

Are We Making Progress?

Criteria for Evaluating Pennsylvania Education Funding Proposals/Budgets

Eight questions that the Governor, every legislator, school district officials, parents, taxpayers and news representatives should ask about the impact of every proposal concerning education funding in Pennsylvania.

1. Does it increase the annual share (percentage) of Elementary/Secondary Education revenues that come from state sources?
2. Does it increase the amount of state revenues appropriated annually per pupil for Elementary/Secondary Education?
3. Does it reduce the dependency on real property taxes in school districts to support Elementary/Secondary Education?
4. Does it reduce the large gap of financial and educational resources available in the lowest-spending school districts compared to the highest-spending districts?
5. Does it provide sufficient funding to ensure that adequate financial resources are available to support the educational capacity necessary to give every student an opportunity to accomplish the state's academic proficiency expectations?
6. Does it ensure that education funding will be used first to provide the educational capacity that has been proven to have a positive effect on student learning?
7. Does it create a rational and reliable statewide education funding system that provides a predictable method for determining state funding responsibilities for elementary/secondary education from year to year?
8. Does it enable the Pennsylvania public education system to meet the educational needs of all its students?