



Good Schools Pennsylvania

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Advocates deliver success stories to House Education Committee

Lawmakers often see results of the policies they enact in the form of data, spreadsheets and research reports, but yesterday they heard results first-hand. Community leaders, school board members and students were in Harrisburg to testify about [school funding and accountability success stories](#) at a meeting of the House Education Committee, called to examine the impact of Pennsylvania's new school funding formula and its Act 61 accountability provisions, called PA-PACT plans.

For the past year, advocates have been working with their local school districts in regions throughout Pennsylvania to examine PA-PACT plans and provide community input into the planning process and to ensure that school districts spend their funds in ways that best meet the needs of students in the community. From a student who can't resist sharing new science vocabulary words at the dinner table, to one school district adding a community center to engage parents, advocates uncovered unprecedented success stories for students, schools and communities, all of which have resulted from the new funding formula.

"The Easton Area School District introduced a ninth grade tutoring program, in which more than 40 students participated this year," said Jean Brown, president of the Easton NAACP. "To make sure this program impacts the students who need it most, parents met with the district and reviewed plans to learn how they could maximize and support the programs for the district's most academically challenged students."

The [education reforms](#) enacted in July 2008 require all school districts receiving new funds greater than the inflation index to submit a comprehensive spending plan to the Department of Education for review and approval. School districts must invest the funds in targeted strategies to support and increase student achievement, such as hiring new teachers, reducing class size and introducing new curriculum and programs.

Click here to view the complete [presentation](#) delivered by advocates. Also, be sure to read the [Community Account](#), which documents success stories collected in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Share your story

Do you have a success story that we should know about? Please [send it to us](#) so we can document it. It's important that your [legislators](#) hear success stories, too. As they reconvene in Harrisburg during the month of June to debate the state budget, it's critical that they hear from their constituents that an investment in an accountable school funding formula has the potential to support students, strengthen schools, reduce reliance on local property taxes and revitalize communities.