

Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing to you today as a concerned member of the Northwest Area School District community to advocate for the fair and equitable funding that our district so urgently requires. As you are aware, the Pennsylvania Constitution mandates the state to adequately fund education, ensuring that every student has access to a quality education regardless of their zip code. However, it has become increasingly clear that this mandate is not being fulfilled, particularly in the case of the Northwest Area School District.

Our district is facing significant challenges due to the current funding allocations, which fall far short of meeting the needs of our students and educators. I urge you to prioritize the following critical areas in the upcoming budget deliberations to ensure that the Pennsylvania Constitution's mandate for fair and adequate education funding is upheld:

1. Northwest Area School District is in desperate need of increased Basic Education funding to support essential programs, resources, and personnel. The current proposed increase of \$61,000 is grossly insufficient and fails to address the growing needs of our student population.
2. Students with special needs deserve access to the resources and support they need to thrive academically and socially. However, the current level of special education funding is inadequate to meet the diverse needs of our special education students and support our dedicated special education staff.
3. It is imperative that Northwest Area School District receives additional adequacy funding necessary to provide a high-quality education to all students. Adequacy funding was not fairly distributed as it did not include small rural districts like ours.
4. The reinstatement of PlanCon funding is crucial for addressing critical infrastructure needs within our school district, including facility renovations, technology upgrades, and the construction of new educational facilities.
5. Investing in green energy initiatives not only benefits the environment but also helps reduce long-term operating costs for school districts. By prioritizing green energy projects, such as solar panel installations and energy-efficient upgrades, Northwest Area School District can save money on utility expenses and allocate more resources to educational programs.

By fulfilling the Pennsylvania Constitution's mandate for equitable education funding, we can ensure that every child in the Northwest Area School District has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and I look forward to your continued support for our students, educators, and community.

Sincerely,

Northwest Area School District Stakeholder