

Bensalem Township School District

State Funding and Local Taxes

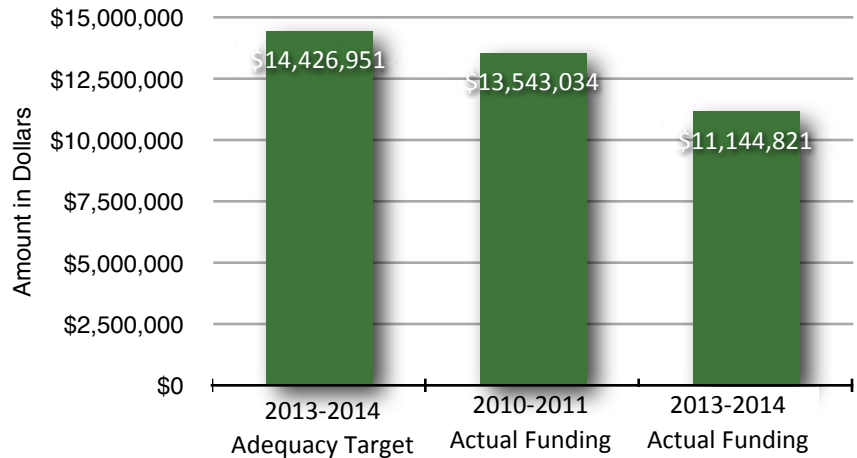
In 2011, Governor Corbett cut \$1 billion from state education funding and dismantled the funding formula, making Pennsylvania one of only 3 states that do not use a formula.

Now, school districts are receiving less state funding.

With the amount of state aid received for the 2013-14 academic year, Bensalem Township School District is still:

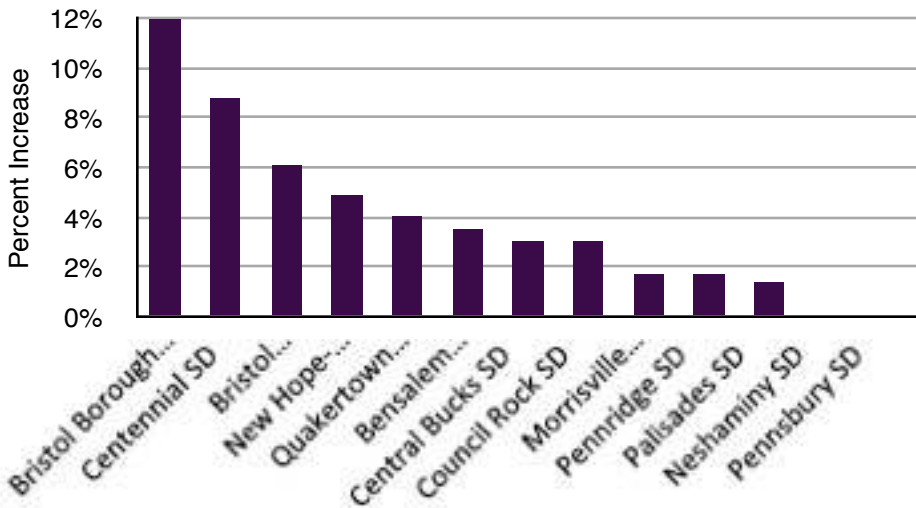
- ◆ More than **\$3 million** away from 2013-14 adequacy targets
- ◆ More than **\$2 million** away from restoring funds back to 2010-2011 levels

State Aid in Bensalem Township



To cope with state budget cuts, the burden of funding schools has fallen on local communities. During the past three years, many school districts have raised property taxes at least once.

Bucks County School Districts Property Tax Increase 2010-2013



Bensalem Township is one of eight districts in Bucks County that raised property taxes by more than 3% in the past 3 years.

Student Performance Facts

* Bensalem Township has close to a 10% achievement gap in reading for Black, Hispanic, and economically disadvantaged students.

* In the 2011-12 academic year, 70% of Bensalem Township students performed at or about grade level in math and reading, compared to 90% of students countywide

* Bensalem Township School District has the fourth lowest graduation rate in Bucks County, slightly below the county average of 90%.

What does the future hold for Bensalem Township School District?

The Governor's 2014-15 budget proposal calls for \$241 million to restore funding for Pennsylvania's schools, most of which will be available through the newly created *Ready to Learn Block Grant*. If the Governor's proposal is adopted by legislature, next year districts will be \$440 million short in state funds compared to 2010-11 funding levels.

Even with the Governor's proposed *Ready to Learn Block Grant* for the 2014-15 academic year, the Bensalem Township School District is still **over \$1.6 million short in state aid** compared

