

Legislation Text

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Calling on the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Education to Hold Hearings Concerning the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Approach to Education Funding.

WHEREAS, The 2013 - 2014 enacted early, basic and higher education budget for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania totals \$11.63 billion, with \$9.75 billion going to support public schools, \$1.59 billion allocated to higher education, and \$61.1 million appropriated to libraries (Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2013 - 14 Enacted Education Budget); and

WHEREAS, Of the \$9.75 billion allocated to support public schools, \$5.52 billion is for basic education funding, \$100 million is for accountability grants, \$62 million is for career and technical education, \$3 million is for career and technical education equipment grants, \$864,000 is for mobile science and math education programs, \$1.03 billion is for special education, \$495 million is for school employees' social security, \$1.02 billion is for school employees' retirement, \$221.9 million is for early intervention, \$87.3 million is for Pre-K counts, and \$39.2 million is for Head Start supplemental assistance (Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2013 - 14 Enacted Education Budget); and

WHEREAS, Of the \$1.59 billion appropriated to higher education, community colleges will receive \$212.1 million, state-related universities will receive \$503.4 million, the state system of higher education will receive \$412.7 million, and \$344.8 million will be distributed through Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency grants (Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2013 - 14 Enacted Education Budget); and

WHEREAS, Of the \$61.1 million allotted for libraries, \$53.5 million is for public library subsidies, \$3 million is for library access, and \$2.6 million is for library services for the visually impaired and disabled (Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2013 - 14 Enacted Education Budget); and

WHEREAS, On average, state governments across the country fund 43.5% of the total amount spent on public elementary and secondary education (United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2009 - 2010*); and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is below the national average with regards to funding public elementary and secondary education, contributing 35.8% (United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, *Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2009 - 2010*); and

WHEREAS, In the City of Philadelphia, school libraries continue to close, school counselors and nurses are assigned to more than one location, school offices are understaffed, and the student-to-teacher- ratio is increasing; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Philadelphia City Council Committee on Education shall hold hearings concerning the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's approach to education funding.