

# Pennsylvania's School Funding

- *Pennsylvania ranks 46th in the nation in the state's contribution to public school funding. State revenue funds only 38% of the PA's education budget. The average is 47%.*
- *90% of Pennsylvania's state educational funding is distributed to districts based on 1991 enrollment data, and is not adjusted to reflect current needs.*

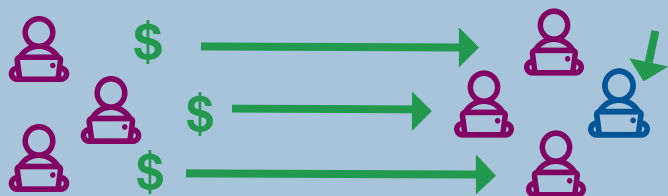
In 2016, Pennsylvania passed a new **Fair Funding Formula** to distribute any **new** education funding to districts based on their current enrollment, with increased weight for students living in poverty, and other student need factors. BUT, money distributed according to the **Fair Funding Formula** makes up only **10%\*** of state education funding, and only about **~4%** of Statewide Adequate Funding Target.

**State Contribution ~ 38%**  
of Statewide Adequate Funding Target

**2016 Fair Funding Formula 10%\***

**1991 "Hold Harmless" Formula 90%**

By law, most of the state contribution is distributed to districts based on their 1991 student enrollment numbers. Most districts whose enrollment has gone down since 1991 benefit, while some growing districts, rich and poor, are at a disadvantage, because they get a smaller amount per student.



**1991 enrollment**      **2021 enrollment**

**Local Contribution ~62%**  
of Statewide Adequate Funding Target



Local communities raise most of the funding for their school districts through property taxes. Districts with low property values cannot raise enough to fund 62% of the per pupil target. This heavy reliance on local, rather than statewide funding, contributes to an uneven playing field for PA students.

*The League of Women Voters supports measures to reduce Pennsylvania's wide disparities in funding between rich and poor districts by increasing the state contribution to reduce reliance on local taxes, and distributing the state's education funds according to current enrollment and needs in each district.*