



Comments to the BEFC: Talking Points & Sample Letters

Please take a few minutes to send a thoughtful, personal comment to the Basic Education Funding Commission. Your voice matters and your comments would be very helpful in ensuring BEFC members understand the expectations that Pennsylvanians have for their report, which will inform budget proposals next year.

In your comments please make sure to:

- Include the name of your school district
- Share the reason this issue is important to you and, if possible, give examples of what adequate, equitable, and constitutional state funding would mean for children in your community.
- Call on members of the BEFC to issue a report that contains a clear and thorough calculation of how much money each school district needs (known as adequacy targets) in order for the state to meet its constitutional obligation to our students.
- Call on members to include a reasonable timeline for the state to meet its share of funding for those targets.

Sample letters

Parent Letter

Dear Members of the BEFC:

My name is *Jane Doe* and I am a parent in *PA School District*. Each year, my family starts the year hoping for the best year yet but then we often face the reality that comes with attending an underfunded school. There are no new books, there is no AC, there are too many students in our classrooms and my child does not receive the attention he needs.

My children deserve the same opportunities as our neighboring districts' children and we are tired of waiting and hoping.

Please ensure that your final report contains a clear and thorough calculation of how much each school district needs to meet the constitutional obligation to our students and lays out a timeline for the state to meet its funding obligations to our children. We are counting on the Commission to complete its important work. Now is the time to act. My children can't wait any longer.



Thank you.

Community member

Dear Members of the BEFC:

My community needs your help. Our students are bright, determined, and hopeful. They want to learn and thrive like all students in our state. They have dreams for their bright future. However, our schools are so underfunded that there are not enough teachers, no libraries, and not enough resources to buy books and supplies to meet the needs of our students.

Our children cannot continue to wait for people in Harrisburg to recognize their responsibility to fix this problem. The Court recognized the problem and the General Assembly's obligation to address it. Please ensure that your final report contains a clear and thorough calculation of how much each school district needs to meet the constitutional obligation to our students and lays out a timeline for the state to meet its funding obligations to our children.

The Court ordered it and our students deserve it. The time is now and you have the power to do it for all our children.

Community Member

Dear Members of the BEFC:

Communities around the state are facing challenges caused by decades of failing to adequately and equitably fund our schools in low-wealth communities. Children in underfunded schools are entitled to receive the same educational opportunities as students in other districts. We want all our children to attend clean and safe schools with enough books, teachers, and resources for them to learn and thrive.

It is critical that the Basic Education Funding Commission's final report contains a clear and thorough calculation of how much each school district needs to meet the constitutional obligation to our students and lays out a timeline for the state to meet its funding obligations to our children.

It is your job to see that each child wakes up to a new tomorrow and your time to act is now.