

Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia Finds Education Funding Gaps Widened in 2005-06, News Release, June 21, 2007

The Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia released a report today disclosing that state funding for school districts in Pennsylvania reached an historic new low as a proportion of the total cost of funding schools. As a result, gaps between what the top 20 percent of the state's school districts were able to spend per student and what the rest of the school districts spent on their students widened. The gap between spending by the Philadelphia school district and other schools in its region also increased.

The report analyzes data released last week by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on expenditures and revenues of school districts in 2005-06. "This report shows an overwhelming majority of the state's school districts and children need a new education funding formula which will have the state provide a fairer share of the cost of education. Districts, parents, and business all around the state should make common cause to demand Harrisburg fix this broken system, so that all children have an opportunity to meet state and No Child Left Behind standards, not just schools in wealthy communities," said Michael Churchill, who prepared the report for the Law Center.

Twenty-three state representatives from around the state and both parties introduced House Bill 1544, the Successful Schools Act of 2007, earlier this month which would create a new state funding formula which would substantially close these gaps and provide all school districts with the funds necessary to meet the state's 2011 PSSA standards.

The [report is attached](#), along with a fuller description of HB 1544 and a list of its sponsors. For further information contact Michael Churchill, (215) 627-7100, Ext. 228, or at mchurchill@pilcop.org.