







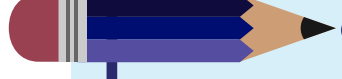

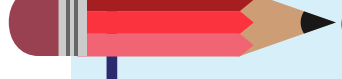

# AT A GLANCE

## 2026 STATE OF EDUCATION



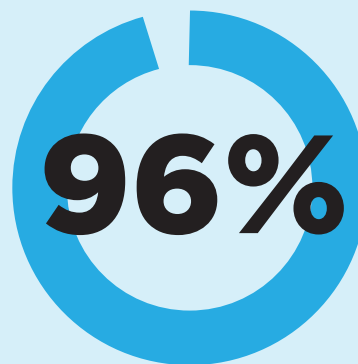
The *State of Education* report is intended to be a key benchmark for understanding the condition of Pennsylvania's traditional public schools. It tracks essential indicators — such as student achievement, school finances and staffing — while also identifying emerging challenges and the strategies districts use to address them. Data for the report comes from publicly available data sources and surveys of chief school administrators.

### TOP 5 CHALLENGES

-   **1** Budget pressures
-   **2** Student mental health
-   **3** School facility issues
-   **4** Staffing shortages
-   **5** State budget impasse

### Top budget pressures

- 67%** Charter school tuition
- 54%** Special education
- 52%** Health insurance increases
- 28%** School facilities
- 24%** Inadequate state funding



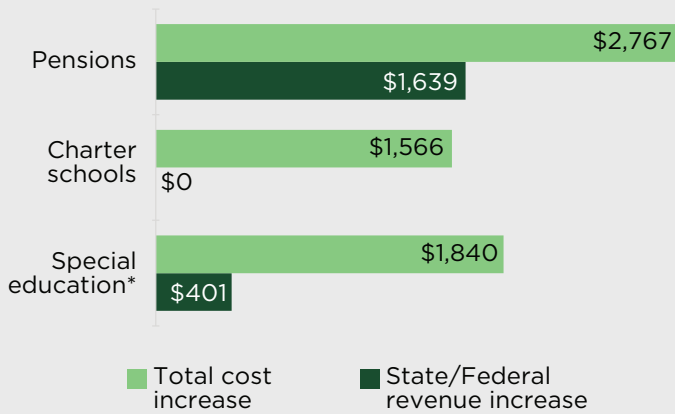
of districts reported at least some impact due to the state budget impasse



# Mandated Expenses

Over the last decade, growth in mandated pension, charter school tuition and special education costs have surpassed state revenues intended to help pay those costs by \$4.1 billion.

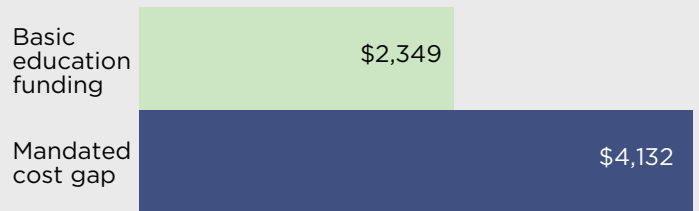
**Mandated cost increases compared to state/federal revenue increases 2013-14 to 2023-24 (in millions)**



\*Does not include pension and charter school costs attributed to special education.

Increases in Basic Education Funding over that same time would not cover the mandated cost gap and still leave school districts with \$1.7 billion of mandated costs to cover locally.

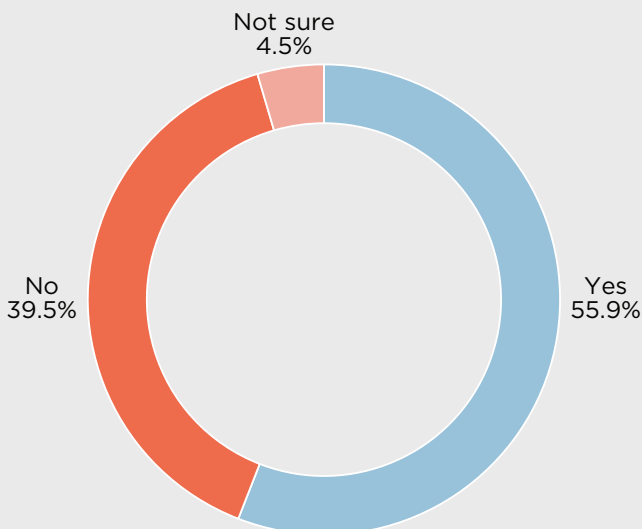
**Mandated cost gap vs BEF increase 2013-14 to 2023-24 (in millions)**



# Artificial Intelligence

Slightly more than half of school districts reported that students in their districts are utilizing AI as part of district curriculum, programs or activities.

**Are your students utilizing generative AI in school-sponsored classes, programs and/or activities?**



Districts also reported a number of challenges when looking to integrate AI into their schools.

**Biggest challenges integrating AI into district schools**

