



Pennsylvania School Boards Association

# legislative special report

June 22, 2016



Now is the time for you to call your member of the [House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) to ask them to make a greater investment in public schools and to tell your district story.

**School districts need a state education budget for 2016-17 that enables them to meet mandated costs and includes the following:**

- **An increased investment of \$200 million for the basic education subsidy.** Under Act 35 of 2016, Pennsylvania now has a new school funding formula that is fair to ALL school districts. But the new formula alone does not fix our broken school funding system - we need to fund it now.
- **A minimum \$100 million increase to help school districts cover pension increases.** The single largest cost driver in school district budgets is mandated pension costs. Each year the costs continue to climb, taking larger portions of local budgets. In 2014-15, school districts paid \$2.33 billion in pension obligations which accounted for 8.49% of ALL school district expenditures. In fact, rising pension costs have outpaced increases in total state funding leaving local taxpayers to fill the void. Pension costs continue to rise and remain high for the next several years. This investment plus long-term significant reform can help correct the financial disaster that the state pension system is heading toward.

For a closer look at the PSBA recommendations for the 2016-17 education budget, click [here](#).

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