

2024-2025 Governor's Budget Proposal Update

February 8, 2024



EDUCATION VOTERS
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Our Mission

Our mission is to ensure elected officials adopt and implement a **pro-public education agenda**.

To that end, we advocate for **sound education policy** and build and mobilize the public will to ensure that support for quality public education and an opportunity to learn **for all children** is a top priority for key decision makers.

<https://edvoterspa.org/>



Our Work

Policy

Ed Voters is Pennsylvania's only statewide public education policy and advocacy organization.

Train

We train advocates through Zoom and in-person meetings and with our online training series and create opportunities for advocates to engage decision makers.

Educate

We educate individuals, organizations, and our statewide network about issues impacting public education.

Create

We create fact sheets and write research briefs to support advocacy efforts.



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GOALS:

Share the landscape of the budget.

Share what we know about Governor Shapiro's proposed budget.

Discuss advocacy activity.

Make plans to build support for the funding students need!



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The 2024-2025 state budget

The Landscape

- One year since PA's school funding system was declared unconstitutional by Commonwealth Court and the judge ordered respondents to come up with a plan.
- Basic Education Funding Commission issued a report with a 7-year plan to close \$5.4 billion funding gap to reach constitutional compliance.
- Pennsylvania has \$14 BILLION year-end surplus, including \$6 billion in a rainy day fund and \$8 billion year-end surplus.



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Basic Education Funding

\$1,072,000,000 increase in BEF Adequacy Investments

- \$736,000,000 targeted to school districts that are inadequately funded
- \$136,000,000 targeted to school districts with high property taxes to promote tax equity

The two investments will meet the first-year investment (of seven) recommended by the BEFC to address Pennsylvania's unconstitutional school funding system.

[Click HERE for the spreadsheet with proposed Basic Education funding increases](#)



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Basic Education Funding (con't)

- \$200 million for all 500 school districts through the basic education funding line
- This investment also follows the recommendation of the BEFC

The BEFC recommended updating the current funding formula improve predictability and stability of funding.

These included smoothing the poverty factors and resetting the BEF base to the 2023-24 allocation.

With this investment, total funding for basic education would reach \$8,944,000,000.

[Click HERE for the spreadsheet with proposed Basic Education funding increases](#)



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Special Education Funding

\$50 million increase in special education funding, a 4% increase over FY 2023-24.

[Click HERE for the spreadsheet with proposed special education increases](#)



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Career Tech & Dual Enrollment Funding

\$2.4 million increase for career and technical education, a 2% increase over FY 2023-24.

\$7 million for dual enrollment programs.



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Cyber Charter Savings

Cyber Charter School Funding Reform

The Governor proposes establishing a statewide cyber charter tuition rate of \$8,000 per student per year (current range is \$8,639 - \$26,564 per student per year).

The special education rate remains unchanged.

Enacting this reform is estimated to save school districts \$262,000,000 annually.

[Click HERE for the cyber charter savings for each district](#)



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Cyber Charter Savings



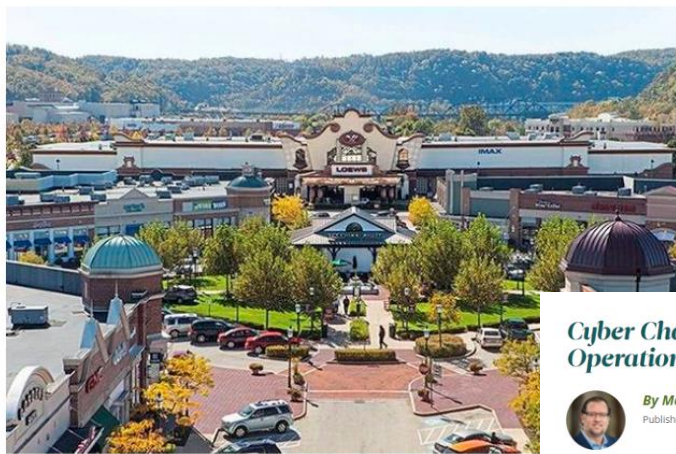
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Cyber Charter Savings

Commonwealth Charter Academy purchases former Macy's space at Waterfront



PAUL GUGGENHEIMER | Wednesday, February 3, 2021 1:58 p.m.



COURTESY O

Cyber Charter School to Expand Philadelphia Area Operations, Buys Malvern Building for \$15.3 Million



By Mark Hostutler

Published: 5:02 am EDT August 15, 2020 | Updated: 6:38 am EDT August 15, 2020



School Construction

Free Breakfast

Department of Education

\$300,000,000 for the School Environmental Repairs Program.

- This program was created in FY 2023-24 and shifted to the Department of Education pursuant to Act 34 of 2023.

\$16,667,000 increase in School Food Services

- This increase continues funding for initiatives, including the universal free breakfast program adopted as part of the FY 2023-24 budget.



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Period Products

Department of Health

\$3,000,000 increase for School District Health Services to provide feminine hygiene products at no cost to students in schools.

- Nationally, 1 in 4 teens have missed class due to a lack of access to menstrual hygiene supplies.
- Schools will be able to purchase product dispensation devices as one-time purchases and procure hygiene products on an ongoing basis to be made readily available to students.



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School Safety and Mental Health

Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency

\$161,700,000 distributed by the PCCD's School Safety & Security Committee:

- \$100 million for K-12 Mental Health
 - General Fund dollars replace federal ARPA funds used in FY 2023-24
- \$50 million for School Safety and Security
 - Funding for physical upgrades or mental health services for school entities



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Teacher Supports

Department of Education

\$28 million in funding to support teacher recruitment and retention and professional development.



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Pre-K Funding

\$32,700,000 increase for Pre-K Programs

- \$30,000,000 for Pre-K Counts, an 11% increase over FY 2023-24
- \$2,700,000 for Head Start, a 3% increase over FY 2023-24
- \$17,000,000 increase for Early Intervention, a 5% increase over FY 2023-24



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Higher Education

Department of Education

A new Blueprint for Higher Education and substantial funding increases.

We are awaiting additional details on the proposal.



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K-12 Proposal Has Benefits for ALL DISTRICTS!

- Districts most harmed by unconstitutional state funding will receive substantial adequacy investments that will begin to close their funding gaps and/or recognizes their high tax effort.
- Districts with declining enrollment that benefit from hold harmless will have their base reset, which provides stability moving forward and removes the threat of losing funding if BEF is redistributed through the formula.
- Cyber charter reform will return \$262 million to ALL districts and help keep cyber charter costs controlled moving forward.



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PA Schools Work response to Shapiro's proposed K-12 budget

Education Advocates: This is an Education Budget Worth Fighting For – Shapiro Proposal Puts PA on the Path Toward an Adequate, Equitable, and Constitutional Public School Funding System

State Legislature Must Embrace the Governor's Public School Funding Proposal, Codify a Concrete Timeline for Constitutional Compliance, Reject Private School Vouchers

HARRISBURG, PA (February 6, 2024) – *The PA Schools Work Campaign, a coalition of 17 organizations from across Pennsylvania representing thousands of educators; urban, rural, and suburban communities; parents and community leaders working together to increase funding for PA public schools, made the following statement in regards to Governor Josh Shapiro's proposed 2024-25 executive budget:*



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Private School Vouchers

And look, one of those conversations will need to be about scholarships that let poor families in struggling school districts put their kids in the best position for them to succeed – whether that’s paying for extra tutoring, books and computers, or yes, going to another school.

The Senate passed a proposal last year that included important elements of that, and it’s something I support and consider to be unfinished business.

I’m grateful House Democratic Leadership has committed to examine and seriously consider this proposal to address the needs of our most at-risk learners.

So, we’ve left room for the House and Senate to find common ground on this.

[Governor Shapiro’s 2/6/2024 state budget address](#)

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Vouchers

Every dollar spent on a school voucher reduces funding available to fund public schools.

PA ALREADY spends \$490 million/year on vouchers for unaccountable, discriminatory private schools through the Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) and Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit (OSTC) programs.

[Visit our website to learn more!!](#)

**NEW REPORT:
Pennsylvania Voucher
Schools Use Tax
Dollars to Advance
Discrimination**



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Please understand that C.C.A. may not be able to meet the needs of learning disabled children or accommodate students having special needs. C.C.A.cannot implement existing IEPs.

Cheswick Christian Academy, Cheswick, [Student application](#)



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“Thus, DAYSPRING CHRISTIAN ACADEMY retains the right to refuse enrollment to or to expel any student who engages in sexual immorality, including any student who professes to be homosexual/bisexual/transgender or is a practicing homosexual/bisexual/transgender, as well as any student who condones, supports, or otherwise promotes such practices (Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:27).

Dayspring Christian Academy, Lancaster, Application for Admissions



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Next Steps

This is a budget

WORTH

FIGHTING

FOR!

Wednesday, February 28th at 10:00 am
and 1:00 pm Senate Appropriations
Committee Hearing for the Department of
Education

Tuesday, March 5—PA House Appropriations
Committee Hearing for the Department of
Education at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm

House and Senate will determine their
priorities and negotiations will begin.

PASCHOOLSWORK.ORG



FACEBOOK.COM/PASCHOOLSWORK



TWITTER.COM/PASCHOOLSWORK



The Work Ahead



Advocates need to help our communities understand the benefits this K-12 funding would have for students and our communities as a whole.

- Contact your state lawmakers and ask them to support Gov. Shapiro's proposed K-12 budget.
- Ask your school board or other local organizations (school district foundation, municipal government, etc.) to pass a resolution in support of Gov. Shapiro's proposed K-12 budget. [More info HERE.](#)
- Write a letter to the editor to your local paper in support of Gov. Shapiro's proposed K-12 funding.
- Save the Date: **May 8th**—PA Schools Work Advocacy Day in Harrisburg.
- **Read your Ed Voters emails:)**

Thank you!

Questions?

SSpicka@educationvoterspa.org