



We Count

Stand for Children

Stand for Educational Justice

Join Us In Harrisburg

For more information and event logistics log onto www.goodschoolspa.org.

Good Schools Pennsylvania is pleased that the following groups will host a Stand for Children Day in Harrisburg.

Date	
27-Jan	High School Students Day
28-Jan	Good Schools PA Day
29-Jan	Lancaster Downtown Clergy Day
10-Feb	Eastern PA Conference of the United Methodist Church Day
11-Feb	Penn Central United Church of Christ Day
12-Feb	Philadelphia Student Union Day
24-Feb	Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network Day
25-Feb	College Students Day
26-Feb	Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem Day
3-Mar	Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania Day
4-Mar	Western PA United Methodist Women Day
10-Mar	Eastern UCC Day
11-Mar	High School Students Day
12-Mar	Lancaster, Lebanon, Berks, York Day
7-Apr	Greater Lehigh Valley, Poconos and Schuylkill County Day
8-Apr	Eastern PA Lutheran Day
9-Apr	Jewish Community Day
14-Apr	College Students Day
15-Apr	PA Baptist State Convention (East) Day
28-Apr	PTA/Parents Day
29-Apr	Central PA Lutheran Day

Date	
30-Apr	Mon Valley Day
5-May	Philadelphia Day
6-May	NAACP Day
7-May	Erie Day
12-May	Quaker Day
13-May	Eastern/Central PA UMW and Central PA United Methodist Conference Day
2-Jun	Head Start Day
3-Jun	Northeastern PA Day
4-Jun	Pittsburgh High School Day
9-Jun	Central PA Presbyteries Day
10-Jun	Southeastern PA Day
11-Jun	OPEN
16-Jun	Catholic Day
17-Jun	Presbytery of Philadelphia Day
18-Jun	Reserved
23-Jun	PA Baptist State Convention (West) Day
24-Jun	Chamber of Commerce and Business Day
25-Jun	OPEN
26-Jun	Superintendents Day
27-Jun	OPEN
30-Jun	OPEN

We Count

In the 180 days between January 1, 2003 and June 30, 2003, the fate of public education in Pennsylvania is likely to be decided by the General Assembly and Governor Rendell.

The Sad State of Our Schools

- The results of our state's failure to invest in its schools are predictable, but no less disturbing. In 2002, 49% of Pennsylvania's students failed the state standardized exam.
- *Education Week* (January 2003), a national education publication, gave Pennsylvania's education financing system a D- for the disparity in resources among our districts. The journal ranked Pennsylvania among the four worst states when it came to ensuring that state funds are used so that kids in poor school districts would get an equal opportunity to a quality education.
- According to the U.S. Department of Education (2000), Pennsylvania ranks 15th lowest of the 50 states in spending tax dollars for each student.

Because the Pennsylvania share of state funding for schools dropped so dramatically in just twenty years, local school districts have been forced to raise property taxes. As a result, there are huge inequities in the way children are educated. It's the case right now that a child's future is dictated by his address. The fifty wealthiest school districts in the state can spend an average of \$10,291, while 270 school districts (54%) have close to \$3,000 less to spend per student. A small number of school districts in wealthy neighborhoods spend upwards of \$12,000, but some school districts spend as little as \$5,500 per student.

The Time for Reform is Now

We cannot rely on the good intentions of Governor Rendell or elected officials who pledged themselves during the election campaign to enact comprehensive education reform. There is a severe budget crisis to contend with as well as the legislature's historic aversion to change. But the children of Pennsylvania can no longer afford a take-it-slow approach. Pennsylvania's school children deserve real change, right now. Pennsylvania citizens must continue to show our legislators that we intend to hold them accountable for enacting real education reform.

Every day that the legislators meet, those who stand for educational justice in Pennsylvania must maintain a presence at the Capitol to remind the Governor and the members of the legislature that we are serious about reform. Will you stand with us?

The Stand for Children

Join the Stand for Children, a sustained presence at the Capitol in Harrisburg on each day that the legislature is in session from January to June. Each day of the Stand for Children, the presence at the Capitol of leaders and citizen advocates from across the Commonwealth will serve as a reminder to the members of the legislature that every child of the Commonwealth needs and deserves a high quality education.

Make History. Support Educational Justice. Stand for Children!