

Planning Your “From the Courts to the Classrooms: A Rally to Fund Our Schools” Event

February 16, 2023

Commonwealth Court’s recent court decision declaring Pennsylvania’s school funding system unconstitutional is a historic victory for students. We need to celebrate this huge win AND we need to call on our state lawmakers to take the necessary steps NOW to fix Pennsylvania’s unconstitutional school funding system. Complying with this ruling will change the future for millions of families, so that children are no longer denied the education they deserve.



These press events are a critical activity that will help to build public and political will in communities throughout the commonwealth for the state funding that students need and deserve.

They will help inform people in your community about the lawsuit and what it means for children in your region. They will also help ensure that your state lawmakers understand that their constituents are expecting them to comply with the court ruling and end the unconstitutional state funding system (we know lawmakers pay a lot of attention to what is in their local press!)

What to think about as you plan your event

- **Outreach:** Decide who you will invite/include in the event. Will this be an event with your own small network, or will you be reaching out to other organizations/groups in your community? You will need to have a handle on the expected number of people when you select your venue and speakers.
- **Timing:** Choose a time that works best for you and your group. Sooner is better, but any time that you can pull people together in the upcoming months is great.
- **Location:** If you are planning to have your event in a public space, you will need to make sure to secure the proper permits from the entity that controls the space. Before advertising your event or making plans, get your permit.
- **Speakers:** The organizers of this event will determine what the event will look like. Think about who you want to speak/share during the event. Students and families have provided compelling stories during our events, sharing their firsthand experiences with underfunded schools. School leaders are in the trenches and can provide insights into the daily struggle of school funding. Community members can speak to the value and importance of quality of schools in your community and can be vocal advocates and compassionate partners. Determine how long you would like people’s comments to be and make sure to your speakers before the event so that they can prepare appropriate comments.
- **Tell us your plans:** Once you have a time and location, email Sandra Miller at sandra@educationvoterspa.org so that we can add your event to the Thorough and Efficient website.
- Send out a press advisory to your local press outlets. **Getting press coverage of these events is our goal.** We want to raise awareness of the court decision in communities and ensure that state lawmakers know their constituents expect them to fund our schools. ***If you need help with press outreach, please let us know!***
- **Document the event:** Make sure that you have a plan for taking photos that you can share with us via email and on social media if you use Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. Please use the

hashtag #FundOurSchoolsPA. We want to make sure lawmakers in Harrisburg and people in our communities know about these events to raise awareness of the need for Harrisburg to fund our schools this budget season.

Have questions or need help? Contact Susan or Sandra from Education Voters of PA at sspicka@educationvoterspa.org or sandra@educationvoterspa.org.

Thank you!



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