

# PENNSYLVANIA

Total State Budget Cuts to pre-K–12 education: \$851 million



## How Creative Can School Cuts Be?

**P**ennsylvania's state political leadership passed and approved a new budget this year that cut \$851 million from public schools. Pennsylvania ranks seventh among states in the amount of public school funds being sent to private schools. The state redirects \$52 million per year through various types of tax credit programs.

### Examples of how our children are paying the price:

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
  - » **Statewide:** Four districts eliminated full-day kindergarten, 9 reduced full-day kindergarten, 7 eliminated pre-k and 11 reduced pre-k
  - » **Philadelphia:** Cut full-day kindergarten
  - » **Highlands and East Alleghany:** Went from full-day kindergarten to half-day kindergarten
  - » **South Park:** Cut full day kindergarten for at-risk children
- ▶ Class Size
  - » **Statewide:** Seventy percent of schools increased their class sizes
  - » **Chester Upland:** Eliminated 40 percent of teachers and increased class sizes from an average of 21 students per teacher to 30 in elementary school and more than 35 in high school. (This move actually prompted students to walk out of over-crowded classes)
  - » **Beaver County:** Increased class size by 50 percent
- ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum
  - » **Statewide:** Forty-four percent of schools reduced their curriculum offerings
  - » **Allentown:** Cut electives in high schools
  - » **York:** Cut all art, music and PE teachers in elementary schools
  - » **Bethel Park:** Cut 3rd-grade music and 5th-grade foreign language
- ▶ Special Programs
  - » **Statewide**
    - Twenty percent of schools eliminated summer school programs that allowed students to graduate on time
    - Thirty one percent of schools either established or increased pay-to-play fees for students
  - » **York:** Eliminated nearly all special education aides, English language learner aides, and library aides