

Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers

Urgent We need your help now!

The Senate-passed budget provides almost \$1 billion less for public education than the House approved budget (and the request of Governor Rendell). The outcome of this debate will in significant ways shape the quality of life in Pennsylvania, especially how we will treat children.

If this bill would pass the House, this will be the first time in Pennsylvania history that the state would spend less money on public education.

This bill will be a major reduction in state funding for basic education, and it will use available federal stimulus funds to replace the cut in state funds rather than to increase the basic subsidy consistent with the 6-year plan for school funding reform.

We need you to act now.

Please contact your legislators today and ask them to fully fund public education, to keep the \$418 million in our state budget, and to keep the funding formula for public education on track.

Other talking points:

1. Tell them to vote for Governor Rendell's education budget.
2. Urge them to fully fund the basic education funding formula. This is an investment not worthy of debate...it's vital to the success of our kids, community, region and Commonwealth!
3. Emphasize that if funding is cut for basic education, so will programs for kids...AND...my property taxes will most likely be increased by my school district!
4. State your willingness to support a state tax increase to fully fund basic education.

How To Contact Your Legislator

Finding out who your legislators are and how to contact them has never been easier:

PA Legislator: www.legis.state.pa.us -- Use the box in upper-right hand corner labeled "Find Members By" – Enter your zip+4 code to get the senator and representative for your area and contact information.

For additional information, talking points, and updates on the state budget, please use this link: www.paschoolfunding.org.