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The Philadelphia Inquirer

Letters to the Editor

Pa. needs system to fund schools

July 29, 2009

Your article about the closing of four Catholic churches in Johnstown ("In Johnstown, bell tolls for 4 churches," July 20) is an apt metaphor for the toll on school districts that are confronted by declining community wealth and increasing costs.

In Pennsylvania's economically distressed communities, school leaders face the hard choice of keeping taxes low and starving the schools, or raising taxes to disproportionately high levels.

Moreover, Pennsylvania's overreliance on property taxes to pay for public education may actually be a driving factor for the abandonment of older, tax-base-poor communities.

It's clear that a sound statewide system of education finance is vital not only to help students and schools, but also to sustaining communities, regions - even churches.

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