

These are just sample emails.

Please adapt them to your own particular context. If possible, share a specific personal experience that highlights the problem of inequitable funding. If you would like to check to see how much your school might be shortchanged, click here. Find your school district in Column A and the inequity in columns I and J. *(The inequity is the difference between what your school district actually receives in Basic Education Funding, PA State Tax Dollars, versus what it would receive if PA's Fair Funding Formula were used fully.)*

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/118HaObOHfnFfelOlnIRft5nWa7pF_bCr7NI7fraUwT8/edit?usp=sharing

For Any PARENT:

Dear Representative / Senator _____,

My name is _____ and I live in _____ School District. I am reaching out to you because I am deeply concerned about the fact that inequitable and inadequate education funding is harming my children and their classmates.

As a parent in an underfunded school, I can see that our children are not being given the same educational opportunities as children in neighboring districts. We have fewer classes like foreign language, sciences, and AP courses. Lack of resources has also limited the opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities in the areas of music, dance, and athletics.

To add insult to injury, I recently became aware of the fact that 78% of children of color in Pennsylvania attend underfunded schools while the majority of their white peers enjoy the benefits of attending schools with more resources.

I find the inadequate and inequitable funding of our schools to be unjust, unethical, and immoral. Our children are being discriminated against and robbed of the educational resources they need to prepare to become a successful people and good citizens.

I see that Gov. Wolf's recent 2021 Budget Proposal calls for a substantial increase in state education funding for K-12 grades as well as to fairly distribute most of this money through Pennsylvania's bipartisan Fair Funding Formula. This will be a great step forward in ending the inequity in the distribution of state education dollars.

Equitable education funding can no longer be seen as optional. We are calling on you to give our schools the resources they need and run all education funding through the fair funding formula.

Sincerely,

For Any TEACHER

Dear Representative / Senator _____,

My name is _____. I am a teacher at _____ School District.

I'm reaching out to you because every day I see firsthand that my students aren't receiving the educational resources they need.

Pennsylvania has the widest gap in the nation between spending in wealthy districts versus poor districts. This gap is fueled in part by the state legislature's inequitable funding method.

I teach in a school district that is underfunded by millions of dollars in state funds every year. These are funds that could provide more teachers to reduce overcrowded classrooms, repair deteriorating old facilities, provide updated curriculum including advanced courses and support for students with social emotional needs.

I see that Gov. Wolf's recent 2021 Budget Proposal calls for a substantial increase in state education funding for K-12 grades as well as to fairly distribute most of this money through Pennsylvania's bipartisan Fair Funding Formula. This will be a great step forward in ending the inequity in the distribution of state education dollars.

Students in my district need the opportunity to grow into their full potential. They can not wait any longer for. It is critical that we invest in them NOW with equitable state education funds so that they are afforded that essential opportunity.

Please, we elected you to be a PROBLEM SOLVER. Find a way to bring equitable funding to all of Pennsylvania's students.

Sincerely,

Dear Representative / Senator _____,

My name is _____ and I'm a homeowner/professional/business owner in _____ . I am reaching out because I'm concerned about the high property tax rate in my town. At first I assumed the problem was with our local school board, but as I dug into the issue I realized that the problem is originating in Harrisburg.

You see, my local school district is underfunded by _____ every year. This means that even though we spend less per student than our neighbors, our local tax effort is higher than theirs. This stunts our local economy and housing market. If my community was funded fairly by the state, we could hold taxes steady or even reduce them.

Equitable funding would mean our community has more economic resources freed up, but it also would mean our students have the educational resources they need. That would help the students in my community grow up prepared to be productive and well informed members of our community- and our Commonwealth!

I was glad to hear that Gov. Wolf's recent 2021 Budget Proposal called for a substantial increase in state education funding for K-12 grades as well as to fairly distribute most of this money through Pennsylvania's bipartisan Fair Funding Formula. This will be a great step forward in ending the inequity in the distribution of state education dollars.

Communities of color and communities that have been economically disadvantaged, like mine, are the most harmed by the current unfair funding structure. Don't leave my community behind. Give our students and our taxpayers the resources the Fair Funding Formula says we deserve. We can not afford to wait any longer.

Thank you for you time,
