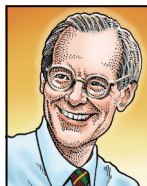


POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Education spending perspective

We need a little perspective here.

An extensive publicity campaign has highlighted inequities in state funding among public schools in Pennsylvania. Because Pottstown is not getting its fair share of state funding,



Commentary by
Tom Hylton

Pottstown students are suffering.

Judge for yourself:

As measured on a global scale, a national scale, or a state scale, Pottstown is spending more per pupil than the vast majority of public schools anywhere.

The inequities in state funding among 500 school districts — and they are substantial, according to a formula not fully implemented by the Pennsylvania legislature — means Pottstown property owners have among the highest tax burdens in the state.

Going back at least 20 years, and probably much longer, Pottstown's local tax effort (as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education) has been greater than 95 percent of the districts in the state.

The taxpayers are suffering far more than the students.

Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board's.

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

Pennsylvania spends more than fourth-fifths of the nation's 50 states.

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

Per pupil expenditure of 35 wealthiest countries K-12 (2017)		
1	Luxembourg	\$19,866
2	Norway	\$14,288
3	Austria	\$14,164
4	UNITED STATES	\$13,126
5	Iceland	\$12,514
6	Belgium	\$12,189
7	Korea	\$12,390
8	Sweden	\$11,719
9	Germany	\$11,355
10	Denmark	\$11,254

Per pupil expenditure of 50 states and D.C. K-12 (2019)		
1	New York	\$26,123
2	District of Columbia	\$22,388
3	Alaska	\$22,304
4	New Jersey	\$21,762
5	Connecticut	\$21,199
6	Massachusetts	\$20,477
7	Vermont	\$18,886
8	Wyoming	\$18,150
9	PENNSYLVANIA	\$18,606
10	Rhode Island	\$18,341

Pottstown's ranking of 500 school districts in Pennsylvania

