

Dear Members of the BEFC,

On behalf for the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania, we are calling on you to submit a final report to the General Assembly that includes the following:

- A meaningful adequacy target for each school district as part of a formula that determines how much each district needs to provide its children with a comprehensive, effective education. The report should also state how funds will be distributed to the districts.
- Acknowledgement of the unmet fiscal needs beyond basic K-12 education as identified by the Commonwealth Court, and includes these needs in the adequacy funding targets. These needs, such as facilities, special education and Pre-K, were created by years of underfunding to low-wealth districts, and are critical to ensure meaningful opportunities for all Pennsylvania public school students.
- Establishment of a fair and equitable "state share" to ensure that the state meets its constitutional obligation for those targets, so that low-wealth school districts can reach adequate funding at a reasonable tax effort.
- A plan with a reasonable timeline for the state to meet its share of those targets, a plan that guides the governor and the state legislature to meet their constitutional mandate.

Establishing fair, comprehensive funding for public education is the right thing to do for our children to ensure that every child has the chance to manifest their own potential. However, it is also the right thing to do for Pennsylvania. Appropriately and equitably funded public education produces citizens who are prepared for a competitive workforce and who will be future taxpayers. Educated and meaningfully employed young adults will reduce the level of social problems that plague the Commonwealth and will be an active part of finding solutions to the challenges we will face in the future.

Ensuring equitable and adequate funding for every school district is a moral and constitutional obligation, and the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania calls on the BEFC to meet this obligation.

Sincerely,

Maria Delgado-Santana

Susan Boser

Maria Delgado Santana, President, LWVPA Susan Boser, Social Policy Director, LWVPA