



# PENNSYLVANIA

## Budget and Policy Center

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### **PBPC analysis show SB 1073 improves but does not eliminate education funding gap**

***SB 1073 makes progress but, inequality in school funding remains and many school districts, including Philadelphia, still lag behind.***

**December 18, 2015 (Harrisburg, Pa.)** – In a new report, the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center (PBPC) showed that the \$350 million in new school funding in the budget agreement, SB1073, improves but does not eliminate the gap between how much we will spend in classrooms if the budget bill is passed, and how much we spent before the Corbett-era cuts in state funding.

Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Director Marc Stier said, “As members of the General Assembly make final decisions about the budget, they need to have accurate, factual information about what SB 1073 does and does not do.”

Mark Price, research director of PBPC and the author of the report, said “If SB 1073 is enacted, classroom funding would still be \$200 million below its 2010-11 levels. And while all districts benefit from SB 1073, funding inequality between the wealthiest and poorest school districts, which more than doubled between 2010 and 2014, will remain.”

Price continued, “Even if SB 1073 is enacted, per student classroom funding still will be \$437 below that of 2010-2011 in the quarter of schools which have the largest remaining gap. In the top quarter, however, per student funding will be \$143 great than it was in 2010-2011. The new education funding in SB 1073 makes substantial progress towards reversing the education funding cuts from 2010-11 but more remains to be done, especially for the less well-off districts in the state.” Pennsylvania has the most unequal school funding in the nation.

The funding formula in SB 1073 allocates \$101 million to the Philadelphia school district. While some lawmakers have argued that it is unfair to send 28 percent of new school funding to a single school district, Price points out that, “Philadelphia, the largest school district in the state, absorbed 34 percent of school funding cuts in 2011-12. As of 2014-15 the Philadelphia school district still had cuts remaining of \$685 per student. To close the gap to keep pace with the best off schools, Philadelphia would need far more funding than it gets under SB 1073.”

[Read the report here](#)

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