



Facts About Public Education in Pennsylvania

How many public schools, students, and teachers are in Pennsylvania?

- 501 school districts
- 3,264 public schools, including 101 charter schools and 80 Area Vocational Technical Schools (AVTs)
- 1.8 million students
 - 77% White, 16% African-American, 5% Hispanic, 2% Asian
 - 30% low-income, 13% eligible for special education, 2% English language learners
- 118,000 teachers
- More than 3,000 private (nonpublic) schools

How are public schools funded in Pennsylvania?

Total Annual Spending on Public Schools in Pennsylvania is **\$14.5 billion**

Funding Source	\$	% of Total Spending
Federal Funds	\$ 0.5 billion	3.2 %
State Fund	\$ 5.5 billion	38.3%
Local Funds	\$ 8.3 billion	57.3%
Other Funds	\$ 0.2 billion	1.2%

Education Week gives Pennsylvania a grade of "C-minus" for school funding equity. This means that in Pennsylvania there are big variations in funding levels from one district to another.

How well are Pennsylvania students doing in school?

PERFORMANCE OF PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- For the 2003-2004 school year, 2 out of 10 schools did not make "adequate yearly progress" (AYP), as measured by the state under the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).
- Nearly twice as many schools failed to make AYP for the 2002-2003 school year. The large drop in the number of "failing" schools in 2003-2004 may be due in part to changes in how AYP is measured.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- Pennsylvania students have, on average, the fifth-lowest SAT scores in the country. The average SAT score for Pennsylvania students in 2002 was 998, compared to the national average of 1020.
- About one in four high school students in Pennsylvania does not graduate. The drop-out rate is nearly 50% for students of color.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- The achievement gap means that some student groups are doing better than others, as measured by standardized tests, graduation rates, and other factors.
- There are many reasons for the achievement gap. Some privileged communities spend more on education, hire more highly qualified teachers, and give more public support to local schools, options not available to lower income communities. Schools often unfairly have lower expectations of students in some groups (poor, disabled, learning English, or of color).
- Pennsylvania's public schools have a higher achievement gap than all but five other states, as measured by the 2003 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP).
- On the 2003-2004 Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA), White students passed the test at a rate two or three times higher than other students:

PSSA (Grades 5, 8, 11)

	% Proficient or Higher: Reading	% Proficient or Higher: Math
White	71%	63%
Black	35%	25%
Latino	35%	29%
Low Income	41%	33%
Disabled	20%	17%