

# Education Funding Facts

- 1. Next year School Districts will get \$100 million less funding than in the current year under the governor's plan.**
  - a. School funding in the current year was cut by nearly \$1 billion in the Republican budget. Many school districts used the state funds for early learning education (i.e. full-day kindergarten).
    - i. **Law enforcement leaders say high-quality early childhood education helps to reduce crime and lower prison costs.** Tom Corbett agreed when he was campaigning, but cut as governor.
  - b. Charter schools were relatively unscathed by state cuts in the 2011/12 school year.
  - c. There is less state funding for Pre-K to 12 Education now than there was BEFORE the federal stimulus.
  - d. The Governor claims he's increasing education funding to school districts. **The reality is that funding for classroom education goes down across the board; just ask any school district.**
  - e. In 2008/09 a bi-partisan majority of legislators concluded that the state is underfunding public schools. Since then, Gov. Corbett cut nearly \$1 billion in the current year and he wants to cut another \$100 million next year.
- 2. School property taxes are going up across the state because of Governor Corbett's nearly \$1 billion in cuts to public schools.**
  - a. Property owners are paying more for education because the state isn't meeting its share.
  - b. 197 School districts (out of 500) received permission from PDE to raise taxes in 2012/13 without seeking voter approval.
- 3. Governor Corbett cares more about prison overcrowding than he does about classroom size.**
  - a. The governor backfilled lost stimulus funding in the Department of Corrections, but not for the Department of Education.
    - i. In 2010/11, federal stimulus for DOC was \$172,911,000; Governor Corbett added \$209,286,000 in state funding to DOC in 2011/12.
  - b. The average cost per pupil per year is approximately \$14,000; the average cost per inmate per year is approximately \$35,000.
  - c. **The governor plans to spend twice as much on prisons compared to higher education in his latest budget proposal.**
- 4. Corbett's education cuts resulted in 14,000 job cuts in our public schools.**
  - a. His policies actually cost the state tens of thousands of jobs for middle-class Pennsylvanians.
- 5. Corbett's Student Achievement Education Block Grant proposal has nothing to do with students or achievement, it's about pushing more funding responsibility away from the state and onto local property owners.**
  - a. Lumping the state's legally required transportation and social security payments into the block grant distorts the funding picture.
  - b. Eliminating the formula-funded transportation funding means that schools will be on their own to pay for increasing gas costs.
  - c. Because the block grant method doesn't account for increases in transportation and social security, the only place left for schools to make up the shortage in future years will be through cuts in classroom education and student programs. **When a funding plan leaves schools without choices, there really is no flexibility.**