

***Campaign Advocacy  
for the***



**THE CAMPAIGN FOR FAIR  
EDUCATION FUNDING**

**Because every child deserves a chance to succeed.**

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***ShellyLyons Public Affairs & Communications***

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# Why is PA's funding system broken?

- It does not provide enough resources to educate all students to academic standards
- Public school education is paid for primarily by the state and local school districts
- But the state share has not kept pace with costs over the years, leaving school districts to pay more
- That's a serious problem for poorer districts that do not have the property tax base to raise money and/or have many students with greater needs

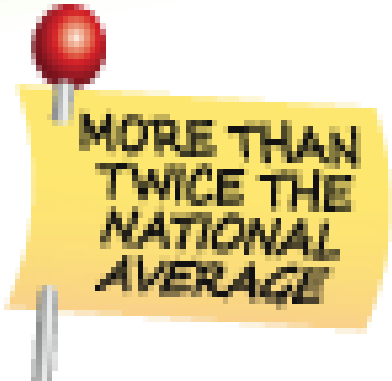
# PA is not paying its fair share

Pennsylvania's state share of school funding is one of the lowest in the U.S., at about 36%

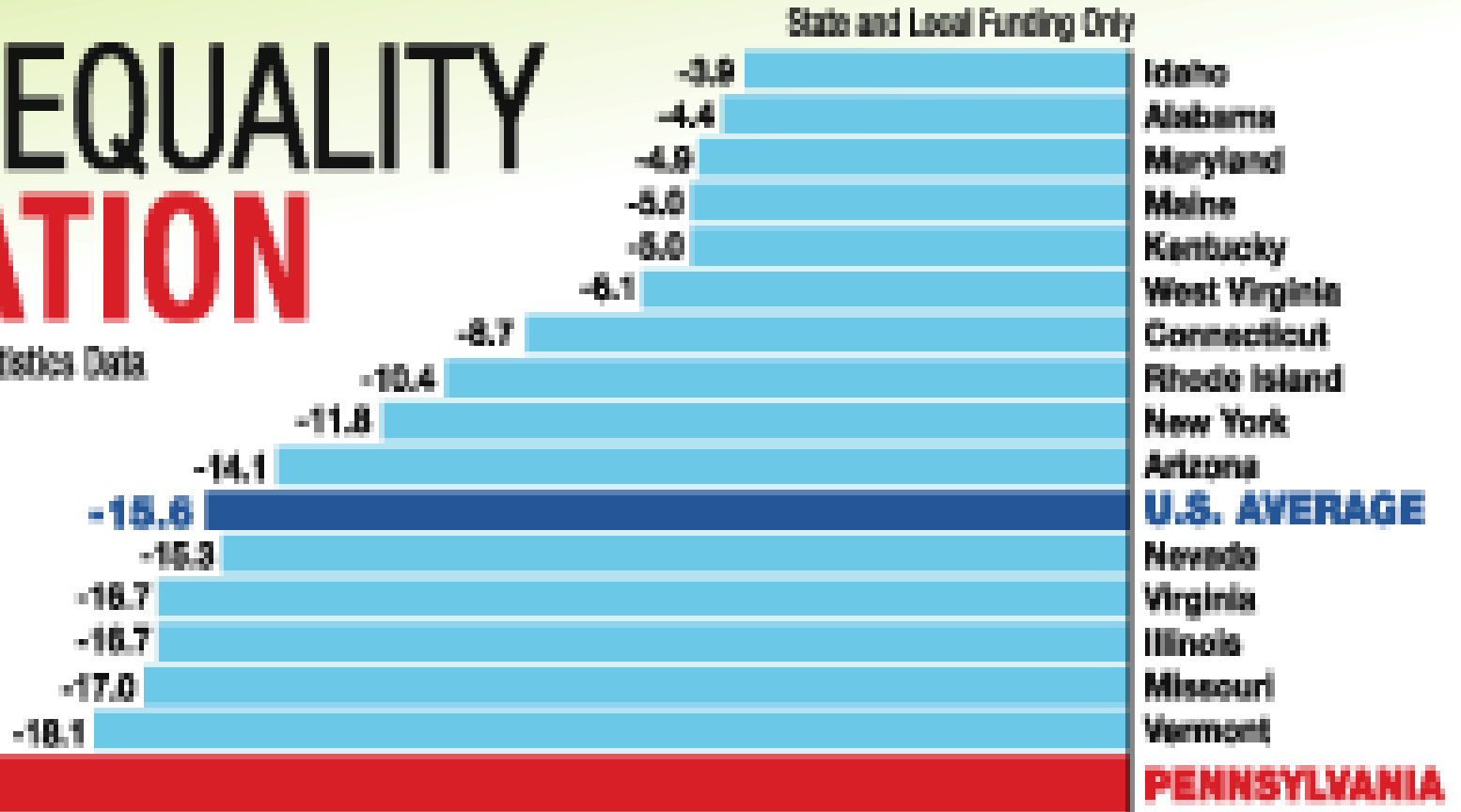


# PA FUNDING INEQUALITY WORST IN NATION

Washington Post, based on National Center for Education Statistics Data



**-33.5**



For years, the state has distributed funding unfairly across school districts, creating wide spending gaps between wealthy & poor districts

# How wide is school spending gap?

- The wealthiest quarter of PA schools spent more than \$12,500 per pupil – 1/3 more than the least wealthy quarter, which spent about \$9,400
- That equates to about \$78,000 more per classroom that the wealthiest schools spend (assuming 25 student classrooms)
- PA has significant academic achievement gaps based on economic status, race, and ethnicity

# Past funding shortfalls + rising costs have had an impact

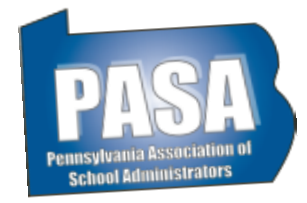
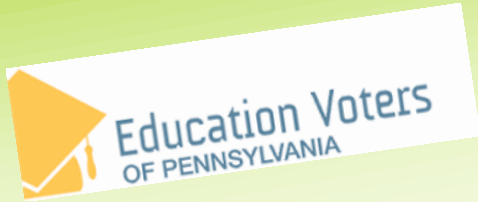
Over the last few years:

- More than half of school districts laid off teachers or other support staff
- About three-quarters cut or reduced at least one academic program
- 57% have increased class sizes
- Most have increased property taxes

Source: PASA-PASBO Surveys



# 50+ ORGANIZATIONS



# The Campaign's goals

- Adopt funding formula recommended by the bipartisan Basic Education Funding Commission (BEFC), which fairly distributes state funding to school districts → **ACCOMPLISHED**
- Increase investment through that formula by more than \$3 billion over several years



# Elements of the Campaign

- Conduct research to support need for fair & adequate funding
- Educate & directly engage lawmakers in Hbg & in their districts
- Mobilize member org's & their networks to act
  - Legislative visits & communications
  - Local events, townhalls, forums
  - Submit op-eds & letters

# Elements of the Campaign

- Generate press coverage through public events, press releases, reports, op-eds & letters to the editor
- Conduct social media campaign to:
  - Communicate with elected officials
  - Engage reporters & cultivate news coverage
  - Expand, educate & mobilize your network to act

# Questions?

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# Follow the Campaign

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