

HELP STRENGTHEN PUBLIC EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

The efforts of thousands of Pennsylvanians—including members of the faith community—have started to yield some positive results for public education in Pennsylvania. For example:

- The Commonwealth's Accountability Block Grant of \$200 million has grown to \$250 million.
- The state's budget for public education has increased, with schools receiving an average of a 5 percent increase in 2007.
- The General Assembly approved funding for a statewide Costing Out Study to determine the actual resources needed to provide quality education in any given district.

These successes are significant, but even more effort is necessary to ensure that our legislators support the costing out study by implementing the changes needed to make school funding adequate and more equitable for Pennsylvania's students. While state funding for public education has improved, it still remains far behind the nationwide average of 50 percent—in the 2004-2005 school year, Pennsylvania provided only 35.8 percent of school costs. We have a long way to go to close that gap.

Good Schools Pennsylvania is asking for your help—and the Pennsylvania Council of Churches is joining Good Schools in this effort.



*This important message provided by the
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
717.545.4761 ♦ pcc@pachurches.org*

There are several ways that you could lend a hand (please check those that you would be willing to do):

- Send a postcard to your legislators to urge their support of the costing out study and its recommendations for improving public education (Good Schools Pennsylvania will send a pre-written, stamped postcard for you to sign, address, and mail).
- Initiate or join a Public Education Advocacy Group to learn more about public education in Pennsylvania and how you can work to support improvements.
- Write a letter to the editor about the importance of the costing out study (Good Schools can help with content).
- Host a postcard writing event at your office, place of worship, or other appropriate setting.
- Host a presentation by Good Schools, or contact organizations or other groups about hosting a presentation.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ e-mail: _____

Please return this form to:

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

900 S. Arlington Avenue

Harrisburg, PA 17110

Fax: (717) 545-4765

(Information may be e-mailed to s.strauss@pachurches.org)

For more information about Good Schools Pennsylvania, visit the Good Schools website at www.goodschoolspa.org, or call Dave Smith at (717) 371-1516.

Please join us because...EVERY KID COUNTS!