

Education UPDATE

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Serving the 132nd Legislative District

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What will the 2011-12 state budget mean to our schools?

Dear Supporter of Education:

Many people like you believe in the value of good schools to prepare our young people for life. Thousands have contacted me to urge support in giving our schools, administrators and teachers the tools they need to help our students succeed.

I'd like to take this opportunity to recap the budget, the negative impact I believe the budget will have on our economic future, and help preview what could come next.

You may have contacted me to express your support for continued funding for pre-K programs, or maybe you are a student at Penn State, Temple or Kutztown.

Sadly, no matter if your main concern is adequate funding for our public schools, community colleges or higher education loans and grants, the fact is that the budget made deep cuts at every level.

This budget was simply an assault on education and Pennsylvania's middle class; that is why I voted NO.

Like you, I fully believe that nothing is more important to Pennsylvania's economic future than appropriately investing in our children's education. This budget has reversed eight years of funding education at an appropriate amount and will roll back student achievement and access to higher education. The bottom line: higher tuition, higher taxes, poorer results.



Supporters of this budget will tell you that this is shared sacrifice, that these tough economic times prevented us from continuing to invest in our children. I disagree. While Pennsylvania continues to see higher revenues that have resulted in a mostly untapped \$800 million surplus, an entire generation of children is at risk and middle-class families are squeezed once again.

Simply stated, this budget does not reflect my values or beliefs on how we should move Pennsylvania forward. You have my word that in the coming months, I will do all I can to re-prioritize education and fight for our students and middle-class families. Thank you again for sharing your thoughts with me and for your advocacy for Pennsylvania's children.

Jennifer L. Mann
 Democratic Caucus Secretary
 Pennsylvania House of Representatives



WHAT WILL THE BUDGET REALLY MEAN TO YOU?

Turn over and find out!



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Just The Facts on the 2011-12 Budget

Pre-Kindergarten Funding:

The line item for *Pre-K Counts* was reduced by \$1.8 million and funding for *Head Start* was reduced by more than \$1 million. But, overall, state investment in quality, early child care remained mostly stable as funding for programs like *Keystone Stars* experienced only minor reductions.



Elementary, Middle and High School Funding:

The enacted 2011-12 state budget reduced funding for our public schools by more than \$854 million — **taking \$9.5 million alone from Allentown School District.**

The result of this catastrophic cut has been widely reported: **112 teachers are losing their jobs**, class sizes will increase this fall, entire programs of study will be eliminated and the positive

momentum growing at Allentown School District will be stopped.

And, of course, even with these cuts the school board recently approved a **5.5 percent property tax increase** on all homeowners.



College and Community College Funding:

The draconian cuts to education did not end at public schools as the budget axe fell on those who are attending or who hope to someday afford college. Support for Pennsylvania's community colleges — including our own Lehigh Carbon Community College — was reduced by \$2 million on the state level.

Funding for the State System of Higher Education schools (including excellent academic institutions like Kutztown University and East Stroudsburg University) was reduced by a whopping \$16.6

million. As a direct result of this cut, students will now be forced to pay an additional 7.5 percent in their tuition bill.

State-supported schools like Penn State University, the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln University were hit with cuts of more than 20 percent. The result? Penn State has hiked tuition by 4.9 percent for in-state students, Pitt, by 8.5 percent, and Temple is hiking tuition 10 percent.

Perhaps the cruelest part for students and families is that while bills are getting larger, state support in the form of loans and grants through the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) was reduced by \$38.8 million. The agency tasked with ensuring that every Pennsylvanian has the ability to pay for college has been slashed.

