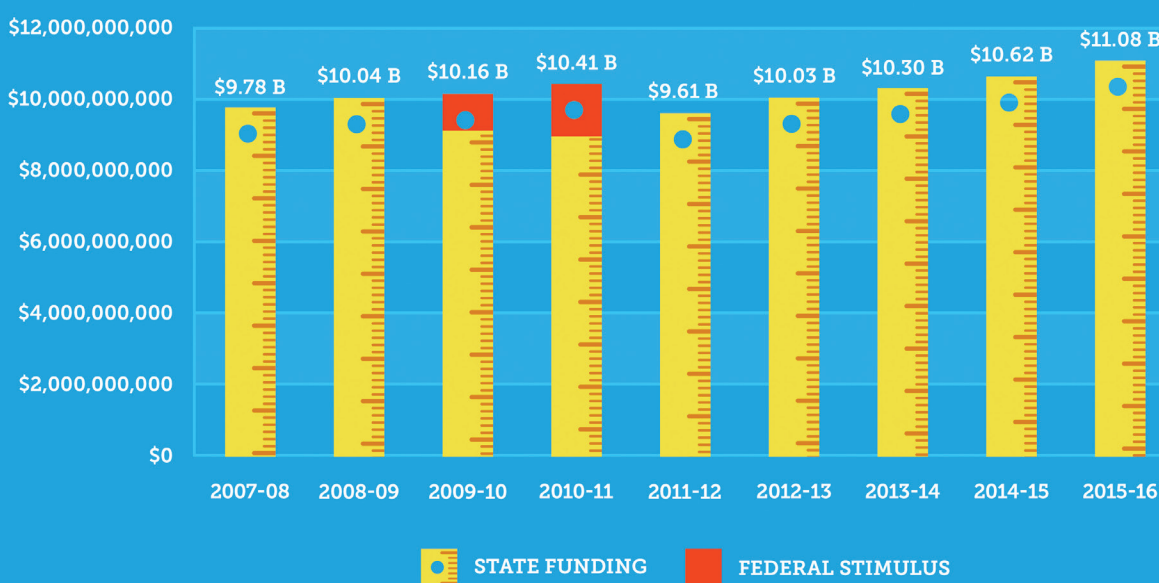# EDUCATION
SPENDING TRENDS

Pennsylvania's FY 2015-16 budget was finalized in late March when Gov. Tom Wolf allowed HB 1801, a supplemental funding bill, to become law. This legislation appropriated an additional $3.1 billion for K-12 education—on top of nearly $8 billion that was signed into law in December 2015. The chart below illustrates education funding trends over time. At over $11 billion, the FY 2015-16 budget includes a record level of state support for K-12 public schools.

STATE EDUCATION FUNDING

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
	$9.78 B	$10.04 B	$10.16 B	$10.41 B	$9.61 B	$10.03 B	$10.30 B	$10.62 B	$11.08 B

STATE FUNDING   FEDERAL STIMULUS

Source: Pennsylvania Office of the Budget

Please note two things regarding FY 2015-16. First, the chart above includes a $150 million increase in Basic Education spending above FY 2014-15 levels. Importantly, HB 1801 stipulates that new Basic Education funding may not be expended until enabling legislation, with instructions for distributing this funding, is also enacted. As of this writing—and as a result of Gov. Wolf's veto of the fiscal code—enabling legislation has not been enacted. Second, the FY 2015-16 total does not include state funding (PlanCon) to reimburse school districts for renovation and construction projects. The General Assembly shifted PlanCon funding from a General Fund expenditure to a capital expenditure, but this funding was eliminated when Gov. Wolf vetoed the fiscal code.

The General Assembly approved line item increases in Basic Education ($150 million), Ready to Learn Block Grants ($50 million), Pre-K ($30 million), and Special Education ($30 million).
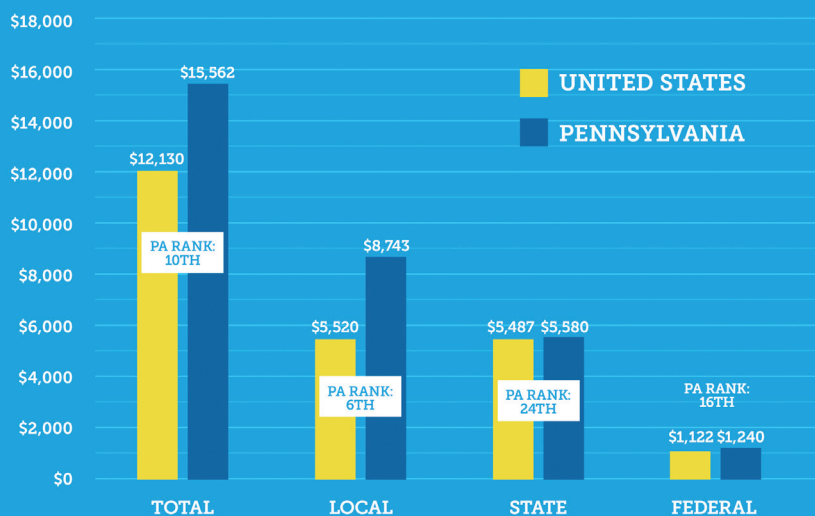
EDUCATION INCREASES FROM 14-15 TO 15-16 (THOUSANDS)

Source: 2015-16 Final Enacted Budget Line Item Appropriations

According to the federal Department of Education, Pennsylvania per-pupil revenue ranks 10th in the nation and exceeds the national average by $3,400. Contrary to the myth that state taxpayers do not contribute their fair share, Pennsylvania's state funding exceeds the national average, too.

PUBLIC SCHOOL REVENUE PER STUDENT, 2012-2013

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION