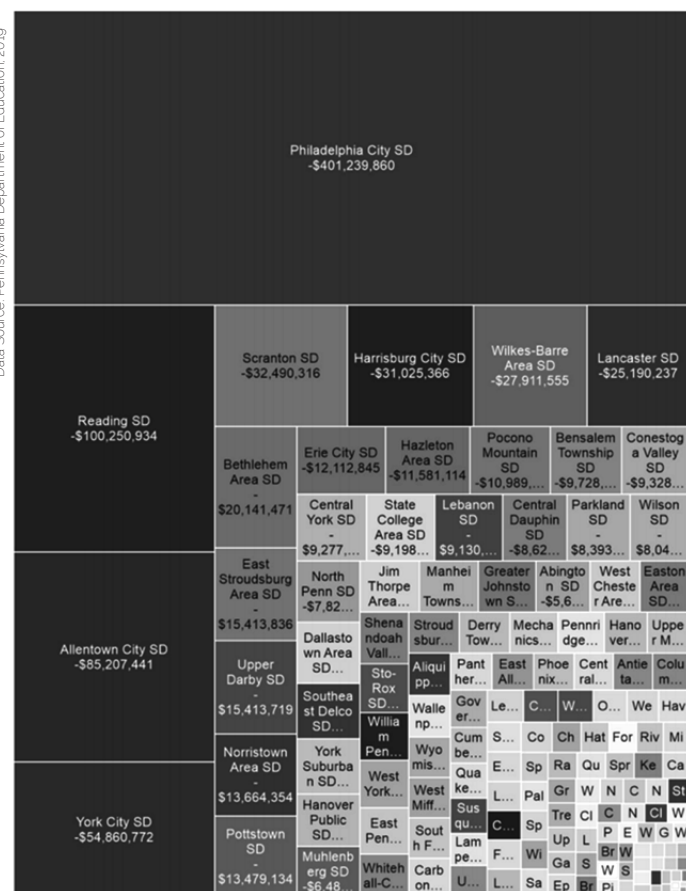
In Pennsylvania, kids who need the most get the least.

Pennsylvania ranks very last among all 50 states when it comes to providing additional funding to school districts in poverty.

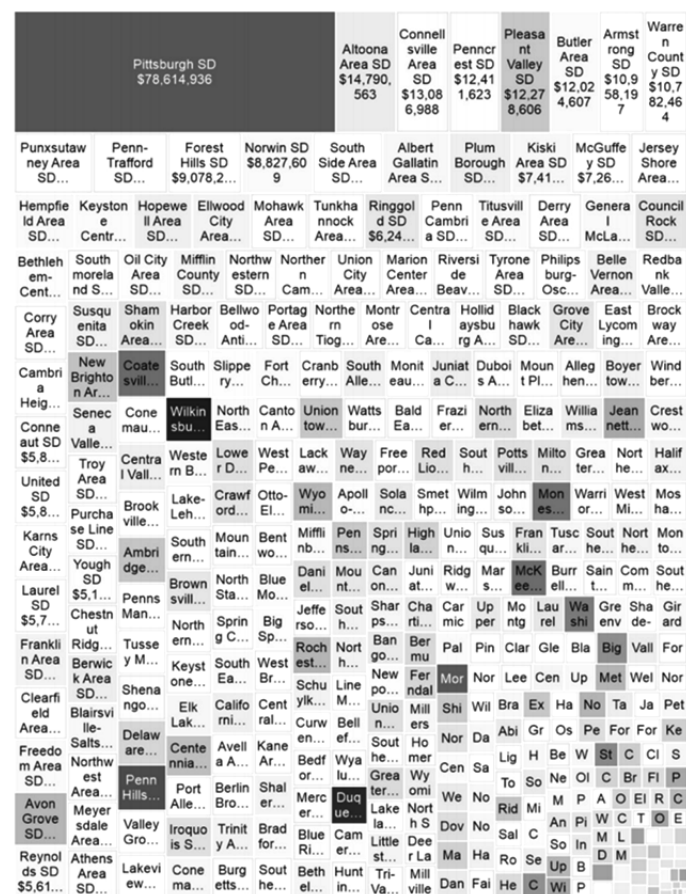
PA is the only state that does not increase funding as student populations grow year after year. If the student population has increased, the district will receive the same percentage of state funding, reducing dollars provided per student.

Communities across Pennsylvania deserve an equitable funding model to be totally implemented in order to level the playing field for our children.

## Less than Fair Share



## More than Fair Share



More Students of Color

Fewer Students of Color

## A CLEAR RACIAL BIAS

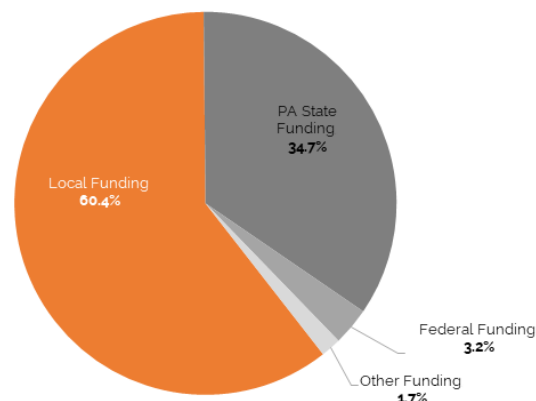
More racially diverse districts in Pennsylvania almost always get less than their fair share.

The whiter the district, the more likely it is to receive more than its fair share of state funding. The more diverse the district, the more likely it is to receive less than its fair share of state funding.

For communities of color, the lack of education funding causes real social harm. Educational attainment is closely linked to health outcomes and economic achievement. Creating a truly fair funding formula makes our communities stronger and benefits us all.

## SHIFTING THE BURDEN

The inequities in state funding pass along the burden of funding school districts to local residents, often through higher property taxes.



This system leaves poorer communities no choice but to raise new taxes on residents who are the least prepared to pay more in order to provide adequate educational opportunities for our children.

## RESOURCES FOR CHANGE

- Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding: [pafairfunding.org](http://pafairfunding.org)
- POWER: [powerinterfaith.org](http://powerinterfaith.org)
- PA School Boards Association: [psba.org/issues](http://psba.org/issues)
- Equity First: [supportequityfirst.org](http://supportequityfirst.org)
- Education Voters of PA: [educationvoterspa.org](http://educationvoterspa.org)
- Education Law Center: [elc-pa.org](http://elc-pa.org)
- PA Schools Work: [paschoolswork.org](http://paschoolswork.org)
- Fund Our Schools PA: [fundourschoolspa.org](http://fundourschoolspa.org)

For further information, contact Dr. Myra Forrest, Education Advocate, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation ([mforrest@pottstownfoundation.org](mailto:mforrest@pottstownfoundation.org)).