

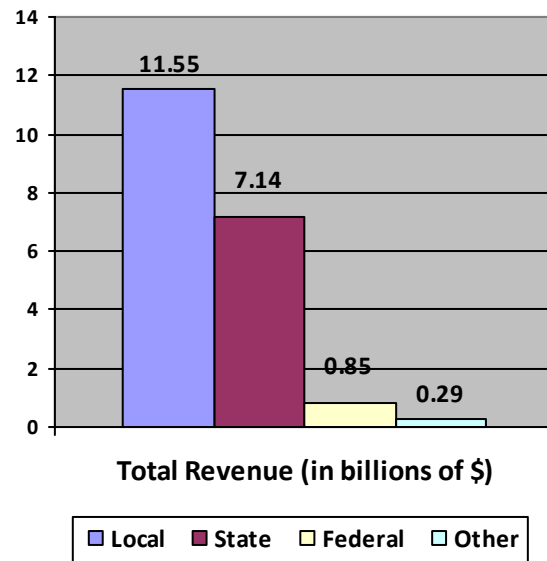
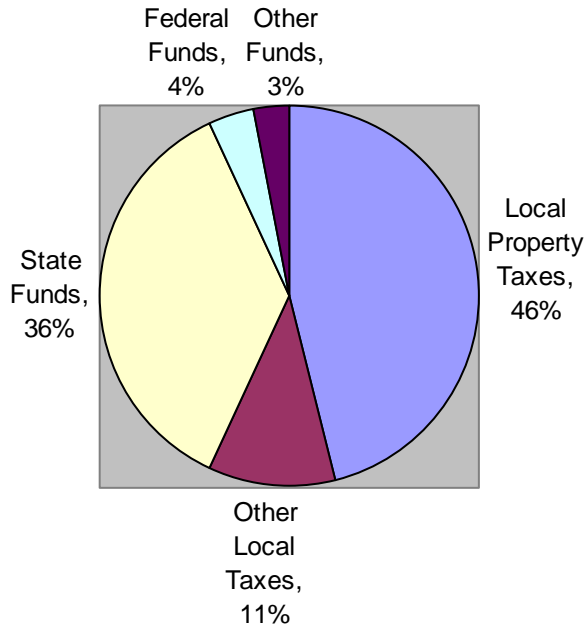
WHAT IS THE CURRENT SYSTEM FOR FUNDING PENNSYLVANIA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Where does money for public education in Pennsylvania come from?

Pennsylvania public schools receive their funding from four main sources:

1. **Local Funding.** Public schools in Pennsylvania receive a majority of their funding from local sources such as property taxes. Schools in most other states rely much less on property taxes and other local funding.
2. **State Funding.** The Pennsylvania General Assembly provides about one-third of the total funding for public education. Our state share of education funding ranks among the lowest in the nation.
3. **Federal Funding.** The federal government only supplies a small piece (about 4%) of the funding "pie".
4. **Other Funding.** The remainder of school resources comes from grants and other small sources.

Sources of Public School Revenue in PA (2003-04)



In general, what is the formula for education funding in Pennsylvania?

TOTAL FUNDING = **LOCAL SOURCES OF FUNDING.** The ability to raise local funds depends mostly on property values in the district. Poor communities often do not get enough revenue from property taxes to support quality schools. Children in these districts face a big disadvantage.

+

STATE SOURCES OF FUNDING. The state's share of education spending has fallen over time from about 50 percent to about 36 percent. Funding from the state also has other problems. For example, funding levels are often not tied directly to student enrollment. The state is reluctant to lower funding for any district, even when student enrollment drops. As a result, current funding levels are based to a large degree on politics - not on what students need to succeed.

+

FEDERAL SOURCES OF FUNDING. Although the federal government provides only 4% of school revenues, federal rules set many of the key policies for schools. For example, schools must comply with federal rules for students with disabilities and low-income students to get the federal money for these programs.

+

OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING. Schools often receive grants from private foundations or other sources for specific programs.

Because Pennsylvania schools rely so heavily on local revenue and receive so little state support, students who live in poor communities receive a very different education from students in wealthier districts. Pennsylvania's unfair school funding formula creates unequal education opportunities. Some school districts annually spend over \$17,000 per student, while students in other districts are supported by only \$7,000.

GET INVOLVED!

To learn more about how you can get involved in changing school funding in Pennsylvania, visit the websites listed above for the Education Law Center and Good Schools Pennsylvania.