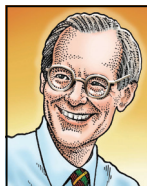


POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Education spending perspective

Earlier this month, Gov. Tom Wolf proposed increasing the state's \$6.5 billion budget for K-12 instruction in public schools by \$200 million plus an extra \$50 million for special education.



Commentary by Tom Hylton

The state does not allocate an equal amount per student to every district.

It gives money to school districts based on wealth.

Poor districts like Pottstown receive a lot more money per pupil than wealthy districts like Abington.

However, there has been a widespread consensus that the distribution formula needs to be tilted even more to poor districts.

In 2014, the legislature established a "Fair Funding" commission to determine a new formula to distribute state subsidies based on a district's wealth, local tax effort, and demographics.

In 2016, the legislature adopted the new formula. BUT it called for the new formula to be phased in very slowly (more than 25 years for full implementation).

In the meantime, however, let's keep education funding in perspective. ***The U.S. spends more on education than nearly all other countries. Pennsylvania spends more on education than most states, and Pottstown spends more money than most districts in Pennsylvania.***

The United States spends more on K-12 education than all but three countries.

Pennsylvania spends more than three-quarters of the nation's 50 states.

Pottstown spends more than two-thirds of the state's 500 school districts.

Per pupil expenditure of 35 wealthiest countries K-12 (2015)		
1	Luxembourg	\$20,451
2	Norway	\$14,353
3	Austria	\$13,931
4	UNITED STATES	\$12,424
5	Belgium	\$11,856
6	Korea	\$11,688
7	Iceland	\$11,207
8	Sweden	\$11,052
9	United Kingdom	\$11,028
10	Germany	\$10,863

Per pupil expenditure of 50 states and D.C. K-12 (2017)		
1	District of Columbia	\$25,025
2	New York	\$23,265
3	Alaska	\$21,261
4	Connecticut	\$20,861
5	New Jersey	\$20,556
6	Vermont	\$19,399
7	Massachusetts	\$17,381
8	Wyoming	\$16,820
9	New Hampshire	\$16,495
10	Delaware	\$16,350
11	Rhode Island	\$15,691
12	PENNSYLVANIA	\$15,017

