

## Fair Funding for Education is Good for All of Pennsylvania

As your representative, I will fight to fully and fairly fund public schools because this isn't just about fairness, it's about our shared future.

- **A court mandate, not just a moral argument** – Pennsylvania's school funding system was ruled unconstitutional in 2023, making this not simply a values debate but a legal obligation the legislature must address.
- **We're in this together** – This isn't someone else's problem. The region's economic health, workforce, and quality of life are directly tied to what happens in neighboring districts.
- **Education funding is an economic and public safety strategy** – School funding directly drives workforce quality, business investment, tax revenue, and reduced crime – making it a practical regional priority, not just an equity issue.

It shouldn't be a radical idea to say that every Pennsylvania child deserves a high-quality education. Yet our current system continues to fall short. In the landmark case *William Penn School District et al. v. Pennsylvania Department of Education et al.*, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled in 2023 that the school funding system is unconstitutional because it fails to provide all students with the resources they need to succeed. This is an issue we all should care about and do something to address it.

District 148 borders Philadelphia and our communities are deeply connected. Many of us who live in 148 spend a lot of time working in and enjoying all the city has to offer. While the schools in District 148 are generally well funded, Philadelphia public schools suffer from a structural deficit of \$300 million for the current school year. We must come together as a Commonwealth and support each other so we all win, together. When students in underfunded districts have access to strong schools, modern facilities, and well-supported teachers, the benefits ripple outward.

A better-funded education system means a stronger regional workforce. Employers in and around District 148 will have access to a larger, more skilled, and better-prepared talent pool that is vital to a vibrant local economy that grows and attracts investment.

When more young people graduate with the skills they need to succeed, they are more likely to secure good-paying jobs, contribute to our economy, and generate tax revenue that supports essential services across the Commonwealth.

Strong schools help build safer communities. Decades of research show that access to quality education reduces crime by expanding opportunity, increasing earnings, and creating pathways to success.

Fair funding isn't just the right thing to do, it's a smart investment in District 148 and the Commonwealth. By ensuring every child, in every zip code, has access to a great education, we strengthen our workforce, grow our economy, and build safer, more connected communities for everyone.