

# *Pennsylvania School Funding Campaign*

## *Successful Schools...Successful Children...Successful Communities*

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### **Goals**

- Fully implement by 2013-2014 a school funding formula based upon Pennsylvania's 2007 Costing-Out Study.
- Build upon the positive foundation laid by the General Assembly in Act 61 of 2008 by allocating sufficient funds in each year's budget to keep the state on track to meet the Act 61 adequacy targets by 2013-2014.
- Maintain a commitment to the new school funding formula of Act 61 with enhancements to ensure a more equitable distribution of new funds.

The Pennsylvania General Assembly and Governor Rendell took historic action in 2008 toward fixing the problems of the state's ineffective and unfair school finance system by making a significant investment in public education and establishing a rational school funding formula based on the Costing-Out Study and the key principles endorsed by the Campaign, which are described below. The Campaign is committed to supporting state policymakers in maintaining and fostering this strategic investment in the future of our youth and the economic vitality of our state. This investment will provide all students with access to the academic resources necessary for their own individual success and for the success of our future workforce and will alleviate pressure on local property taxes.

### **Principles**

- Adequacy:** to ensure that adequate educational and financial resources identified by the Costing-Out Study are available in every school district to support every student in meeting statewide academic standards.
- Equity:** to ensure that state funds are distributed so districts with the fewest local resources receive the most state support per student to achieve this adequacy level. This will allow school districts to reduce over-reliance on local property taxes.
- Accountability:** to successfully achieve state and federal performance requirements, the state provides the necessary technical and financial resources, and school districts demonstrate student outcomes, appropriate local financial resources and stewardship of taxpayer funds.
- Efficiency:** to use state and local resources appropriately and effectively toward achieving state academic standards.
- Predictability:** to provide state funding in a manner that allows school districts to plan their budgets and programs.