

8-2022 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET INCREASES EDUCATION FUNDING

Last month Governor Wolf signed into law a distribution for the \$12 billion one-time surplus funds available for the 2022-2023 state budget. Acting Education secretary, Eric Hagarty, stated that this is the “most consequential budget for public education in Pennsylvania’s history – and it would not have happened without many of you advocating for these funding increases.”

Thanks to those of you who wrote letters, contacted legislators and attended Lobby Day in May! AAUW State College members **Susan Chyczewski**, **Carol Hodes**, and **Leslie Laing** were part of that effort. Here’s a high-level view of some the results of the 2022-23 budget negotiations for public education:

- \$525 million increase in Basic Education Funding through the Fair Funding Formula
- \$225 million increase in Level Up funding targeted for 100 most in-need school districts
- \$100 million increase in Special Education Funding
- \$79 million increase for Early Education funding through Pre-K Counts and Head Start
- \$90 million to stabilize child care workforce via recruitment/retention payments
- \$100 million for student mental health supports through Ready to Learn Block Grants
- \$100 million increase in School Safety Grants
- \$100 million in one-time grants to school districts to support student mental health
- \$220 million increases for public higher education \$11 million for public libraries
- \$6.1 million for career and technical education

--Carol Hodes, AAUW State College Education Chair