



Issue brief

Public education in Pennsylvania

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Elementary & Secondary Education Characteristics		
	Pennsylvania	U.S. (average)
Total Number of Schools	3,292	1,993
Total Students	1,786,103	968,104
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	13.64	15.38
Total Teachers	130,983.79	62,934.06

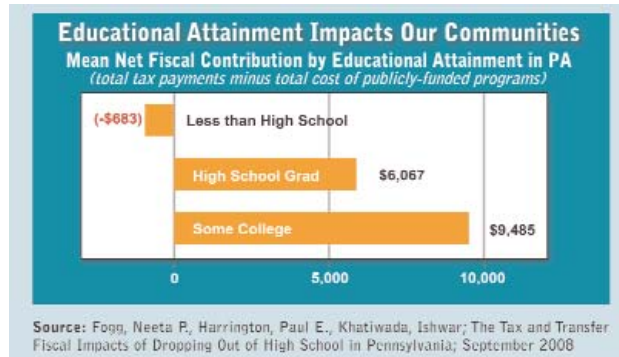
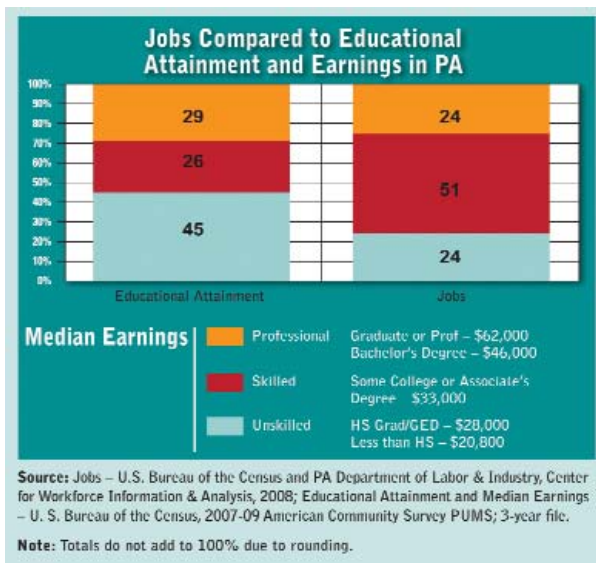
	Pennsylvania	U.S. (average)
Total Revenues	\$24,973,391,584	\$11,464,385,994
Total Expenditures for Education	\$25,346,537,868	\$11,717,033,839
Per Pupil Expenditure	\$14,141	\$6,560

Source: <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/stateprofiles/sresult.asp?mode=short&s1=42>

Did you know?

- In 1995, the Commonwealth spent \$13 billion on public education. This has now increased to \$26 billion which is \$8.5 billion, more than the rate of inflation (\$17.5 billion).
- Furthermore, recent census data indicates that there has been a 10 percent decline in the number of school age children in the Commonwealth. During the same period of time, there has been an increase of thousands of public education employees.
- According to the National Education Association, the average teacher salary for 2009-10 in Pennsylvania was \$58,124. This amount represents an increase of 20.4 percent from 1999-2000 levels. This amount is also greater than the national average of \$55,350.

Graduation Rates



Source: http://www.operationrestart.org/pdfs/re-engaging_hs_dropouts.pdf

Did you know?

- More than 21 percent of Pennsylvania students failed to graduate with their class in 2010. Today, there are more than 100,000 high school dropouts ages 16-24 in Pennsylvania. This group costs the Commonwealth money through lost revenue, increased crime and social spending.
- If the more than 100,000 16 - 24 year-old high school dropouts were to re-engage and earn their high school credential, plus attend some postsecondary education or earn an associates degree, instead of costing more than \$70 million each year in public programs, they would contribute nearly \$1 billion each year.

Charter Schools

Did you know?

- In Pennsylvania, there are 140 public charter schools—including 11 “cyber” charter schools—educating more than 90,000 students.
- 1 in 4 children in Philadelphia attend a charter school.
- If all Charter schools were combined to form a school district, it would be the second largest district in the state (second only to Philadelphia).
- At present, there are an estimated 30,000 students on charter school waiting lists.
- Today more than 1.4 million children are attending a charter school.

Source: <http://pacharters.org/why-charters/>

Teacher/Principal Evaluation

Did you know?

- Stanford's study on teacher quality shows that while a highly effective teacher can create 1.5 years of academic growth for a student in a single year; ineffective teachers create on average only .5 years of growth; students with highly effective teachers learn three times as much as those with ineffective teachers.
- Pennsylvania requires districts use a state-provided uniform rating system to evaluate teachers. The current system only uses the categories of “satisfactory” or “unsatisfactory” and does not include student achievement as a performance measure.
- Statewide, the information shows that 99.4 percent of all rated teachers and 99.2 percent of all rated principals received a “satisfactory” rating. Only 0.6 percent and 0.7 percent of rated teachers and principals respectively were categorized as “unsatisfactory” in these evaluations.