

*Welcome!*

**2012**

**Pennsylvania  
Education Finance  
Symposium**

**Pennsylvania  
School Funding  
Campaign**

# **Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign**

- **Formed in 2007.**
- **Unprecedented Coalition in PA of more than 30 organizations.**
- **Unique in the nation.**
- **Sustained commitment to working together.**
- **Common messages about K-12 funding.**

# **Progress in K-12 Funding in PA**

- **Charter School Reimbursements in 2003.**
- **Accountability Block Grant in 2004.**
- **Costing-out Study in 2007.**
- **New funding formula in 2008.**
- **Significant funding increases in 2008-2010 state budgets (including Stimulus Funds).**
- **PA making progress in student achievement.**

# **Retreat in K-12 Funding in PA**

- **2010-2011 State Budget – New Administration used additional Stimulus Funding to replace State Funds.**
- **2011 State Budget Reduced Funding to Districts by nearly \$900 million.**
  - ❑ **Accountability Block Grant cut.**
  - ❑ **Charter School Reimbursement eliminated.**
  - ❑ **First time cut in basic subsidy to districts.**
  - ❑ **Largest cuts were to poorest districts.**

# 2011 Education Cuts

- **These issues not about personalities, but about policy and priorities.**
- **Cuts not inevitable.**
- **About 2/3 of stimulus funds replaced state dollars, rather than being something “extra” that districts received for the short-term.**
- **Lawmakers made 2011 decisions to cut education in context of other decisions.**

# 2011 Budget Decisions

- **Cut nearly \$900 million from K-12.**
- **Other education and human service cuts, too.**
- **Surplus of more than \$750 million.**
- **No General Fund revenue from Marcellus Shale.**
- **No increased revenues provided.**
- **Business tax cuts enacted.**

# 2012 Budget Decisions

- **Legislature maintained Accountability Block Grant Funding at \$100 million (60% less than in 2010 Budget).**
- **Legislature added nearly \$50 million of new funding directed at financially distressed districts.**
- **Existing law required significant pension funding increases of state and school districts.**



# Current Status

- **State Share among lowest in the country.**
- **State appropriations per student below all contiguous states.**
- **Dependency on Local Wealth and Property Taxes far above national average.**
- **Inequity in district resources, and opportunities for students, is a most serious issue.**

# 2013

- **Budget Message in February.**
- **Uncertain economy and state revenues.**
- **Growing pensions obligations facing state and districts.**
- **Pressure to restore some of the cuts that districts have lived with past two years.**
- **Growing evidence of the negative effects of major education funding cuts.**
- **Discussions about property tax reforms.**
- **Charter School Funding/Special Ed Funding**

# **PA School Funding Campaign**

- **Continue to work with state lawmakers.**
- **Emphasize work in districts and communities – value of public education and effects of state budgets.**
- **Coalition-Building.**
- **Grassroots organizing.**

# **What's at Stake**

- **Educated Citizenry**
- **Educated Workforce**
  - **Vibrant Economy**
- **Strong Communities**

**Education Quality  
and  
Education Equity**