

## **Moving Forward With the Costing-Out Study**

In November of 2007, the Pennsylvania State Board of Education will release the results of a statewide study that “costs-out” the real price of quality public education in Pennsylvania. The results of the costing-out study are only one step toward fixing Pennsylvania’s school funding system. After the results are released, citizens and lawmakers will examine the study and develop ways to make systemic reforms. While all Pennsylvanians have an interest in strengthening our public schools, only the Governor and the General Assembly have the authority to fix the current problems and replace the state’s ineffective school funding formula.

Here are some ways that you can use the results of the costing-out study to advocate for reforms:

- Learn more about the costing-out study.
  - Read updates posted on this website.
  - Review information available on the State Board of Education’s website: [http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard\\_ed](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/stateboard_ed).
  - Stay updated on education funding reform hearings and legislation on the General Assembly website: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us>.
- Organize support for education funding reform in PA.
  - Contact elected officials, community leaders, and business leaders and ask them to support these issues.
  - Join or create home/school associations or other local grassroots groups that can support education funding reform.
  - Bring information about these issues to community meetings and educate others.
- Demand that the Governor and the General Assembly use the costing-out study to enact real reforms to the state system for funding public education.
  - Ask the Governor and the General Assembly to create a reform commission to review the results of the costing-out study, conduct public hearings throughout the state, and make recommendations back to the legislature about systemic reforms to be adopted.
  - Learn about funding reform proposals pending in the General Assembly. Insist that property tax reform must include long-term changes to the education funding system.
  - Call, write, or visit your representatives in the General Assembly. Urge them to support education funding reform.
  - Prepare individuals from your community to meet with legislators, attend press conferences, or participate in other events supporting funding reform.
  - Submit articles or letters to the editor about education funding reform to local newspapers and magazines. Call talk-radio shows to discuss these issues.
  - Use newsletters, create a website, or hold a meeting to educate others about funding reform issues and the costing-out study. Mobilize your friends, family, and neighbors to convey their views to elected officials and policy makers.