

A YEAR FOR TRANSFORMATION: A WORLD-CLASS EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD IN DELAWARE COUNTY

Pennsylvania's current school funding system is unconstitutional, and this is the year to fix it. Last February, after a trial that spanned eight years, the Commonwealth Court ruled that our current school funding system has failed to educate all students and has disproportionately harmed students in low-wealth school districts. Now, it's now up to the General Assembly, the Governor, and education officials to fix the system. It's their job; it's our future.

Delaware County is a perfect example of the unconstitutional funding disparities. Local wealth varies within the county, and state underfunding has created a patchwork of missed opportunity. For example, spending per student ranges from under \$10,000 in Upper Darby to almost \$17,000 per student in Radnor.¹ It's time to right-size this outdated, insufficient funding system so that every community in Delaware County has thriving public schools.

THIS IS THE YEAR TO TRANSFORM SCHOOL FUNDING IN DELAWARE COUNTY

DELAWARE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS WOULD RECEIVE NEARLY

\$61M

ADDITIONAL FUNDING WITH THE PROPOSED BUDGET INCREASES

IN ADDITION TO

\$8.9M

IN SAVINGS FROM CURBING CYBER CHARTER OVERSPENDING

WHICH ALLOWS

\$70M

THIS YEAR WOULD BE ENOUGH TO HIRE

648 or **593**
NEW TEACHERS NEW SUPPORT STAFF

Pennsylvania's lawmakers are meeting the moment with an ambitious budget proposal that would fix the way schools are funded over the course of seven years. If lawmakers pass the current FY25 education proposal, Delaware County school districts would receive over **\$61 million** more starting in the fall, with additional increases over the next six years to ensure constitutional levels of funding. (See page 2 of this report for a detailed breakdown by school district.)

The proposal would also reform the way cyber charters are funded, curbing waste and redirecting taxpayer dollars to school districts. By standardizing the statewide cyber tuition rate at \$8,000 per student and adjusting the special education payments to cyber schools, Delaware County schools would save **\$8.9 million** in the 2024–25 school year alone.

The combined countywide budget increases and savings of almost **\$70 million** this year would be enough to hire 648 new teachers, or 593 new school support staff like counselors, psychologists, and classroom aides. With a \$14 billion surplus in Harrisburg, there are plenty of state funds to bring home to Delaware County. Let's make this year the first of a seven-year plan to build a world class education system in Pennsylvania.

¹ For data sources and methodology on all data included in this report, see our data appendix at: www.childrenfirstpa.org/befc2024factsheets

ADVOCATES



STUDENTS



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO GET INVOLVED:

DELAWARE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS **BENEFIT UNDER THE PROPOSED EDUCATION BUDGET IN SY 24-25** ...Year One of a Seven Year Plan!

School District	Total Increases (Adequacy, Tax Equity, BEF, SEF)	Additional Savings from setting a standard cyber charter tuition rate	Combined Increases and Savings per Student	Receives constitutional adequacy supplement?	Receives tax equity supplement?	Benefits from resetting the base?
Chester-Upland	\$11,420,862	\$2,076,538	\$1,987	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Chichester	\$3,377,618	\$973,301	\$1,321	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Garnet Valley	\$366,715	\$266,337	\$143	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Haverford Township	\$323,266	\$151,420	\$73	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Interboro	\$3,196,646	\$279,919	\$1,025	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marple Newtown	\$137,854	\$230,500	\$102	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Penn-Delco	\$1,253,079	\$256,074	\$460	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Radnor Township	\$132,680	\$136,831	\$74	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ridley	\$4,035,687	\$701,922	\$851	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rose Tree Media	\$178,789	\$432,815	\$154	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Southeast Delco	\$7,984,570	\$743,675	\$1,858	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Springfield	\$909,042	\$115,175	\$239	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Upper Darby	\$17,435,982	\$782,798	\$1,412	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wallingford-Swarthmore	\$1,455,657	\$260,630	\$483	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
William Penn	\$8,825,324	\$1,474,835	\$1,842	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

ADEQUACY SUPPLEMENT – Funding so that each student has enough to succeed in school. It’s based on what the PA’s 63 most successful school districts (excluding very high-spending districts) spent per weighted student in the 2021-22 school year, which was \$13,704.

TAX EQUITY SUPPLEMENT – Funding directed to the school districts that have been contributing a lot of local funding relative to their local tax capacity.

RESETTING THE BASE – The “base” is the stable funding that each school district relies on each year. By maintaining the base as part of the school funding system and updating it to reflect 2023-24 enrollment, school districts with declining enrollment are protected from losing funding. This gives districts that are losing enrollment a head start on reaching adequacy.

BEF – Basic Education Funding. This money is distributed to all 500 school districts each year based on a weighted funding formula.

SEF – Special Education Funding. This money is distributed to all 500 school districts each year based on a weighted funding formula.