

A Necessary First Step: Governor Wolf's Proposal to Provide Adequate and Equitable Funding of Pennsylvania Schools

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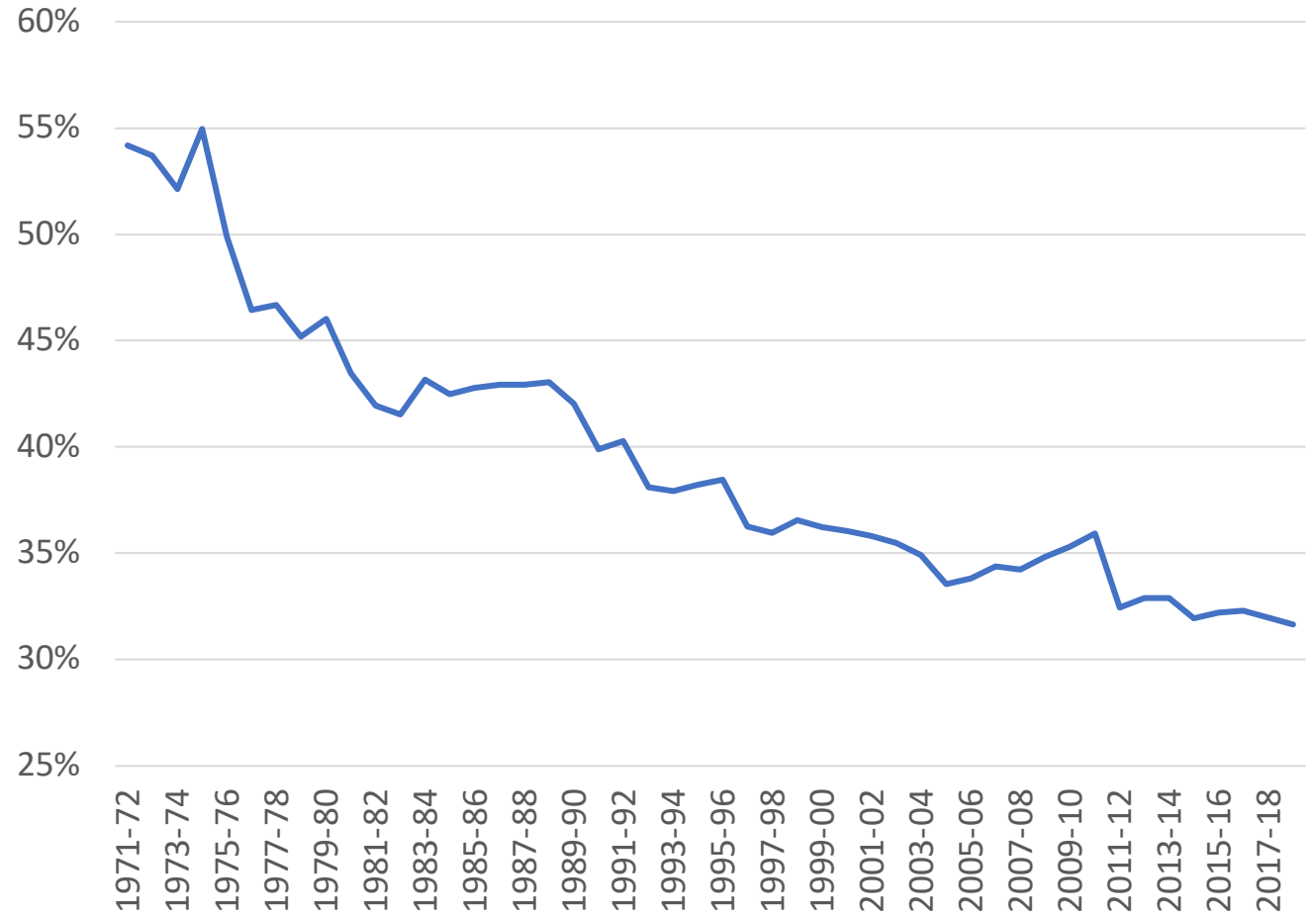
PA Budget and Policy Center

Two Sources of Inadequate and Inequitable Funding

- Falling share of state support for K-12 education
- State support for K-12 education distributed by politics—not a formula tied to need

State Share of K-12 Education Funding (%)

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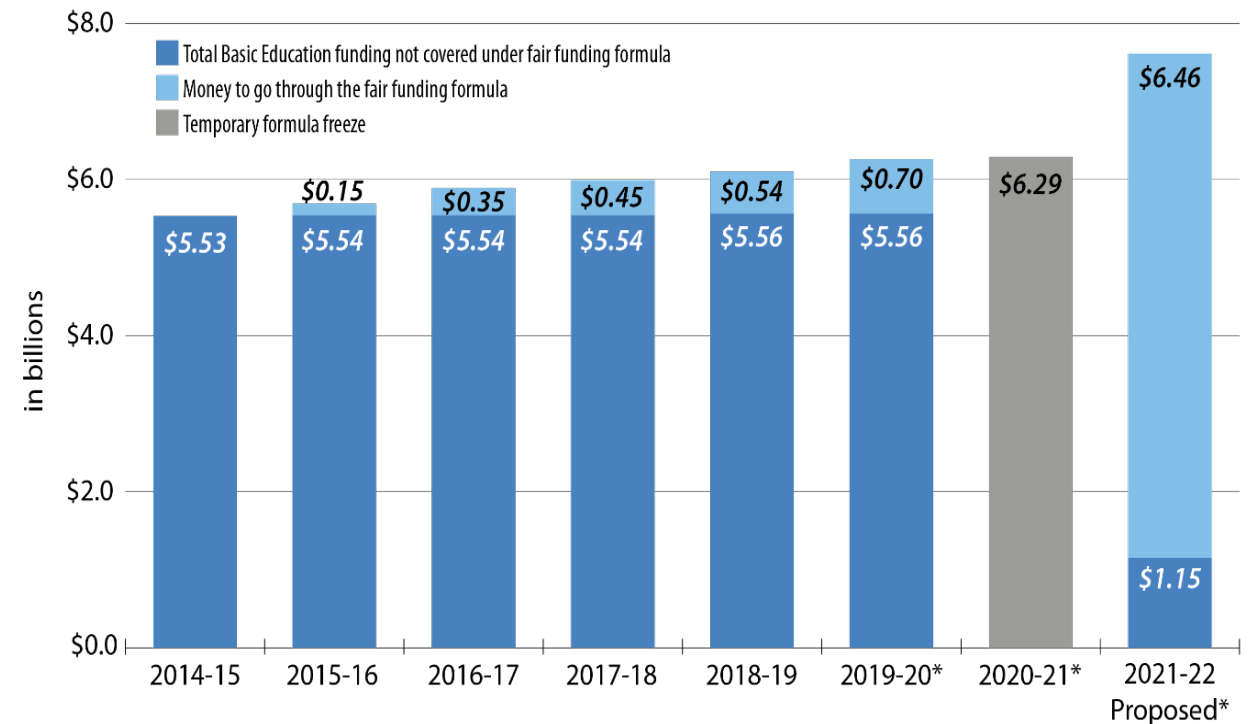
State Education Funding Distributed by Politics not Formula

- For only 3 years (between 1993 and 2015), state support for K-12 schools was distributed by a funding formula under Governor Rendell.
 - Under Governor Corbett, the Rendell formula was discontinued; \$1 billion was cut from state aid to schools. Philadelphia and other urban centers, particularly in the eastern part of the state, bore the brunt of cuts.
- Since 2015-16, only new state funding has been distributed by the fair funding formula.
 - In 2020-21, 85% of basic education funds are “hold harmless” funds, distributed in the way they were in 2014-2015.

Governor's Budget Proposal

In the Governor's Proposed 2021-22 Budget, 85% of Basic Education Funding Will Go Through the Fair Funding Formula, Up from 11% in 2019-20

The \$1.15 billion not going through the formula in 2021-22 is intended to ensure there are no negative funding impact



The Funding Gap

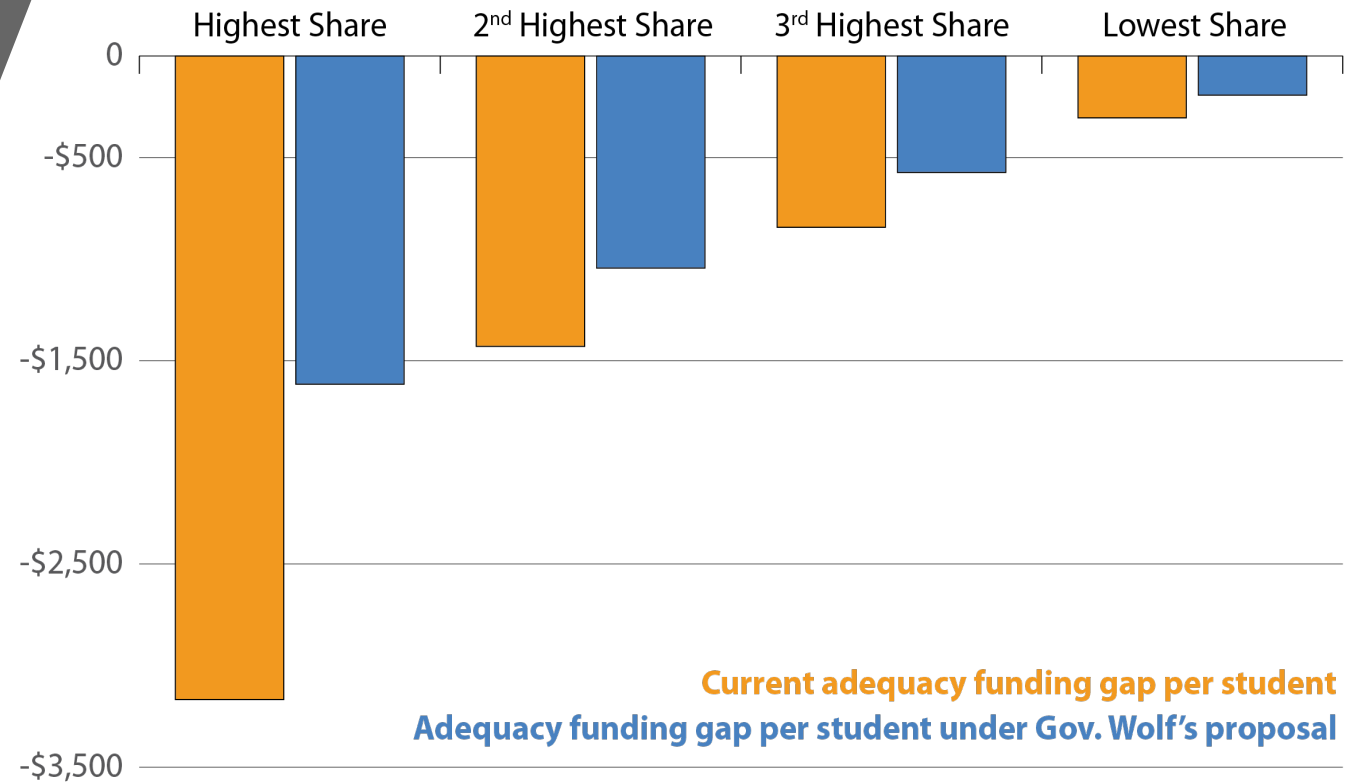
- “Adequate school funding” is the amount school districts need to spend per student to provide an adequate education, according to the 2007 Costing-Out Study conducted by Augenblick, Palaich and Associates.
 - Updated by Professor Matthew Kelley of the Penn State College of Education in 2020 for the Public Interest Law Center.
- “Funding gap” is the difference between adequate school funding per student and current school funding per student.

Sources of Data

- We present funding data for four groups of schools, each of which contains $\frac{1}{4}$ of K-12 students in Pennsylvania.
- The four groups are divided by
 - the share of households in the district living in poverty.
 - the share of Black students in the district.
 - the share of Hispanic students in the district.
- Data is from the PA Department of Education and U.S. Census.
- Analysis provided by KRC-PBPC Education Funding Model developed by Eugene Henninger-Voss.

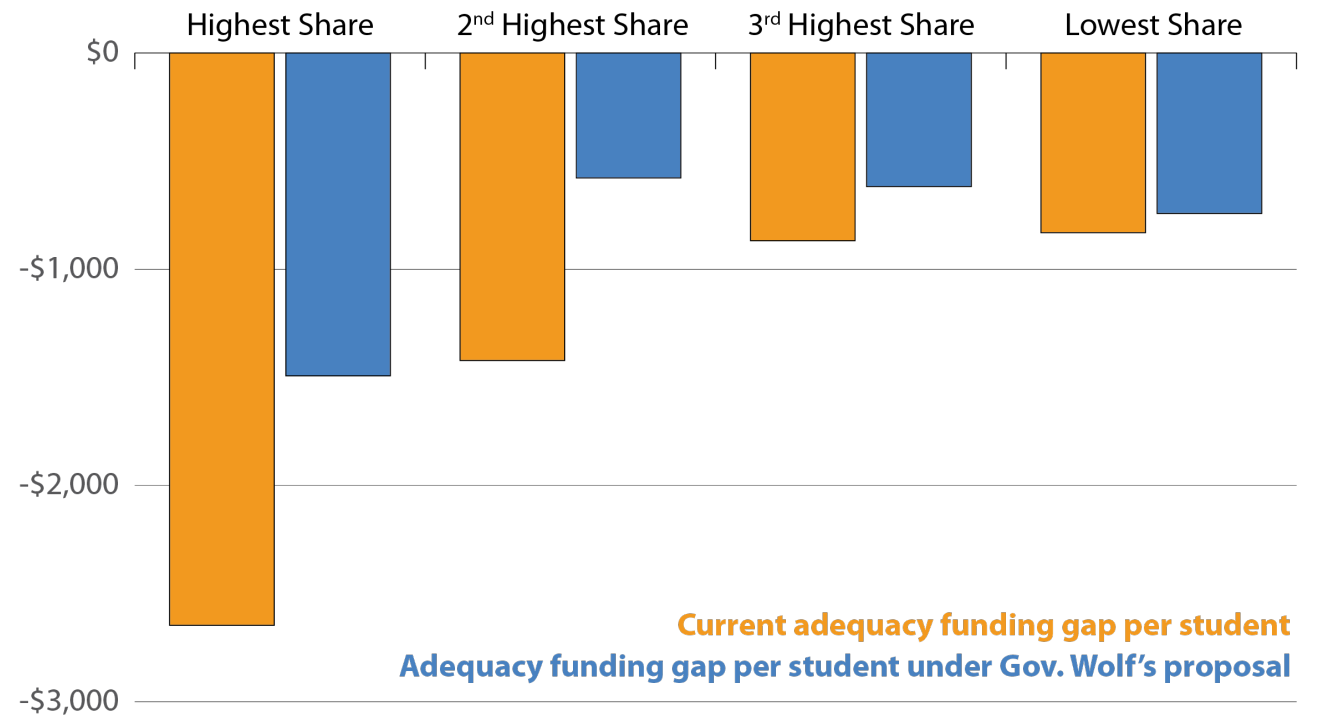
Benefits of Higher Education to Communities

Adequacy and Equity in PA K-12 Schools: Funding Gap by Poverty Density



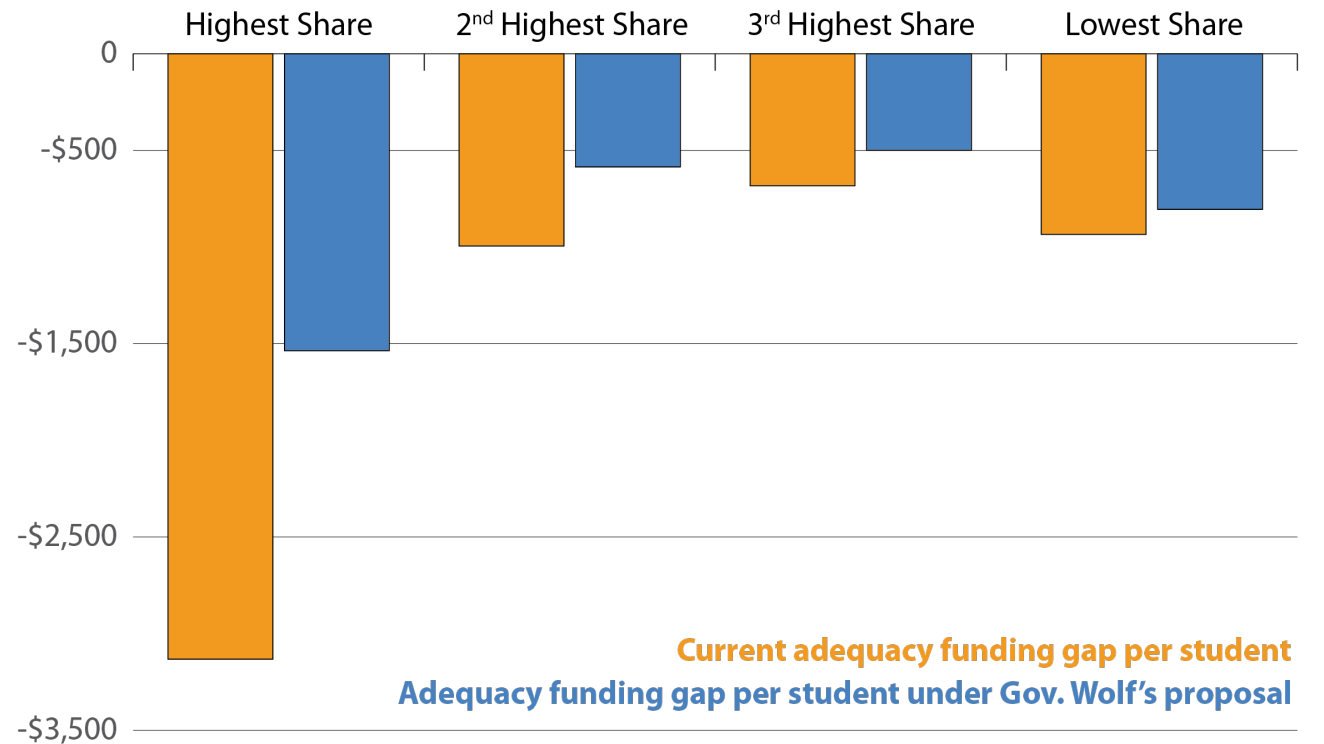
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Benefits of Higher Education to Communities

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Conclusion

The lack and inequitable distribution of educational opportunities in PA is an amoral scandal that undermines the future for all of us.