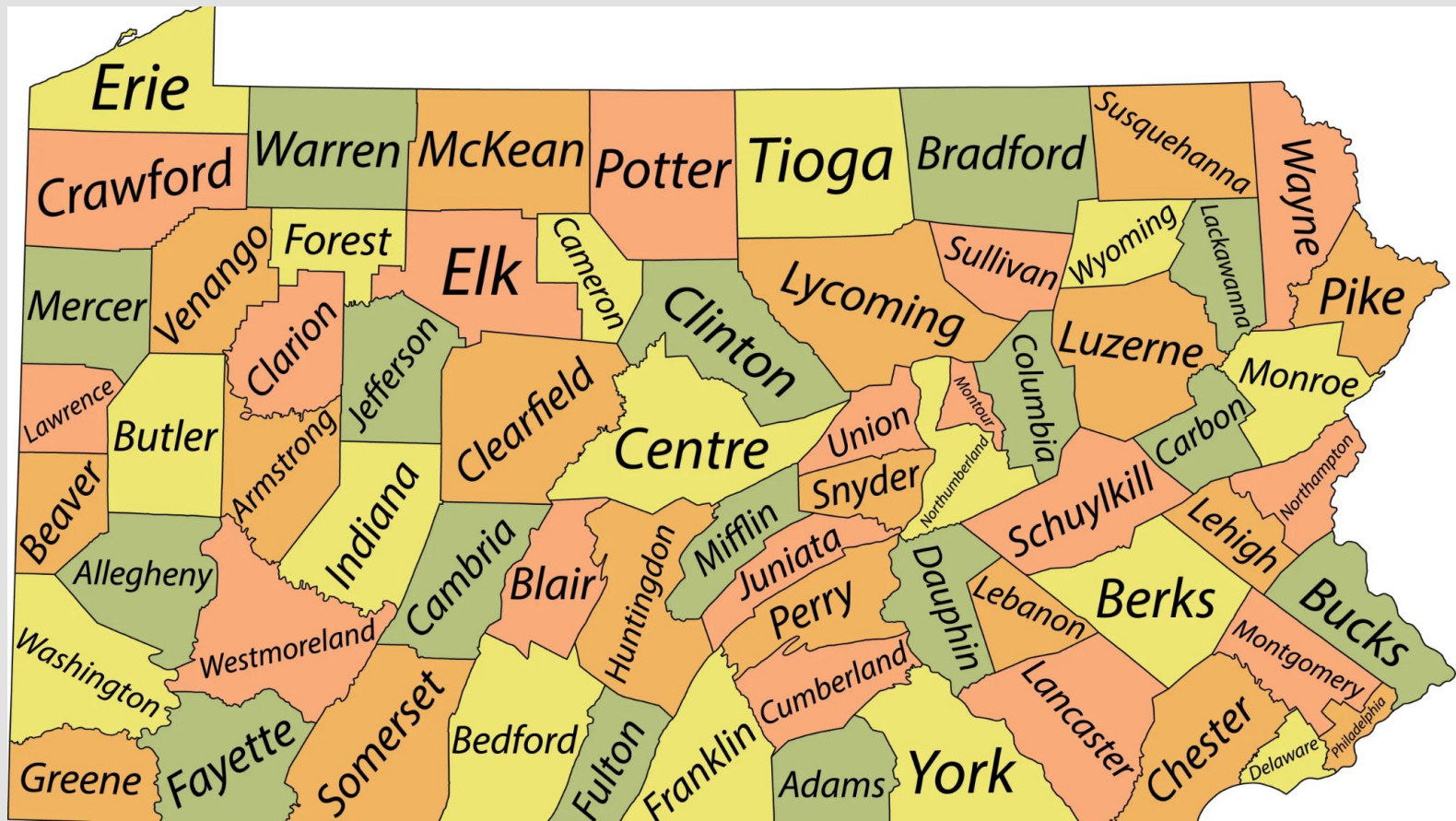




COLLECTIVELY IMPACT MUSIC EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

Wednesday, July 23rd | State College, PA



BATTLEGROUND

<http://battleground.substack.com/>

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Rural Counties

(pop. Density <750 people per sq. mi.)



Urban/Suburban Counties

(pop. density >750 people per sq. mi.)



PA Facts

- 67 Counties
- 1.69 million children in PA public schools
 - 3.4% of 49.6 millions students in USA
 - 7th in the country
 - Nationwide public school enrollment is down 2.1% since 2017
- 500 school district (1,513,000 students)
- 162 brick and mortar charter schools (104,400 students)
- 71 Career and Technical Centers (55,000 students)
- 29 Intermediate Units (10,700 students)
- 13 Cyber Charter Schools (59,900 students)
- 2706 Nonpublic/private schools (225,700 students)
- Home Education Programs (42,600)

PA Facts

- School entities **MAY** develop, expand or improve existing academic standards in the following content areas:

- ... arts and humanities...

- Elementary education:** primary and intermediate levels

- Planned instruction aligned with academic standards shall be provided to every student every year in the primary program. Planned instruction may be provided as separate course or other disciplinary activity.**

- The arts, including active learning experiences in art, music, dance and theatre.

- Planned instruction in the following areas shall be provided to every student every year in the intermediate level program. Planned instruction may be provided or as an instructional unit within another course or other disciplinary activity.

- The arts, including active learning experiences in art, music, dance and theatre.

PA Arts Education Facts

23-24 School Year

- 71.8% (up) of public school students enrolled in arts classes
- 9.2% (down) of public school students without access to arts education (158,609 students)
- 969,117 enrolled in music education in public schools
 - 80% elementary enrollment
 - 80% middle school enrollment
 - 16% high school enrollment
 - 53% mixed school enrollment
- 4,090 music educators in public schools
- Roughly 3,700 PMEA members (includes college students)



IN THE COMMONWEALTH COURT OF PENNSYLVANIA

William Penn School District;
Panther Valley School District;
The School District of Lancaster;
Greater Johnstown School District;
Wilkes-Barre Area School District;
Shenandoah Valley School District;
Jamella and Bryant Miller, parents of
K.M., a minor; Sheila Armstrong,
parent of S.A., minor; Tracey Hughes,
parent of P.M.H., minor; Pennsylvania
Association of Rural and Small Schools;
and The National Association for the
Advancement of Colored
People-Pennsylvania State Conference,
Petitioners

No. 587 M.D. 2014

v.

Pennsylvania Department of Education;
Kim L. Ward, in her official capacity as
President Pro-Tempore of the
Pennsylvania Senate; Mark Rozzi,
in his official capacity as the
Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of
Representatives; Josh Shapiro,
in his official capacity as the Governor
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;
Pennsylvania State Board of Education;
and Dr. Khalid N. Mumin, in his
official capacity as Acting Secretary
of Education,

Respondents

BEFORE: HONORABLE RENÉE COHN JUBELIRER, President Judge

OPINION NOT REPORTED

MEMORANDUM OPINION BY
PRESIDENT JUDGE COHN JUBELIRER

FILED: February 7, 2023



ARTICLE X.

Education.

SECTION 1. The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public schools, wherein all the children of this Commonwealth above the age of six years may be educated, and shall appropriate at least one million dollars each year for that purpose.

Public schools to be maintained.

Amount appropriated.

SECTION 2. No money raised for the support of the public schools of the Commonwealth shall be appropriated to or used for the support of any sectarian school.

No appropriation to sectarian schools.

SECTION 3. Women twenty-one years of age and upwards, shall be eligible to any office of control or management under the school laws of this State.

Women eligible to school offices.

The education clause of the 1874 Pennsylvania State Constitution, calling for "thorough and efficient" public education.

Lawsuit Findings

- On February 7, 2023, Commonwealth Court ruled that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional and must be reformed.
- “All witnesses agree that every child can learn. It is now the obligation of the Legislature, Executive Branch, and educators, to make the constitutional promise a reality in this Commonwealth.”
- Adequacy gap in 2018-19: \$4.6 billion – Over \$6 billion now
- Basic Education Funding Commission

Lawsuit Findings

- What about the PA Fair Funding Formula?
- Enacted in 2016, the formula distributes increases in state funding to school districts based on “weighted students”
- Takes into account population, students in poverty, English learners, and other factors
- Only how to split the pie—not how big the pie should be
- Only 14% of funding goes through the formula

Great Inequity for Students Among 500 Districts

In 2019-20, current spending per pupil in Pennsylvania school districts ranged from \$11,647 (Hazleton Area) to \$26,984 (Lower Merion)

This means, **in an average classroom of 25 students, a gap of \$383,425 per classroom per year.**

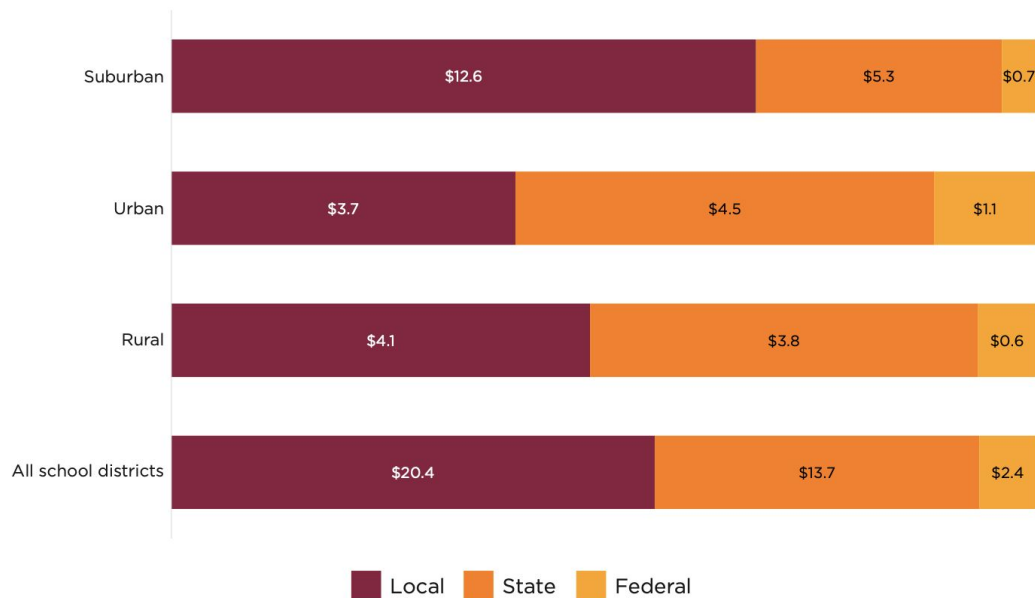
Inequitable and Inadequate Resources in a Standards-Based Environment with Equal Expectations for All Students

Funding Issues

Most school districts reliant on local revenues

For a majority of school districts, especially those in suburban areas, the largest share of their revenue comes from local sources.¹¹ In fact, for suburban school districts, local revenues are 2.3 times that of state revenues.

Amount and source of revenue (in billions)

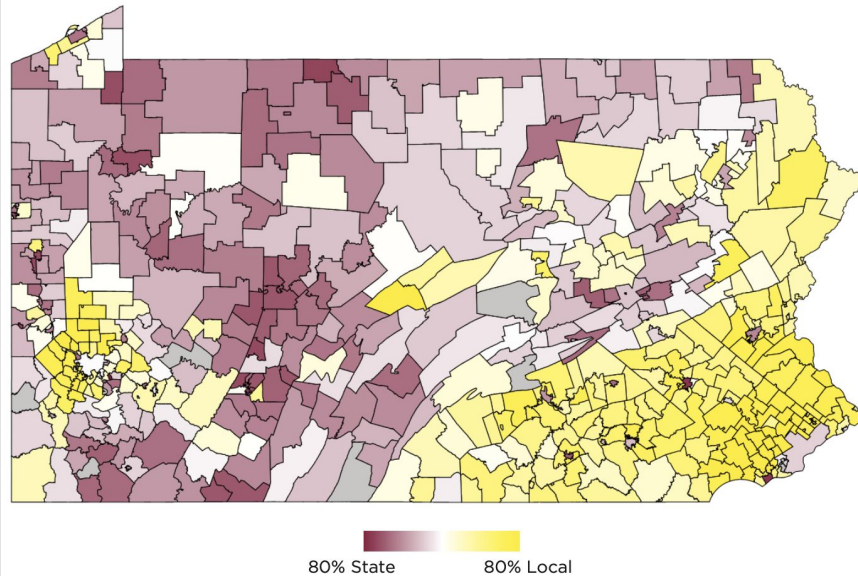


Source: PSBA

Funding Issues

State and local revenue shares vary widely across Pennsylvania

Taking a closer look at the percentage of state and local funding for each school district reveals, in greater detail, the reliance on local revenue for suburban school districts and that many rural and urban school districts are more reliant on the state for funding.¹³

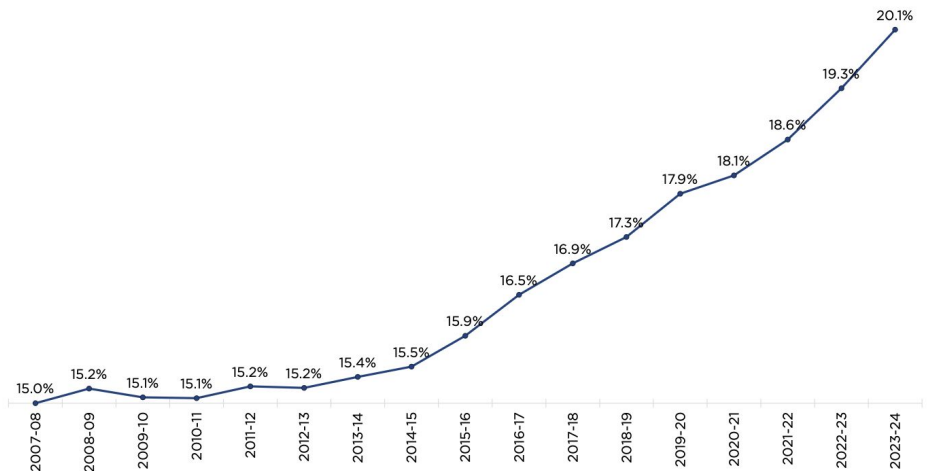


Source: PSBA

Special education population continues growing

In 2023-24, nearly 337,000, or 20.1% of public school students received special education programs and services.⁴ This represents a 25.1% increase over the last 10 years.

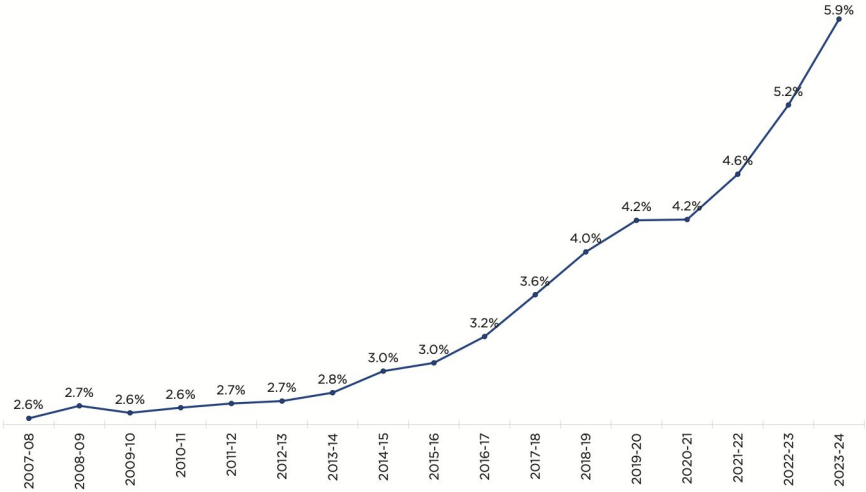
Special education as a percent of enrollment



English learner population also continues growing

The number of public school students with a primary language other than English receiving specialized language instruction has more than doubled in the last decade to nearly 100,000, or 5.9% of public school students in the 2023-24 school year.⁵

English learners as a percent of enrollment



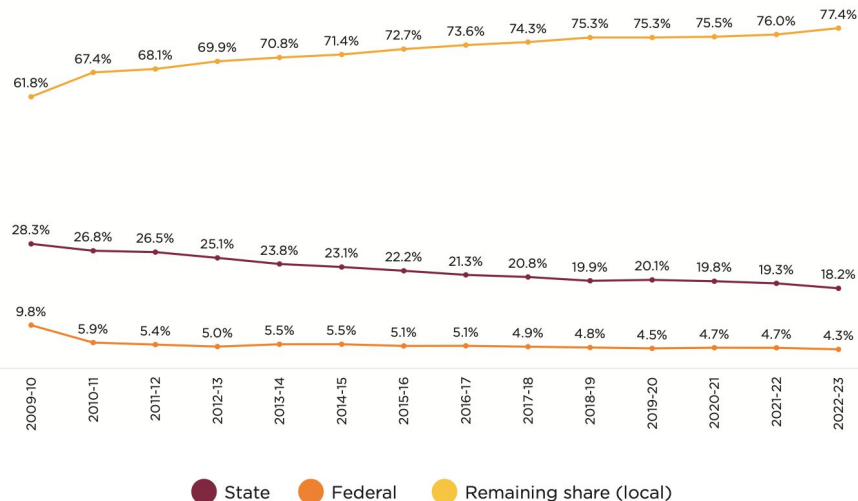
Source: PSBA

Funding Issues

State and federal shares of special education decreasing

As state and federal funding for special education have failed to keep up with the pace of growth in expenses, the share of special education expenses covered by state and federal funding have decreased as well. For most school districts, the difference is made up entirely by local funding.²³

Percent of special education funding by source



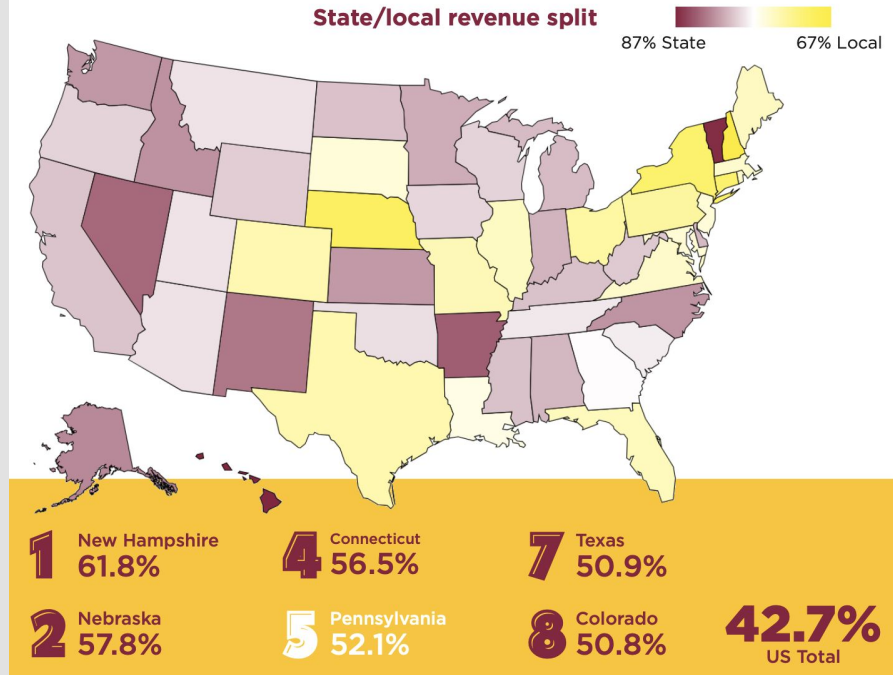
Source: PSBA



Funding Issues

Pennsylvania among highest in local share of education funding

From a national perspective, only four other states receive a higher proportion of public education funding from local revenues than Pennsylvania.¹⁴



Source: PSBA

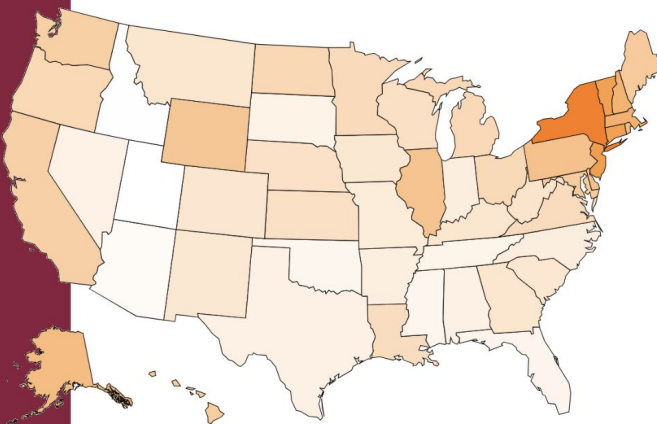
Funding Issues

Expenditures per student

Rank/State	Expenditure/Student
1. New York	\$29,873
2. New Jersey	\$25,099
3. Vermont	\$24,608
4. Connecticut	\$24,453
5. Massachusetts	\$21,906
6. New Hampshire	\$21,605
7. Alaska	\$20,191
8. Rhode Island	\$19,962
9. Delaware	\$19,357
10. Pennsylvania	\$19,168
US Total	\$15,633

Pensions push state spending higher nationally

Pennsylvania ranks 10th nationally in terms of current expenditures per student, with \$19,168 being spent.¹⁶ However, \$6,177, or 32%, of that spending is dedicated to employee benefits, including pension costs. Only two other states¹⁷ have a greater proportion of spending per student dedicated to employee benefits.



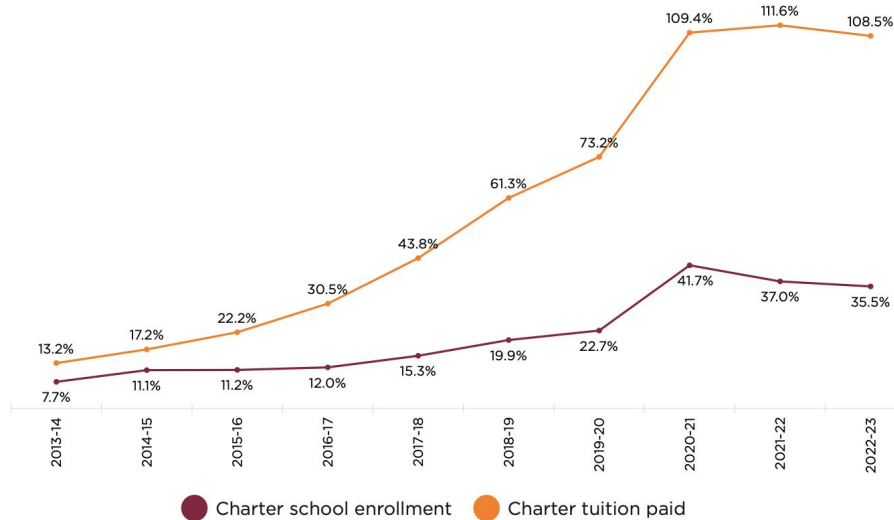
Source: PSBA

Funding Issues

Charter school tuition continues increasing faster than enrollment

Under current law, a school district's charter tuition rates are based on the school district's expenses, including what a district spends on charter tuition.²¹ As school districts' mandated expenses have continued to increase, so have tuition rates. As a result, school districts' charter tuition payments have kept increasing even while charter school enrollment growth slowed.

Charter school enrollment and tuition growth from 2012-13



Source: PSBA

State Budget



State Budget

Shapiro Proposal

- \$526 million in adequacy funding
- \$75 million in basic education funding
- \$40 million for special education
- \$40 million for student teacher stipend program

State Budget

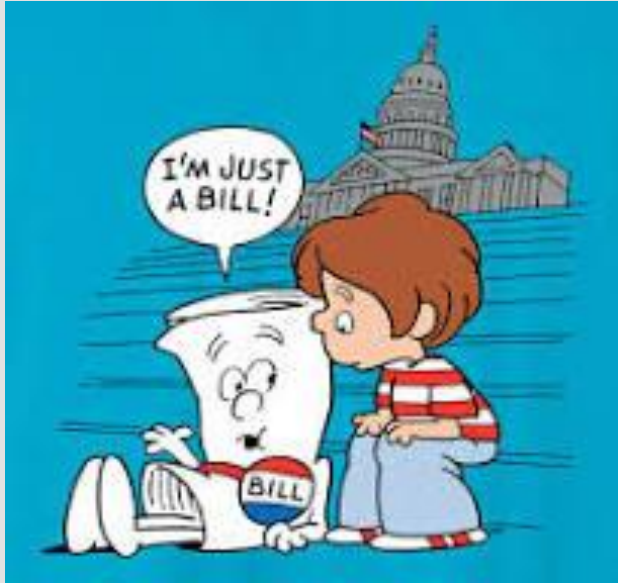
Higher Ed Impacts - Shapiro Proposal

- \$40 million for student teacher stipend program
- Flat Funding State-related schools
 - Performance based Funding Council
- \$40 million increase for PASSHE
- PASSHE approved a 3.5% increase (\$139 per semester)
 - Could rescind based on final budget
 - First tuition increase in 7 years

Status of FY 2025 & 2026 Appropriations

Program Title	FY 2025 Funding	FY 2026 Budget Proposal
Title I	\$18.41 B	\$18.41 B
IDEA	\$14.2 B	\$14.9 B
Title IV-A	\$1.38 B	\$0
21 st Century Community Learning Centers	\$1.33 B	\$0
Title II	\$2.19 B	\$0
Assistance for Arts Education	\$36.5 M	\$0
National Endowment for the Arts	\$207 M	\$0

FY 2026 Appropriations Schedule



- President Releases FY26 Budget Proposal (May 30)
- Appropriations Committee Hearings (April/May)
- Appropriations Committee Markups (June/July)
- House & Senate Floor Votes (July/September)
- Start of FY 2026 (October 1)

Federal Funding Campaign

Programs

- Title I, Part A
- Title II, Part A
- Title IV, Part A
- Assistance for Arts Education
- National Endowment for the Arts



Trump Administration Actions

- Executive Orders
 - DEI
 - “Racial Indoctrination”
- End DEI Portal
- “Big Beautiful Bill”



U.S. Department of Education



- Linda McMahon confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Education (March 3)
- Executive Order on ED (March 20)
- Introduction of Returning Education to Our States Act (April 19)

Federal Legislation Supported by NAFME

Arts Education for All Act (H.R. 5463)

- Introduced by Reps. Bonamici (OR-01) and Bacon (NE-02)
- Expands access to high-quality arts education for early childhood and K-12 learners.
- Supports PD for arts educators
- Directs the U.S. Dept of ED to fund research on effective arts education practices

HBCU Arts Education Act (H.R. 2664)

- Introduced by Rep. Adams (NC-12)
- Amends the Higher Education Act to allow federal HBCU grants to support arts, arts education and cultural programs
- Provides financial and other assistance to students in arts, arts education and cultural programs.
- Provides comprehensive wraparound services including faculty and peer mentorship, work-based learning opportunities, and career advising.

Federal Legislation Supported by NafME

Respect, Advancement, and Increasing Support for Educators (RAISE) Act (H.R. 1611)

- Introduced by Rep. Hayes (CT-05)
- Provides \$1,000 refundable tax credit for all eligible educators & up to \$14,000 in additional credits for teachers in under-resourced areas
- Doubles the educator tax deduction for out-of-pocket classroom and supply expenses from \$250 to \$500.

Reimagining Inclusive Arts Education Act (H.R. 3852)

- Introduced by Rep. David Scott (GA-13)
- Authorizes \$15 million for a new competitive grant program to promote curricula, best practices, and PD for arts educators and creative arts therapists to better support students with disabilities

What Can Advocates Do?



Research



**Assess
Resources**



**Collect Impact
Stories**



**Share with
Decision
Makers**



**Stay
Informed**

WHY THE ARTS MATTER IN PENNSYLVANIA



NATIONAL ARTS FACTS

**FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT
ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT**

4.31% Nation's GDP **5.2 M** Jobs



\$1.102 TRILLION Arts & Culture



\$920.5 B Transportation



\$438.2 B Utilities

The national arts and culture sector was a **\$1.102 trillion industry** in 2022 (4.31% of the nation's GDP), representing **5.2 million jobs** (3.28% of nation's workforce), and total compensation of **\$540.9 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Endowment for the Arts (2024). Data collected for 2022.

PENNSYLVANIA ARTS FACTS

**FOR-PROFIT & NON-PROFIT
ARTS & CULTURE SECTORS REPRESENT**

3.3% State's GDP **175,872** Jobs



\$30 BILLION Arts & Culture



\$38.6 B Transportation



\$15.1 B Utilities

The Pennsylvania arts and culture sector was a **\$30 billion industry** in 2022 (3.3% of the state's GDP), representing **175,872 jobs** (2.84% of Pennsylvania workforce), and total compensation of **\$15 billion**.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis & National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (2024). Data collected for 2022.

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

Federal Appropriation FY24 **\$207 Million**

Congress allocated **\$207 million** to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) in **FY24**. This amounts to just **62 cents per capita**. Ideally, Congress should index \$1 per capita funding to the NEA.

Source: [Americans for the Arts Action Fund](#), 2024.

4/2024

PUBLIC FUNDING ALLOCATED IN PENNSYLVANIA ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR

State Appropriation FY23-24 **\$10,583,000**

NEA Grant FY24 **\$990,800**

NEA Direct Grants FY23 **\$3,665,865**

Source: [NEA](#), [NASAA](#) 2024

What is PMEA Doing?

- Conferences and Festivals
- Advocacy and Policy Work
- Crescendo Student Conference
- Future Music Educators Honors Symposium
- PA Arts Education Leadership Coalition
- Working on lifecycle of a music educator



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What Can We Do And
How Do We Know It's
Working?



What Can We Do And How Do We Know It's Working?

Challenges > Solutions > Success

- What are the challenges that you may be facing in the broader world of Music Education? How specifically are those challenges impacting your roles/goals?

What Can We Do And How Do We Know It's Working?

Challenges > Solutions > Success

- What does your organization need in order to fully be effective? How can combined efforts impact this work?

What Can We Do And How Do We Know It's Working?

Challenges > Solutions > Success

- What success stories can you share that would inspire or motivate other organizations in their work? What's working?
- What does success actually look like?

Thank You!

We will send a survey.

Email - markd@pmea.net





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