

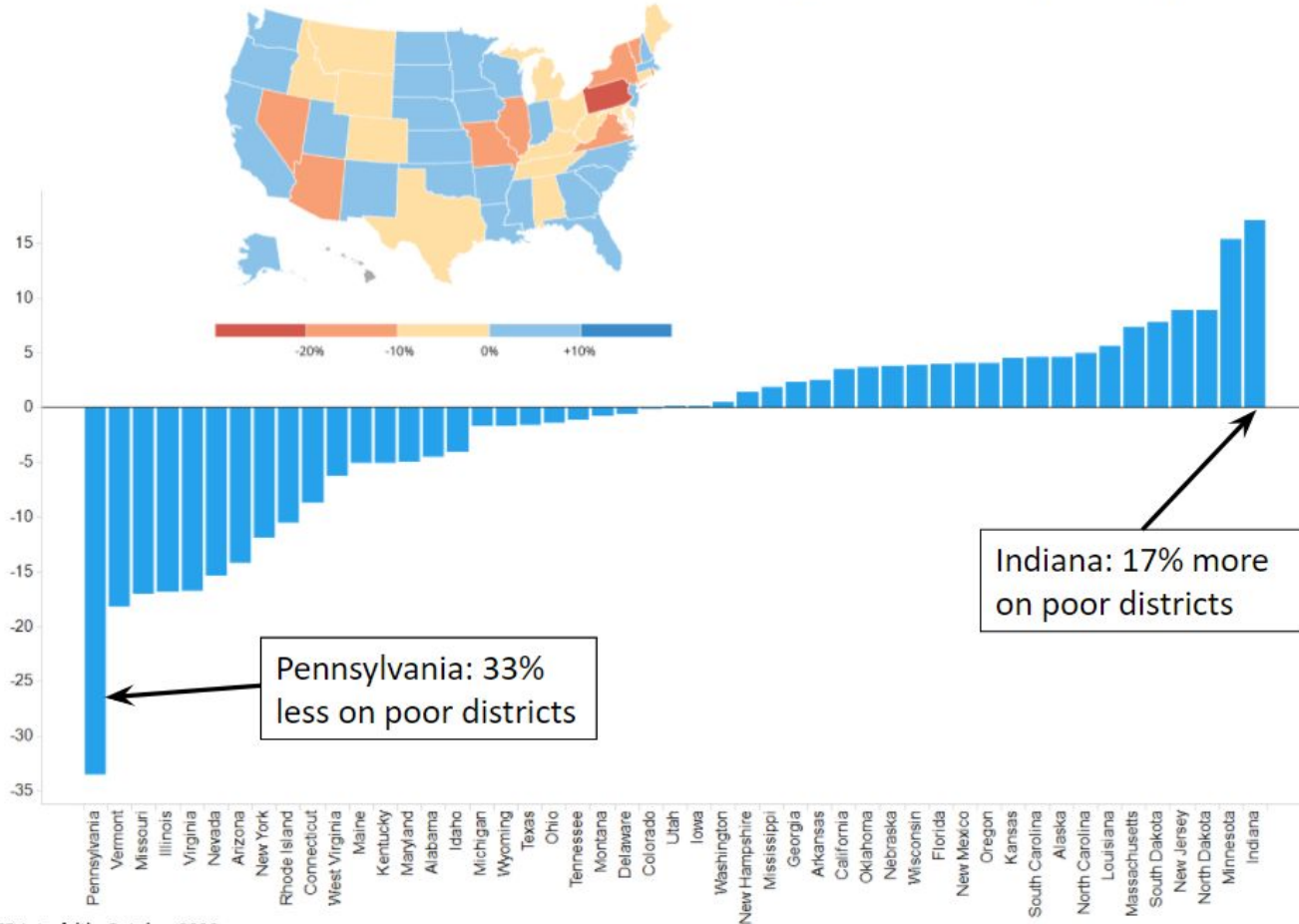
# Seeking Balance- Fairness in Educational Funding in Pennsylvania

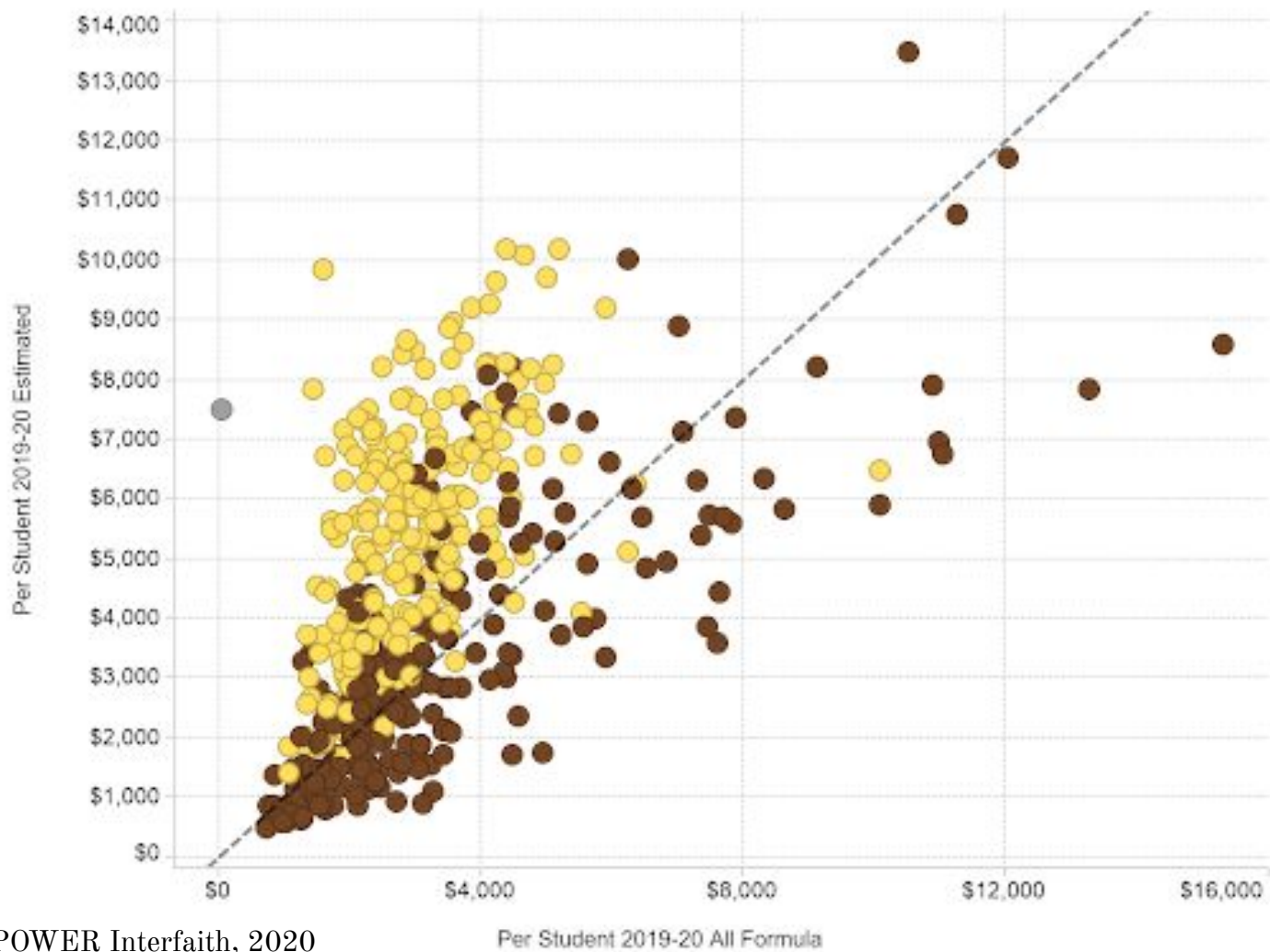
Laura Johnson, Pennsylvanians for Fair Funding co-founder  
and Pottstown School Director

# Reviewing the Basics



# % Difference in Per Pupil State and Local Funding between High- and Low-Poverty Districts (2015)

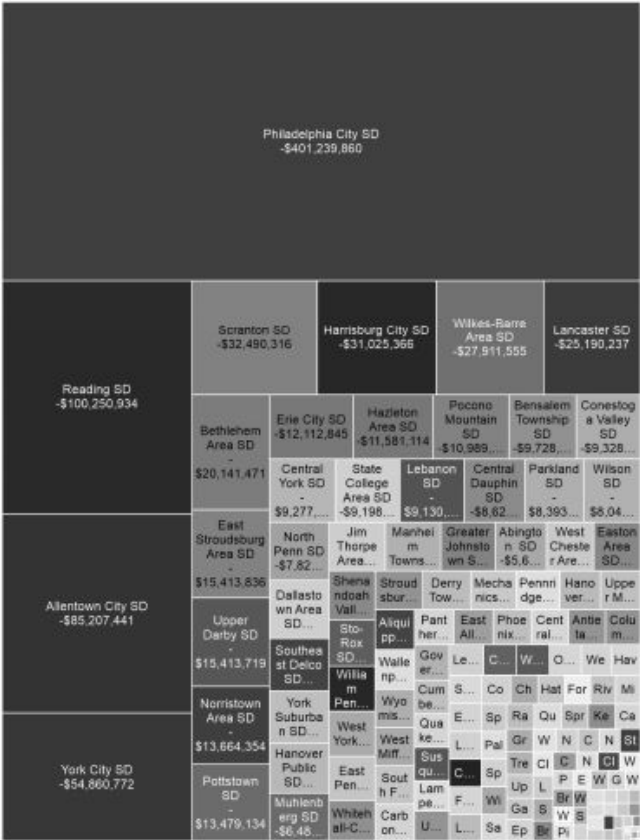




# 2019-20 Inequity per District

## Color by Racial Makeup

Less than Fair Share



More than Fair Share



Growing school districts receive  
**\$1.14 billion LESS** than the fair  
funding formula says they should.

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Who does this hurt?

Underfunded districts currently educate...



**51%** of all students

**78%** of all Black students

**82%** of all Hispanic students

# Pottstown School District

Shortchanged by 11-14 million each year.

7th highest tax burden in the state.

8th most underfunded per student-\$3,400 per student this year.

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What this means from a school board perspective- **constant tough decisions:**

**Raise taxes or cut programs.**



What this means as a parent and taxpayer is **constant tough results:**

**Taxes raised or my children's opportunities cut.**

Working toward a solution...

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WE ARE HERE  
WE ARE HERE  
WE ARE HERE  
WE ARE HERE  
WE ARE HERE



Horton Hears a Who!, Dr Seuss



We are a grassroots coalition of school board members, parents, taxpayers, educators, and voters.

The Goal: full and equitable funding for all of Pennsylvania's students

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**Goal: get meaningful fair funding legislation passed.**

**We need approximately 18 more votes in the House and 6 more in the Senate.**



David Mosenkis,  
POWER Interfaith, 2020

What we do:

Educate and Advocate

# Educate

Develop public awareness.

Workshops

Social Media

Op-eds and Letters to the Editor

Short videos

Art Contest

Website

Email Newsletters

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# Advocate

Get the votes.

Meet with lawmakers

“Action Items”- calls and emails

Letters

Twitter

Public pressure through school boards, op-eds, etc

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We are growing,  
We are getting louder...



We meet as a  
large group and as  
specific teams.

Legislative Team

Social Media Team

Writers Team

Art Contest Team

School Board Team

Speakers Team

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We also have a  
wider group.

We use a facebook group and an email newsletter to push out action items and other calls to action.

This allows for involvement at different commitment levels.

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Change will happen when it  
becomes more uncomfortable  
for lawmakers to stall  
than to act.

For more info on  
Pennsylvanians  
for Fair Funding  
or to join a team:

[pafairfunding.org](https://pafairfunding.org)

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What questions do  
you have?

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