

AT A GLANCE

2016-17 State of Education Report



The annual State of Education report surveyed chief school administrators from school districts, career and technical centers and intermediate units, as well as pulling data from public sources. It is intended to be a barometer of not only the key indicators of public school performance but also the challenges schools face and how they are coping with them.

TOP 3 biggest challenges

- 86% Budget pressures
- 39% Bargaining issues
- 26% School construction/
maintenance

TOP 5 budget pressures

- 85% Pension costs
- 66% Charter school payments
- 53% Inadequate state funding
- 50% Health insurance increases
- 42% Special education costs

TOP 5 ways schools will balance budgets

- 75% Drawing down fund
balance levels
- 73% Raising local property taxes
- 48% Reducing staffing levels
- 44% Increasing class sizes
- 28% Reducing programs and
services

DEALING WITH TEACHER SHORTAGES

- Over 70% concerned about recruiting substitute teachers in the next two years.
- Nearly 42% concerned about recruiting full-time teachers.
- Most needed certifications for districts – science and math.
- Most needed certifications for intermediate units – special education for speech/language impaired students.
- Most needed certifications for career and technical centers – technology related fields.



Underwritten in part by the Pennsylvania Public Education Foundation.

Education investments HAVE POSITIVE RESULTS



Poverty HAS AN IMPACT

Critics say Pennsylvania spends more per student than the national average.

Expenses per student

\$13,961 Pennsylvania
\$11,009 National Average
12th PA Rank

Districts with high poverty receive less funding than wealthier districts...

Revenue per student



Critics overlook impact investments make to Pennsylvania's national assessment rankings.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)
Percent Advanced or Proficient



Tie 7th PA Rank
4th grade reading



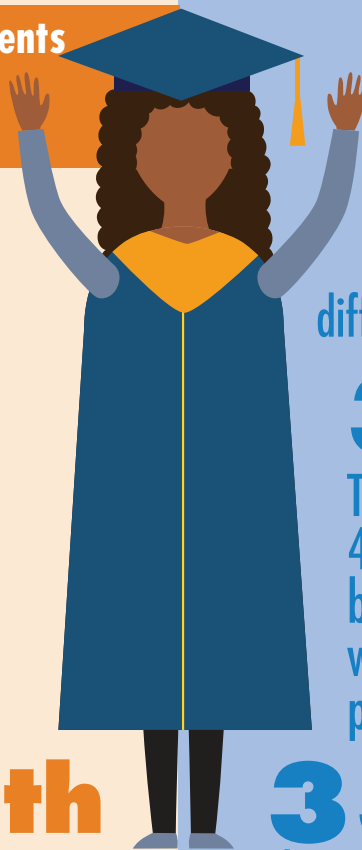
Tie 6th PA Rank
8th grade reading



Tie 9th PA Rank
4th grade math



Tie 13th PA Rank
8th grade math



...often resulting in huge differences in student achievement

35%

The average difference in 4th grade PSSA proficiency between school districts with the highest and lowest poverty.

Critics fail to mention the state's contribution is among the lowest in the United States, leaving local taxpayers to fill the void.

46th PA Rank
State share of education revenue

4th PA Rank
Local share of education revenue

33%

The average difference in 8th grade PSSA proficiency between school districts with the highest and lowest poverty.

Public education is the best investment that Pennsylvania can make in its future. While it is the belief of each group involved in this project that the state of Pennsylvania's public education system is strong, the challenges being faced by our public schools are serious. Together, we can make public education even stronger. The full report, available at www.pgba.org, contains more detail on these issues as well as information on numerous other issues affecting public education.