



State Senator Bob Mensch

# SCHOOL FUNDING IN PENNSYLVANIA

## K-12, Higher Ed Make Up Nearly Half of State Budget

From year to year, education spending remains the single largest piece of the General Fund budget – and total education spending is approaching half of all General Fund appropriations. Spending for Pre-K to 12 education in the current year represents almost 35 percent of the current state budget.

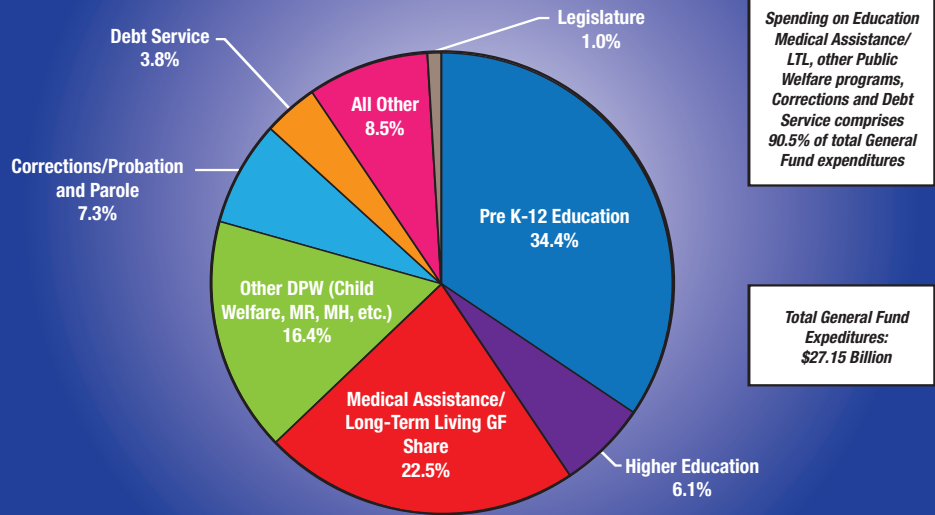
This does not include our spending for higher education, which accounts for an additional 6.1 percent. That works out to be approximately 41 percent of all state spending going to educate the young people of the Commonwealth.

## Basic Education Spending Outpaces Inflation

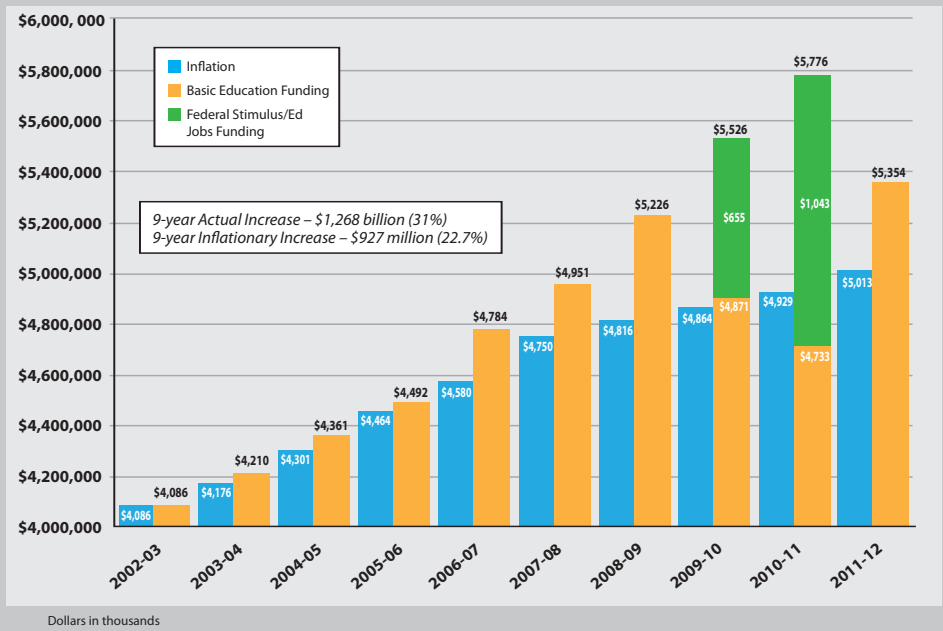
Basic Education spending has increased significantly over the past decade, noticeably outpacing inflation over the past several years. In Fiscal Year 2009-10 and 2010-11, the federal government provided temporary funds for education to the states. During these two years, school districts were reminded that these dollars were only temporary and were cautioned against using them to expand programs or grow expenses. With these federal dollars, total education spending in Pennsylvania increased even though state dollars for basic education were reduced in FY 09-10 and 10-11. With the expiration of the federal money in 2010-11, state spending on Basic Education remained below 2006-07 levels.

(continued)

## 2011-2012 General Fund Expenditures



## BASIC EDUCATION SUBSIDY AND INFLATION FY 2002-03 to FY 2011-12



However, in response to the situation created by the elimination of the federal funds and the reduction of state dollars, the 2011-12 budget increased state spending on Basic Education to \$5.354 billion, its **highest level ever**. This figure is significantly greater in comparison to recent years: a \$483 million increase in state dollars over 2009-10 and a \$621 million increase over 2010-11. In the end, the increase in state dollars covered over 50 percent of the gap created by the disappearing federal funds. Granted, there is a reduction of total dollars in Basic

Education spending from FY10-11 and FY11-12; however the decrease is the result of the disappearance of federal funds.

In addition, **Special Education** in support of students with special needs has seen a steady increase in taxpayer funding. This appropriation has increased by more than \$152 million, or 17.4 percent, over the last 10 years.

## Education Spending in Pennsylvania Includes

Basic Education . . . . .	\$5,354,629,000
Special Education . . . . .	\$1,026,815,000
School Employees' Retirement . . . . .	\$600,172,000
Early Intervention . . . . .	\$198,116,000
Community Colleges . . . . .	\$212,167,000
University of Pittsburgh . . . . .	\$136,076,000
Penn State University . . . . .	\$227,694,000
Temple University . . . . .	\$139,917,000
Lincoln University . . . . .	\$11,163,000
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<b>TOTAL Education</b>	
<b>Department Appropriation . . . . .</b>	<b>.\$10,108,235,000</b>

*“The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth.”*

– Pennsylvania Constitution, Article III, Section 14



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