

West Chester Area School District

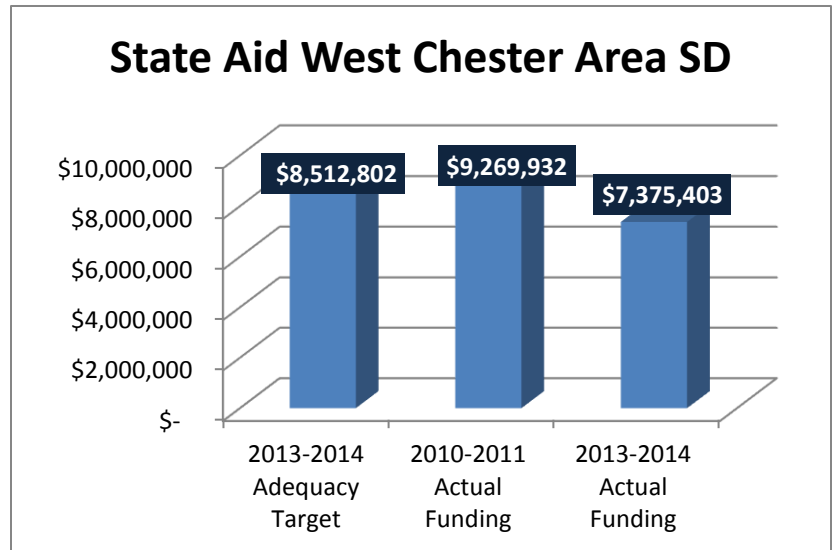
State Funding and Local Taxes

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.

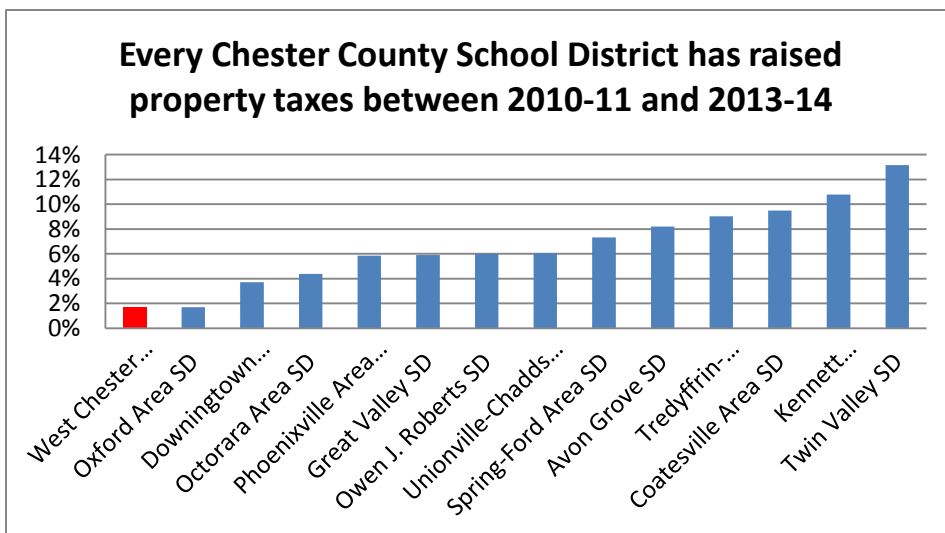
Now, school districts are receiving less state funding.

With the amount of state aid received for the 2013-14 academic year, West Chester Area School District is still:

- ◆ More than **\$1.1 million** away from 2013-14 adequacy targets
- ◆ More than **\$1.7 million** away from restoring funds back to 2010-2011 levels



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.



*Among the 12 districts in Chester County, West Chester Area School District experienced the **LOWEST** increase on property taxes over the last three years.*

Student Performance Facts

*West Chester Area School District has a graduation rate of 94%, the 6th highest in Chester County.

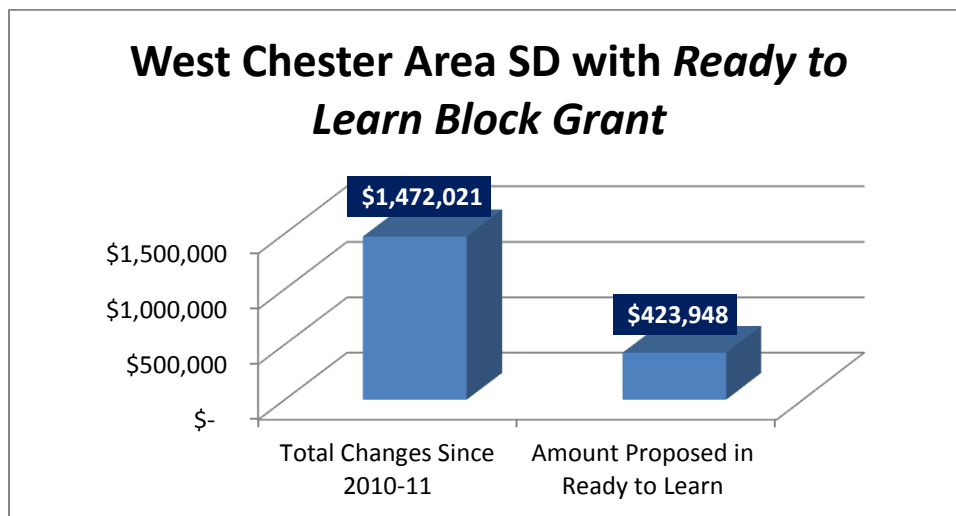
*In the 2011-12 academic year, more than 12% of students were not at grade level in reading and math.

*West Chester Area has some of the largest achievement gaps on the PSSA in Chester County.

What Does the Future Hold for West Chester Area 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 West Chester Area School District is still **over \$7.7 million short in state aid** compared to 2010-11 funding levels.



What can you do?

Contact your senator/representative and let them know that you want them to be a leader in:

- Restoring the cuts to education funding
- Establishing a Fair Funding Formula

The Senator for the West Chester Area School District is:



Senator Robert Tomlinson
Senate Box 203009
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3006
Room: 350 Capitol Building
Phone: (717) 787-4712
Fax: (717) 783-7490