



Education Update

From the Senate Education Committee

APRIL 3, 2006

State Board Adequacy Report Discussed

During its March 16 meeting, members of the State Board of Education recommended that the Commonwealth conduct an analysis of adequacy in public education funding, in an attempt to determine a per student spending level that should be maintained in each school district.

Board chairman Karl Girton signaled interest in commissioning such a report but suggested that Board members discuss the proposal with legislative caucuses in the Senate and House of Representatives and with the Governor's Office.

In FY 2004–2005, Pennsylvania

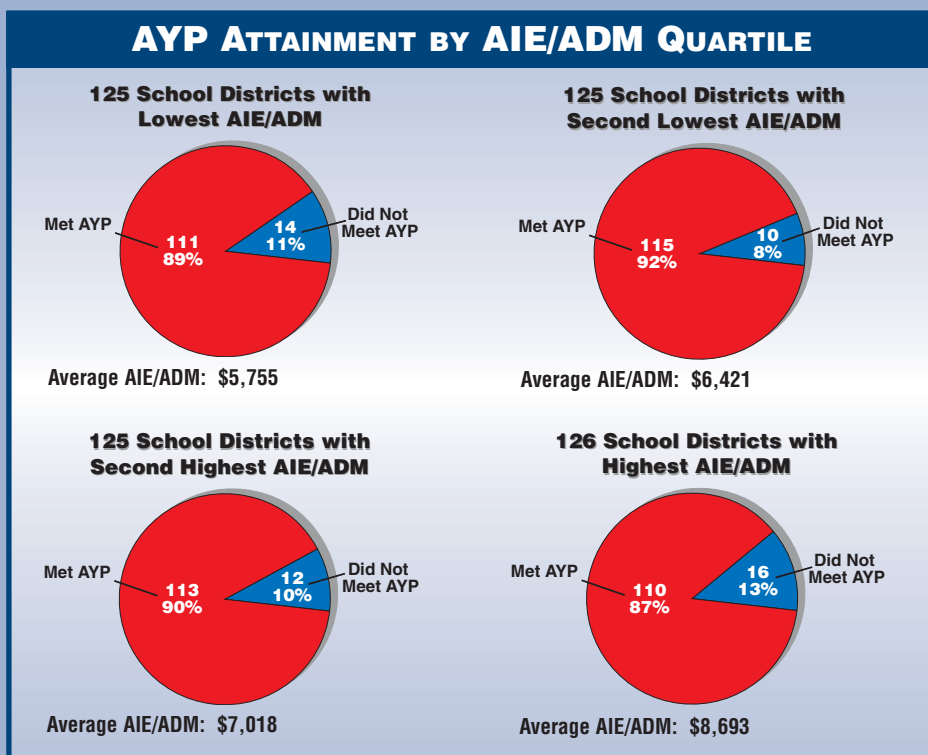
school districts spent an average of \$6,992 in instructional expenditures per student. Dividing school districts into quartiles by local wealth reveals that the difference in median instructional expenditures per student is only \$262 among school districts in the three least affluent quartiles.

School Spending and Student Performance

In Pennsylvania, school districts currently spend an average of \$6,992 in instructional expenditures per student.

In FY 2004–2005, 38% of Pennsylvania's school districts received more than 50% of their instructional expenditures through the basic education subsidy.

Comparing school districts' success in meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP), the measure of achievement each state is required to establish under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, against their actual instructional expenditures per pupil (AIE/ADM) shows that spending levels result in little difference in AYP attainment.



Source: Senate Appropriations Committee

Senate Education Committee

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Committee Advances School Nutrition Bill

On March 14, the Senate Education Committee reported House Bill 185, legislation that would encourage school nutrition, wellness and physical education in Pennsylvania's public schools.

As amended in committee, the legislation would require schools to provide public notice of vending machine contracts, to adopt nutrition guidelines for foods sold during the school day and develop local wellness policies. It would also direct schools to expand the membership of local advisory health councils, and implement physical education curriculum.

In addition, it would direct the Commonwealth to convene an Interagency Coordinating Council on Child Health and Nutrition and require the Department of Education to pro-

vide technical support to school districts.

House Bill 185 is currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee, awaiting action.

HOUSE BILL 185 - HIGHLIGHTS

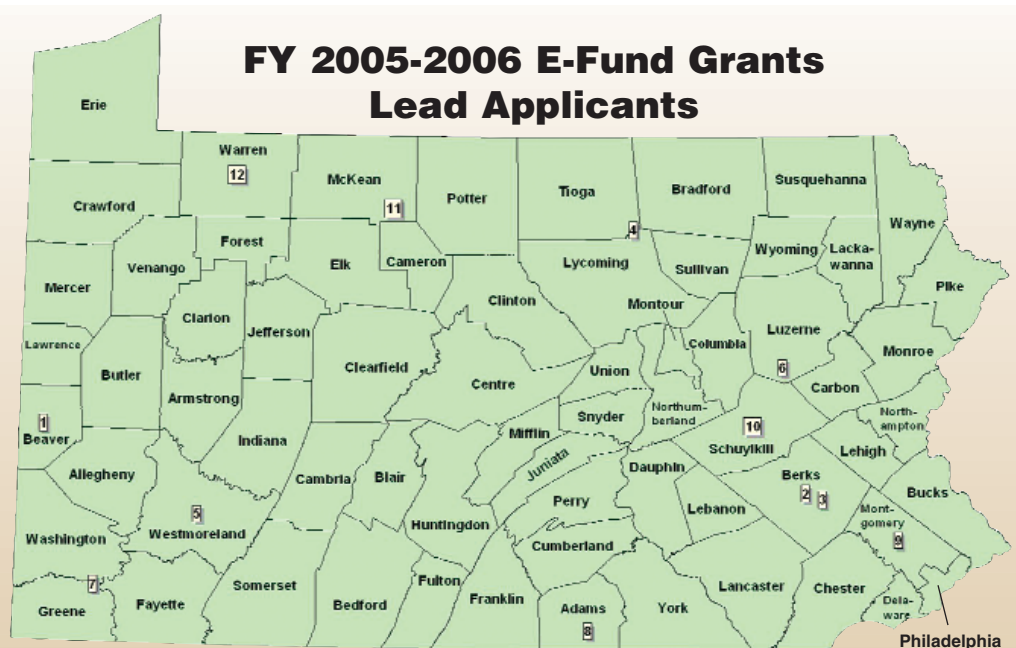
- Schools provide public notice of vending machine contracts
- Schools adopt nutrition guidelines
- Schools expand membership of advisory health councils
- Schools provide local wellness policies
- Schools implement physical education curriculum
- State establishes coordinating council for child health and nutrition
- Department of Education provides technical support

Schools to Receive \$10 Million in E-Fund Grants

According to the Department of Education, 282 school entities in 43 counties will receive \$10 million in E-Fund grants for school-based technology programs in FY 2005 – 2006

In November 2004, the General Assembly approved Act 183, which established an E-Fund to provide school entities with grants for the purchase of technology services, hardware, technical assistance and distance learning opportunities.

The E-Fund grants will be provided to 12 school entities that are "lead applicants" representing consortia of intermediate units, school districts, area vocational technical schools, and in some cases, charter schools and private schools.



- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1 – Beaver Valley IU 27 | 7 – IU 1 |
| 2 – Berks County IU 14 | 8 – Lincoln IU 12 |
| 3 – Berks Career & Technical Center | 9 – Montgomery County IU 23 |
| 4 – BLaST IU 17 | 10 – Schuylkill IU 29 |
| 5 – Eastern Westmoreland Career & Technical Center | 11 – Seneca Highlands IU 9 |
| 6 – Hazleton Area School District | 12 – Warren County School District |

Map Source: Senate PDRO

For more information or detailed analyses of these topics, contact the Senate Education Committee staff at 787-2637.