

# Budget Disparity in Education

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## ISSUE

The social problem that is facing the American educational system today is the budget disparity that exists in American public school systems specifically in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania school budget systems are based on taxes that are taken from the citizens that live in the districts in which Pennsylvania is divided up in. Therefore, districts with wealthier people living in them gain more taxes that are used to better fund those schools. These schools often have better test preparations, more extracurriculars, and better quality in terms of teaching staff.

## IMPACT

The social problem of budget disparity in education is that it impacts students who are in low income neighborhoods as well as those whose districts do not have people of a high economic standing. The students suffer because they get books that are outdated because they do not have the money to buy a whole set of new textbooks for students to use. In addition, students have less access to test-prep classes for tests such as the ACT, SAT, state tests (Keystones)). Other impacts include not having sufficient funds to get teachers to teach extracurriculars like arts programs (music, drawing, creative writing).

## METHODS

- As per Adamson, it says the cause of the illiteracy and disparity in difference in education is maybe because the students are taught by teachers who are not as up to par as teachers in rich kid's schools.
- Baldinger and Viklund's article gave me insight into the Property Tax Independence Act and what the plan is and how it is funded, how the plan will affect the distribution to schools, cost controls, and the constitutional amendment.

## PEOPLE AND PROCESSES

### People

- Mr. Derek Thompson, a director of one of the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg
- Mayor Eric Papenfuse, Mayor of Harrisburg

### Processes

- The Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg activities such as IXL, Triple Play (Basketball, Cheerleading, and Dance), SMART Girls, Passport to Manhood, My.Future, and Torch Club
- Trying to pass and get the House Bill 76 and Senate Bill 76 passed



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF AMERICA**



## CONTEXT AND TIMING

- Budget Disparity in education has started since there has been taxes based on districts which is why people see that certain schools have more advantages and certain resources that others do not.
- This social issue is happening all over the United States but the main focus of the project is in Pennsylvania.

## CALL TO ACTION AND TAKEAWAY

- Vote for House Bill 76 and Senate Bill 76
  - Vote for the local senators and officials that want this bill to pass
- To be aware of the social issue that there is budget disparities in school and it is affecting the future generations
- To support and sponsor groups like the Boys and Girls of America

## CONCLUSION

The social issue this project deals with is the budget disparity in America's public schools. This problem is important to investigate because today's children are tomorrow's leaders and if they are not being educated properly, then how do we as a society expect them to lead us in the future. If the calls to action are followed then society should see an improvement in the overall test scores and education of students. Now that I brought this issue to your attention, I hope that you can see its importance and work together with the solutions I have provided for you to improve America's educational system.

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