

# AT A GLANCE

## 2018 State of Education



The State of Education report is intended to be a barometer of not only the key indicators of public school performance, such as standardized test scores and school finances, but also the timely challenges that public schools are facing and how they are coping with them. Data for the report comes from publicly available data sources and from surveys of chief school administrators and building principals.

According to chief school administrators

### TOP 3 biggest challenges

- 83% Budget pressures
- 24% ESSA implementation
- 22% School construction/maintenance

### TOP 5 budget pressures

- 82% Pension costs
- 52% Charter school payments
- 37% Special education costs
- 36% Inadequate state funding
- 31% Health insurance increases

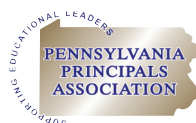
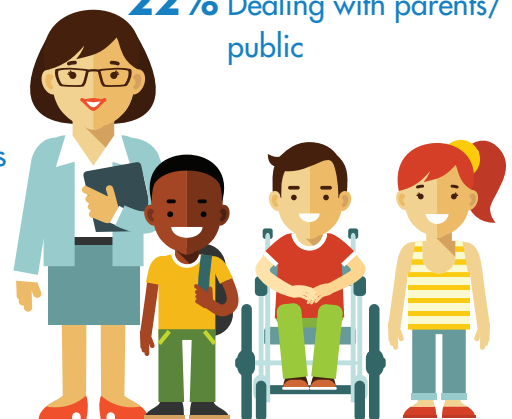
### TOP 5 ways schools will balance budgets

- 76% Drawing down fund balance levels
- 75% Raising local property taxes
- 40% Increasing class sizes
- 36% Reducing staffing levels
- 30% Reducing programs and services

According to building principals

### TOP 3 biggest challenges

- 31% Preparing for standardized tests
- 28% Curriculum requirements
- 28% Social media issues
- 23% ESSA implementation
- 22% Dealing with parents/public



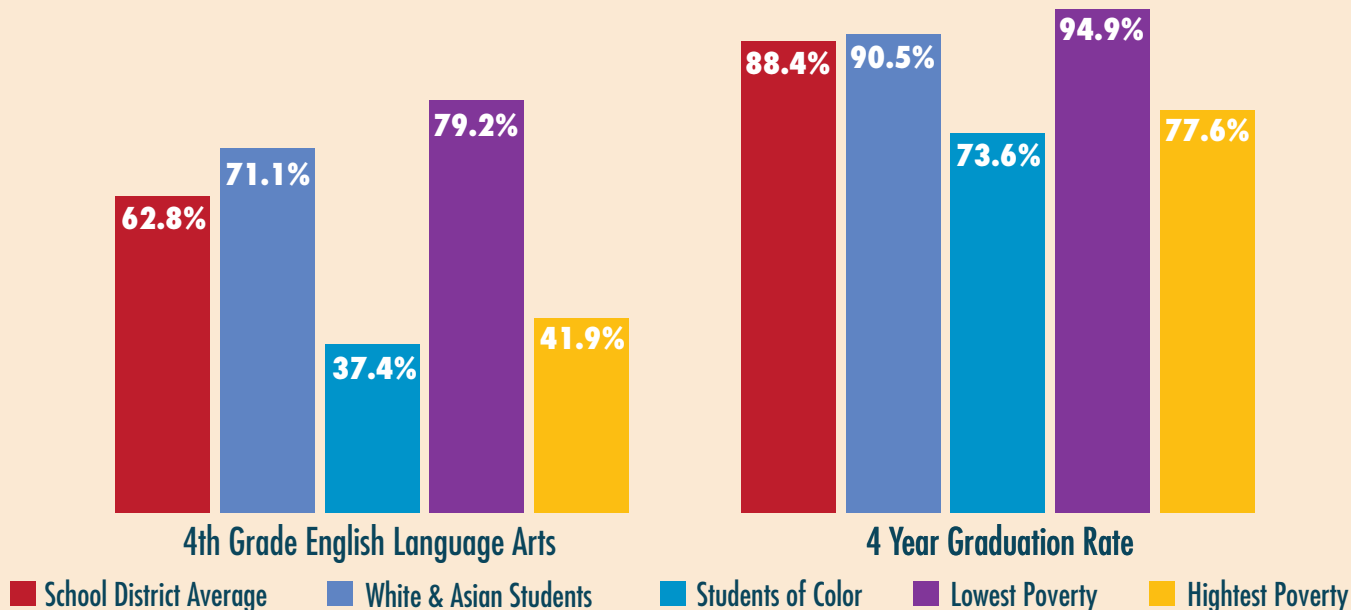
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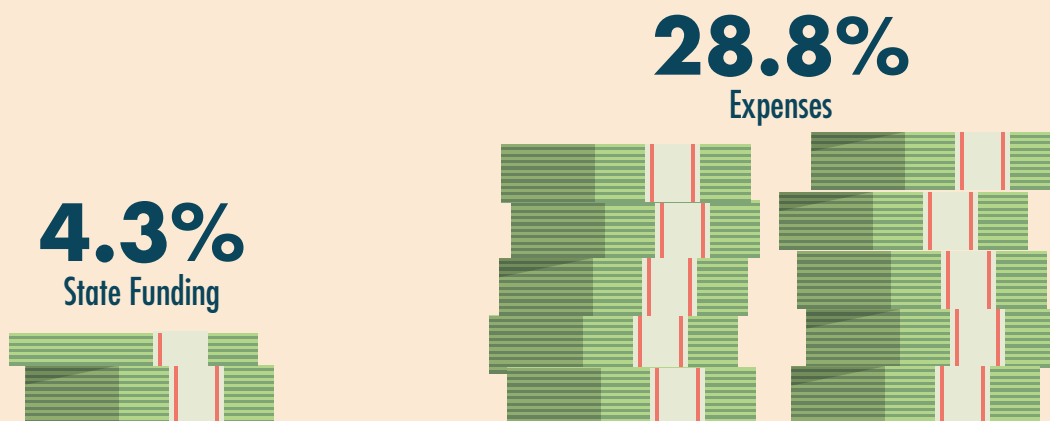
## Achievement Gaps

Public school students are achieving yet achievement gaps remain for students of color and students in poverty.



## Special education

Since 2010-11, increases in state special education funding have lagged well behind increases in special education expenses.



Public education is the best investment that Pennsylvania can make in its future. While it is the belief of each group involved in this project that the state of Pennsylvania's public education system is strong, the challenges being faced by our public schools are serious. The full report, available at [www.psb.org](http://www.psb.org), contains more detail on these challenges as well as information on numerous other issues affecting public education.