

Public Citizens for Children and Youth



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Who We Are

- For over 30 years, non-partisan, non profit, multi-issue child advocacy organization dedicated to improving lives and life chances of children in Southeastern PA
 - Early Childhood Education
 - K-12 Education
 - Child Health
 - Family Economic Security

What We Do

- Advocate for policies that support children:
 - Increased funding for early childhood education
 - Increased funding for K-12 education
 - Access to healthcare for children
 - Family economic security

The Vision and Why

Vision: Every 3- and 4-year-old child in PA has access to high-quality pre-k

Why: Public funding leaves out two-thirds of at-risk preschoolers

Nearly 6,000 3- and 4-year olds who live in poor-to-moderate income families are eligible for publicly funded programs -- but there are not enough seats



Pre-K Strengthens Our Schools, Communities, Economy

Closes school readiness gap

- Special education placement **reduced** by up to half
- Grade repetition **reduced** by up to one-third
- Increases high school graduation and college enrollment

Immediate benefits

- Every \$1 invested circulates \$2 in the community
- 10 pre-k jobs create 3 jobs in outside sectors
- Property values may rise due to pre-k's effects in increasing school test scores

Long-term benefits: \$7 returned for every \$1

- Reduced crime and incarceration
- Increased lifetime earnings and reduced reliance on social services



The Campaign for Fair Education Funding



- Goal: to ensure that every student across the State has access to a quality education no matter where they live
- Current system is not fair to students or taxpayers and must change
- What we need:
 - sustainable, predictable and long-term funding method based on the real costs necessary to meet state academic standards

Who We Are

- Statewide non-partisan effort made up of over 50 organizations, and growing:
 - education advocacy groups
 - teachers and administrators
 - representatives of charter schools and traditional public schools
 - urban and rural interests
 - business groups and organized labor
 - faith-based groups
 - community groups
- Campaign size and reach is unprecedented

Why We're Launching this Effort

- Existing funding system places untenable burdens on poor school districts while the gap between these struggling districts and wealthy ones continues to grow
- School districts are in crisis
 - Eight districts in the state are close to or have been deemed by the state to be “in distress”
 - Classroom sizes are getting bigger and bigger
 - Programs are being cut and student performance is stagnating

What this Means Locally

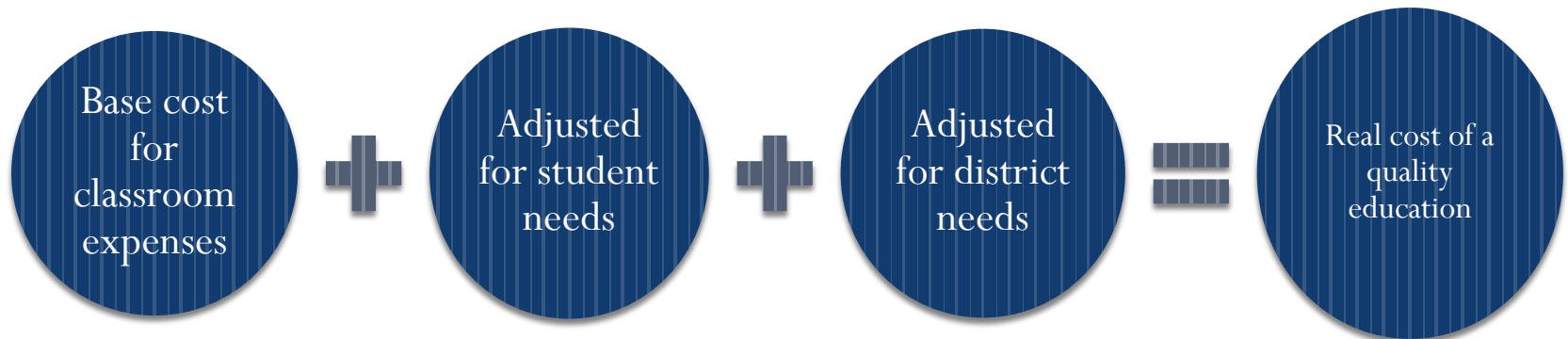
- 60 of 63 districts in Southeastern Pennsylvania have been forced to raise property taxes in the last four years
- Charter school reimbursement loss is devastating school districts
- Every year districts are forced to wait for the state budget to be passed before knowing their final budget

What this Means for Montgomery County

- Since 2010, 14 of 21 school districts raised property taxes every year
 - Seven others raised them at least once in the last four years
 - Only one district hasn't raised taxes at all, but we know that if school funding continues the way it is, they will have to raise taxes
- Even with districts raising more in local revenue to make up for the decreased state funding, many school districts have had to make cuts. More state funding would prevent further cuts.

What Makes a Fair and Adequate Funding Formula

- Pennsylvania is **one of only three states** without a fair way to distribute education funding



Be a voice for students in the State Capitol!

PCCY Action Days in Harrisburg

Choose a day and we'll provide:

- a brief training, materials, and we'll schedule your visits
 - lunch and transportation to and from the Capitol
- Sign-Up: (215) 563-5848 www.pccy.org/actiondays

February	Wednesday 2/4 and Tuesday 2/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your legislator in the Capitol
March	Local Week of Action Monday 3/9 – Friday 3/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your legislator's home office • Collect petition signatures • Make a call
April	Tuesday 4/14 and Wednesday 4/22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your legislator in the Capitol
May	Wednesday 5/13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your legislator in the Capitol
June	Tuesday 6/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join education supporters from across PA in the Capitol
	Tuesday 6/30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kids @ Capitol Day

Join a Capitol Caravan between now and June!

