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## GOVERNOR TOM WOLF PROPOSES \$300 MILLION LEVEL UP FUNDING SUPPLEMENT

*100 Poorest School Districts Need This Equity Supplement*

**Harrisburg, PA (February 8, 2022)** – As part of the FY 2022-23 PA Budget Proposal, Governor Tom Wolf proposed a \$300 million allocation for the Level Up Supplement. This proposed money would go directly to PA’s 100 most underfunded school districts to boost the quality of education, helping to close the long-standing equity and adequacy gaps that currently exist in the state’s school funding system. This supplement is in addition to a proposed historic increase of \$1.25 billion in basic education funding that will benefit every school district.

The Level Up funding supplement is modeled on the Level Up coalition’s proposal that was the basis for HB 1167 introduced by Representative Michael Schlossberg in April 2021 and enacted with sweeping bi-partisan support as part of the FY 2021–22 state budget in June.

Members of the Level Up coalition issued the following statement:

“Pennsylvanians clearly agree that ALL the state’s children deserve an excellent public education, no matter what zip code they are born into. It’s time to level up funding for the rural, urban and suburban lowest-wealth districts with the fewest resources and the greatest needs. This budget proposal is a welcome down payment toward that goal.”

“The governor’s proposal delivers hope for Pennsylvania’s most underserved students. While this is a step in the right direction, a dark shadow still hangs over Pennsylvania schools in the form of a \$4.6 billion adequacy gap, and our poorest students are paying for that by heading to school each day in chronically underfunded schools. A significant majority of Pennsylvania’s

Black students, Hispanic students, and students in poverty are educated in the state's 100 most underfunded districts — districts that benefit from the governor's proposal to invest in Level Up.

“Governor Wolf’s budget address reminded us all that the work is not done. We urge the legislature to move the needle farther - faster. Our coalition of superintendents, educators, and taxpayers will be advocating for the sake of our children and look forward to the day when we finally level up!”

The Level Up coalition is committed to addressing the large gap between the resources schools have and what they need. The growing disparity among Pennsylvania’s wealthy and poor districts creates enormous inequity, leaving an entire generation of children in underfunded districts ill-prepared for college, career and the real-world challenges of adulthood.

The partner organizations comprising the Level Up coalition include ACLAMO, CASA, Children First (formerly known as Public Citizens for Children and Youth), Education Law Center, Education Rights Network, Education Voters PA, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, Make the Road Pennsylvania, One Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center, Public Interest Law Center, Teach Plus Pennsylvania, and the Urban League of Philadelphia.

For more information, please visit <https://leveluppa.org/>.

*The Level Up coalition believes that every child in Pennsylvania deserves robust course choices, class sizes that allow for personalized support, enough school counselors and nurses, and a safe learning environment so they can thrive and succeed in school today and live productive, fulfilling lives after graduation.*

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