Pa. budget cuts hit poorest students hardest

Since 2011, nearly $1 billion in funding cuts to Pennsylvania's public schools have hurt districts with the highest poverty levels.

Unequal Treatment
High-poverty districts have received the highest per-student funding cuts.

In the poorest 20% of school districts, the average budget cut is $652 per student

The highest-poverty school districts averaged funding cuts more than 3 times the size of cuts to the state's wealthiest districts.

Consequently …
Class sizes have risen across the state – including high-poverty districts.

Name (please print): __________________________
Street Address: ____________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: _____________________________________________________________
Home Email Address (Required): _____________________________________________
Are you or were you previously employed in the field of education?  □ YES  □ NO
Signature: _____________________________ Date: ____________________________
Then and now → Funding cuts sent student test scores in wrong direction

Pennsylvania public schools are among the best in the nation, but state funding cuts are starting to undermine student achievement in districts with the highest poverty levels. Fewer students are scoring proficient or advanced on Grades 3-6 PSSA Reading and Math in the 100 most impoverished school districts.

### Reading
- 2010-11: 64.2%
- 2012-13: 59.4%

### Math
- 2010-11: 76%
- 2012-13: 68.7%

→ PSSAs are only one indicator of student achievement, but they are an important one!

Get the full story
Read PSEA’s research report, *Budget cuts, student poverty, and test scores: Examining the evidence*, available online at [www.psea.org/funding](http://www.psea.org/funding). The report relies on data from the Pennsylvania Department of Education to examine the effects of school funding cuts.

About Partners for Public Education
PPE’s mission is to provide parents, community leaders, elected officials, and educators with information and resources they need about public education in Pennsylvania, so we can work together to ensure the success of every child.

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