

## 4-2023 AAUW State College Branch Bulletin

### Our poorest districts need more than an adjustment for inflation



With the Commonwealth Court's finding that Pennsylvania's school funding system is unconstitutional, followed by Gov. Shapiro's proposed billion-dollar budget increase for education, we should be celebrating. The reality is that there is no

additional funding for the state's poorest districts due to low tax base, several of which are in our area: Altoona, Blacklick Valley, DuBois, Huntingdon County, Mifflin County and Williamsburg. Students in low wealth districts still will be shortchanged of their constitutional right to an education that prepares them for success.

According to Susan Spicka, executive director of Education Voters of PA, Shapiro's 2023-24 budget is a 7.8% increase in basic education funding. According to Shapiro's budget brief, the proposed budget is "on par with recent inflationary and cost-of-living growth," which leaves our schools "treading water" without any real increase in funds. A coalition of education advocacy groups called *Level Up* is addressing this omission in the governor's budget. Please contact your legislators and ask them to vote for *Level Up* funding to close the equity gap for the state's 100 poorest districts; the list of these districts and information on the *Level Up* coalition can be found at <https://leveluppa.org/level-up-100/>.