

Duquesne City School District
Resolution Advocating for the 2025 – 2026 Pennsylvania State Budget as Proposed
by Governor Joshua Shapiro and the Endorsement of Equitable Public School
Funding by the Court-Appointed Receiver Acting as the Board of School Directors

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania’s Commonwealth Court, on February 7, 2023, found that our current system for funding public schools is unconstitutional, failing to fulfill the Pennsylvania constitution’s promise of a “thorough and efficient system of public education” – responding to a lawsuit filed by six school districts, the NAACP Pennsylvania State Conference, the Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools, and parent; and,

WHEREAS, the court found that education is a “fundamental right;” and,

WHEREAS, the court found that school districts “which struggle to raise enough revenue through local taxes to cover the needs of their students lack the inputs that are essential elements of a thorough and efficient system of public education – adequate funding; courses, curricula, and other programs that prepare students to be college and career ready; sufficient, qualified, and effective staff; safe and adequate facilities; and modern, quality instrumentalities of learning;” and,

WHEREAS, the court found “that money does matter, and economically disadvantaged students and historically underperforming students can overcome challenges if they have access to the right resources that wealthier districts are financially able to provide;” and,

WHEREAS, the Basic Education Funding Commission, a panel of legislators and executive branch designees, found that Pennsylvania school districts are collectively underfunded by \$5.4 billion and proposed that the state should provide \$5.1 billion to close this gap in seven years; and, the School District supports increasing historic investments in Basic Education, Bipartisan Adequacy, and Special Education Funding and Cyber Charter Reform Funding, as follows:

- An additional \$75 million increase in basic education funding.
- An additional \$526 million through the bipartisan adequacy formula, driving more dollars to the schools that need them most.
- An increase of special education funding by \$40 million, bringing the total to over \$1.5 billion to ensure school districts have the resources needed to provide high-quality special education services to students with disabilities and special needs.
- A statewide base cyber tuition rate of \$8,000 per student per year, ensuring costs align with the actual expenses of providing an online education. This reform is estimated to save school district \$378 million annually; and,

WHEREAS, Governor Shapiro’s 2025 – 2026 budget endorses the work of the Commission and fulfills the second year of the Commission’s seven-year plan with an increase in basic education funding, with most of this funding targeted to public schools that have been shortchanged by the current unconstitutional system in the small towns, suburbs, and cities where students have been the most deeply underfunded; and,

WHEREAS, the Governor’s budget stands up for our students by putting forward the first step of a transformative plan for the state to deliver on its responsibility to fully fund public schools in Pennsylvania based on what children need to succeed, so that all students, regardless of zip code and community wealth, have meaningful opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, the court directed the General Assembly and the Governor to enact a plan to address the constitutional deficiencies identified in its opinion, which would include all seven years of funding called for by the Basic Education Funding Commission; and,

WHEREAS, all school districts will materially benefit from the Governor’s proposal and adoption of a plan to provide for it to continue for seven years until the funding deficiencies identified by the Commission are overcome; and,

WHEREAS, every community should have enough funding to serve their students, regardless of wealth; and,

WHEREAS, underfunding is a statewide problem in Pennsylvania public schools, and only statewide action can reduce the deep disparities in educational resources that define our school funding system; and,

WHEREAS, the time to take action is now, for our children and for Pennsylvania's future;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duquesne City School District urges the General Assembly to adopt Governor Shapiro's historic state budget proposal and to pass legislation making the necessary multiyear commitment to address Pennsylvania's entire constitutional and moral obligation to fully and fairly fund public schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Governor's office, to the PA Secretary of Education, and to State Senator Nick Pisciotano and State Representative(s) Dan Goughnour, John Inglis, and Brandon Markosek.

HEREBY adopted this 17th day of **June, 2025**.

ATTEST:

DUQUESNE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Signature on File
Board Secretary

Signature on File
Court-Appointed Receiver, acting as the Board of
School Directors