

Statement of School Superintendents, Board Chairs and Public Education Advocates

The undersigned Superintendents, Board Chairpersons of Pennsylvania school districts, and public education advocates join in believing that our state and its local communities can not flourish without strong schools. We believe Pennsylvania’s schools must provide an education where all students can meet state standards and at a cost which does not impose unfair burdens on local taxpayers. Because the Commonwealth provides a smaller share of school costs than all but four other states, it has created widespread disparities between wealthy and poor districts in this state, leaving a heavy burden on local taxpayers and many districts struggling to meet rising state standards.

Therefore we welcome the Report on the Cost of an Adequate Education prepared at the direction of the General Assembly for the State Board of Education released today. For the first time we know what each district must spend to meet state standards. It is now clear that a majority of the districts have been heavily underfunded compared to the responsibility they bear to prepare their students to be successful in the economy of the 21st century.

We jointly call upon the General Assembly to adopt a funding formula that will implement this Report over a three year period and provide sufficient increased state appropriations so that children in all districts can meet state standards for an acceptable education without creating unfair local tax burdens. The disparities between the quality of education available from one district to the next and the grossly differing burdens on taxpayers depending on local wealth must not be allowed to continue.

We are also announcing that we have agreed to work together on this project to assure full and adequate state funding for our communities’ schools and that we will work to bring other public officials together with us to achieve this vital state legislation. We are taking this unprecedented action because of our conviction that this is what our Commonwealth and our children need to ensure their future success.

Name	Position	Organization	Email
<hr/>			
<hr/>			
<hr/>			
<hr/>			