



"When it comes to education, money matters." - Attorney Katrina Robson

"Wealthiest school district: \$21K per student. Poorest school district: \$12K per student." - Attorney Katrina Robson

"Pennsylvania's system of public education has failed and is failing children." - Attorney Katrina Robson

"Thorough and Efficient: To do less is to fail in our constitutional duty and to beggar the future of this Commonwealth."
- Attorney Katrina Robson

"Ms. Yuricheck teaches from a textbook that was last updated in 1997. The last President it includes is Bill Clinton."
- Attorney Katrina Robson

"It's about children who see what other schools have, and walk away believing somehow they are worth less than their peers."
- Attorney Katrina Robson

"I care about these kids a lot and I see the opportunities they are not getting. It's not fair." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"No we can't do this, because we don't have money. It doesn't end. It just continues and the burden starts here."
- David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We are not giving students what they need to be successful." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"That's what our teachers do, they make the most out of a lot of bad situations." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We shouldn't have had to rely on a pandemic for our kids to have the opportunity that everyone else in the state has."
- David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"There's so many unsung heroes in our buildings, because they'll jump from one classroom to another classroom solving problems." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We have this cyclical thing that happens in our district, where we solve one problem with another problem."
- David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We have a need for counselors and social workers... Our students need help." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"Prior to our COVID grants, we weren't able to meet our students' needs. Students didn't find our courses interesting."
- David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"Athletic programs, sports, give many of our students a reason to strive academically and come to school. When they do they're better for a career after school. What happens if we have to cut those programs?" - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We're the 10th highest taxed district in PA. We can't keep going to the same people asking for money. It needs to come from the state level." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"Our kids want nice things too. They see things other schools have. I want a nice school for our kids, but I NEED a roof that doesn't leak. These aren't WANTS these are NEEDS." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"If we had the resources we needed, I know our students would be better. Our students would achieve more."
- David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District

"We can't keep doing this to the same people. We can't keep asking for money. The wells dry." - David McAndrew, Superintendent, Panther Valley School District



"These are kids that we are not able to get to, but have been trapped in this poverty level over and over, because we're not able to get them and help them and there's no end in sight for this." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We have people who are working really hard with limited resources. We have kids who want to learn. We have kids who are raising their hand but we can't get to them. And we can't help them as much as we want to." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"I'm sitting here and asking the state of Pennsylvania to help us. Who else is there to ask? We can't keep asking our taxpayers or local taxpayers. We can't ask our teachers to work for free." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We need a revenue source to give these kids an education. And that's what the Constitution says we should have and we're just not meeting that need right now. We need change." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We are not achieving as other districts are, and we aren't giving our students what they need. They are not ready for college." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"I know our students can achieve at a greater rate, and they're just not able to do that. Everything continues to be stacked against these kids. And it's just unfair." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We are not in the business of failing kids." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We have more and more people in our area, in our community that are struggling financially. They cannot pay their taxes. It is such a burden." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"I know what works. I see what works, but we are not able to do this because we don't have staff." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"We had to have a pandemic to get our kids some of the things that they need." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"At Panther Valley, we are not getting enough wins and our students just continue to fall farther and farther behind." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"Do you want kids to have an art education or do you want to tax people out of their houses?" - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"Our basic education funding does not even cover our year to year increase with special education." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"Just because we don't have land for warehouses and major corporations, doesn't mean we shouldn't have guidance counselors, assistant principals, more teachers, more paraprofessionals." - David McAndrew, Panther Valley Superintendent

"You cannot take the favored children of a ward in Philadelphia and put them into one school and the poor and unfortunate into another school and give them the advantages that the system of education is intended to accomplish." - Quote from 1872-73 PA. Constitutional Convention debates

"Poorest districts are taxing themselves at a higher rate, but generate substantially less funding than wealthier districts, which is necessary for them to meet the standards Pennsylvania has set for them." - Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"PA's system of education funding in my expert opinion is irrational, anachronistic, disconnected from need and insufficient to meet the standards that the state has set for its students." - Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"Shortfalls are disproportionately impacting low wealth districts." - Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University



Funds that Pennsylvania gives schools are insufficient for students to meet standards that the state has set for them."
- Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"Inequity: It's getting worse." - Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"The pie is too small for adequacy." - Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"School districts do not have the funds they need to be able to give their students a chance to meet state standards."
- Dr. Mathew Kelly, Education Professor, Penn State University

"We have a moral responsibility to prepare students. We have to prepare students for a global economy."
- Matthew Stem, Fmr. Dep. Secretary, PA Department of Education

"Being an educator is a calling. We only have one life to live and I want mine to be spent making an impact on the lives of children." - Matthew Stem, Fmr. Dep. Secretary, PA Department of Education

"It's very, very unlikely that PA will be able to close the achievement gaps that we've seen for decades without additional funding particularly for schools with high percentages of students in poverty." - Matthew Stem, Fmr. Dep. Secretary, PA Department of Education

"Those numbers are unacceptable for meeting the needs of our students and our workforce." - Matthew Stem, Fmr. Dep. Secretary, PA Department of Education

"We don't have the resources to give them the opportunities that they deserve." - Tara Yuricheck, Panther Valley, 5th Grade History Teacher

"It's a triage in our district." - Tara Yuricheck, Panther Valley, 5th Grade History Teacher

"I believe that all students can learn, that students want to learn, and that I have to meet them where they are."
- Tara Yuricheck, Panther Valley, 5th Grade History Teacher

"If a student has a parent who overdosed, that is a trauma, and it's a barrier to education...if you can't address trauma, it's a barrier to learning, which is my ultimate job." - Tara Yuricheck, Panther Valley, 5th Grade History Teacher

"We added teachers to meet the least restrictive environment requirement for special education students. We are just shifting people. That is the collateral damage." - Brian Waite, Shenandoah Valley Superintendent

"We're struggling to grow our students and we're not performing well." - Brian Waite, Superintendent, Shenandoah Valley School District

"Right now, we have 30 students in our 6th grade classrooms, I would like to hire another 6th grade teacher, but struggle to place them and put them in classrooms." - Brian Waite, Superintendent, Shenandoah Valley School District

"The academic portion of learning is much more than four walls, chairs and desks." - Brian Waite, Superintendent, Shenandoah Valley School District

"If you have the support in place for students-- you can have success for students"- Brian Waite, Superintendent, Shenandoah Valley School District

"That is what my students are required to use, This presents quite a problem. We've had students have accidents because they can't hold it." - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"I need the facilities updated. I need better supplies, I need certified interventionists working with my students one on one."
- Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher



"One bathroom on Ms. Kobal's floor-- the next closest bathrooms are the kindergarten bathrooms. There is no time to take these kids to other bathrooms." - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"Our class sizes are too big. The largest 4th grade class has 27 students. 3rd grade has 26 students. One certified teacher in a classroom like that is just not enough." - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"I know my students can learn. I just know that it's going to take a little bit longer and a lot more patience and they're going to need much more assistance and help," - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"My lowest readers and math students don't receive an adequate education" - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"125 students in school wing and 1 bath. 1 toilet and 1 sink." - Stephanie Kobal, Greater Johnstown First-Grade Teacher

"I've been in education for over 20 years and I know what kids need to be successful and I've seen what amazing things we can do." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

Hope of adulthood and a career and being successful starts with us and if we are unable to give them the right foundation, we take away their hope for a bright future." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"If given more resources we could provide for our students' needs. We have so many caring and wonderful teachers. This task is incredibly difficult. They are doing a lot with a little." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

When asked why Supt. Arcurio hasn't hired more librarians. She answered: "We can't afford them." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"I see first hand how resources impact children's future... and I know I have a responsibility to provide my students and families with hope." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"We have 2 reading specialists for 1,200 students." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"We as superintendents across the Commonwealth shouldn't have to make those very awful decisions about who are the kids that get the resources this year." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"Well over 60% of students came into kindergarten not able to identify the letters in their own name." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"[Our teachers] do what they can to make closets not feel like a closet, so that students feel valued as children should feel valued." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"We often have to teach kindergarteners how to even hold a book. They do not have access because of poverty." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"I've been in education for 20 years and I know what kids need to be successful and I've seen what amazing things we do." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"We look at every penny we could to make sure we could keep the lights on and make payroll. It was very difficult." - Eric Kocsis, Former Business Manager, Greater Johnstown School District

"Education is so much more than physical pieces of our schools and our furniture... They need more than just a desk to sit at." - Dr. Amy Arcurio, Superintendent, Greater Johnstown School District

"The board believes that students should have support with resources to achieve the academic standards, so that they have the best opportunity to succeed in the workforce and post-secondary education." - Karen Molchanow, Executive Director, PA State Board of Education