



Dear Governor and General Assembly,

We join together to urge you to increase your investment in students from the Commonwealth's most under-resourced districts. Most of these districts serve a disproportionate share of the Commonwealth's students of color, students living in poverty, students with disabilities, and English learners. They face large adequacy and equity gaps that prevent schools from meeting the needs of hundreds of thousands of our most underserved students, limiting their educational opportunities and threatening the Commonwealth's future workforce, tax base, and economy.

While Pennsylvania's Basic Education Funding (BEF) formula provides weighted student funding for districts with higher levels of need, only new education spending is distributed using the formula, and at the current rate of increases in state educational spending, it will take decades or more for our districts to reach adequate funding through increases in new BEF spending; the increases are too small and spread across too many districts to close the gap.

As superintendents, we are committed to meeting the needs of our students, and even with some of the highest tax effort in the Commonwealth, we cannot do it alone.

In addition to increasing BEF spending to meet the needs of all 500 districts in Pennsylvania, a separate **Level Up supplement fund** is needed to accelerate the path to adequacy and equity for the **20% of districts** that are most underfunded. We propose that Pennsylvania allocate at least **\$100 million** for the **Level Up fund** for 2021–22, which will be distributed pro-rated through the weighted BEF formula to the **100 identified districts** and added to school districts' base funding. The Level Up supplement does not take funding away from any school districts. Instead, it targets additional support to the districts with the greatest funding needs.

Equity is the issue of our time, as COVID has highlighted the disparities between the haves and have nots. Many districts have struggled to open. We need to have a commitment from our leadership in Harrisburg that resources will be committed to permanently address these gaps.

Federal government relief is a one-time injection of funds to deliver funding to recover from learning loss and get schools and students through the aftermath of the pandemic. We can't use one-time federal funds for recurring expenses or to solve longstanding inequities in school funding. Under-resourced districts are being overwhelmed by steadily growing operational costs that are beyond school districts' control and beyond districts' ability to raise taxes at the local level.

We need to see action this year that will address our needs so we can best serve our students and to see all of Pennsylvania's more than 1.7 million public school students experience the opportunity to attend schools that have the financial resources to provide a quality education.

Thank you for your commitment to our students and to their education. It is our moral responsibility to rise to this challenge and provide the education our children deserve.

Sincerely,

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| Dr. Joie Green | Mahanoy Area School District |
| Dr. Tomas Hanna | Coatesville Area School District |
| Dr. Mark Holtzman, Jr. | Mckeesport Area School District |
| Sheri Yetzer | Corry Area School District |
| Dr. Damaris Rau | School District of Lancaster |
| Brian Polito | Erie School District |
| William Marshall | Penn Cambria School District |
| Dr. Ronald Grevera | Greater Nanticoke Area School District |
| Dr. Joseph Bradley | Connellsville Area School District |
| Mark Loucks | Franklin Area School District |
| Nathan Barrett | Hanover Area School District |
| Donna Miller | Girard School District |
| Alan Johnson | East Allegheny School District |
| Dave Tosh | Wyoming Valley West School District |
| Dave McAndrew | Panther Valley School District |
| Dr. Joseph Roy | Bethlehem Area School District |
| Mike Calla | Sharon City School District |
| Amy Arcurio | Greater Johnstown School District |
| Dr. Travis Waters | Steelton-Highspire School District |
| Stephanie Keebler | Titusville School District |
| Dr. Daniel McGarry | Upper Darby School District |
| Dr. Lynda Weller | Oll City School District |
| Stephen Rodriguez | Pottstown School District |
| Chris Celmer | Harrisburg City School District |
| Dr. Brian Uplinger | Hazleton Area School District |
| Dr. Jane Bovalino | Rochester Area School District |
| Christopher Dormer | Norristown Area School District |
| Edward Wehrer | Steel Valley School District |
| Dr. Edward Zelich | Charleroi Area School District |
| Patrick Sheehan | Mid Valley School District |
| Dr. Jess Wallace | Laurel Highlands School District |
| Fred Foster | Huntingdon Area School District |
| Matthew Jones | School District of the City of Jeannette |
| Dr. William Hite | School District of Philadelphia |
| Dr. Eric Becoats | William Penn School District |
| Dr. Lisa Duval | South Allegheny School District |
| Jeff Boyer | Ferndale Area School District |
| Frank Dalmas | Sto-Rox School District |
| Wendy Benton | DuBois Area School District |
| Christopher Pegg | Albert Gallatin Area School District |
| Dr. Marilyn Martinez | Allentown School District |
| Dr. Missy McTiernan | Scranton School District |
| Dr. Charles Prijatelj | Altoona Area School District |
| Dr. John Hansen | Northwestern School District |
| Sue Mariani | Duquesne City School District |
| Dr. Timothy Bowers | Williamsport Area School District |
| Dr. Khalid Mumin | Reading School District |
| Dr. Robert Ackell | North Schuylkill School District |
| David Woods | Oxford Area School District |

