



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
6820 MARKET STREET
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

GARY L. WEBER
SUPERINTENDENT

Board of School Directors

May 20, 2024

Paul Mangione
President
Region I

Senator Scott Hutchinson
Senate Box 203021
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3021

Cody Brown
Vice President
Region I

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

John Wortman
Region I

The Warren County School District respectfully urges the Senate to reject Senate Bill 795 and any associated amendments that divert public tax dollars to support private or religious schools. Strengthening state investment in our public education system remains a crucial goal for Pennsylvania, especially in light of the recent court ruling deeming the current funding model unconstitutional. It's imperative that we now concentrate on the comprehensive process of evaluating and reconstructing our education funding framework to ensure fair allocation of resources, facilities, and opportunities for students across all 500 school districts.

Savanna Cochran
Region II

Stephanie Snell
Region II

Tammi Holden
Region II

While we appreciate the ongoing discussions surrounding public education funding reform, we firmly believe that considering tuition vouchers before rectifying the constitutional deficiencies in our funding system would be premature and harmful to the majority of Pennsylvania students who rely on public schools. The Warren County School District stands firmly against Senate Bill 795 and any similar proposals, as they would only serve as distractions from the urgent task of equitably funding public education in the upcoming state budget.

Daniel Sullivan
Region III

Mary Passinger
Region III

Kevin Lindvay
Region III

Furthermore, introducing initiatives like Senate Bill 795 duplicates existing efforts, such as the Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit program, and undermines the progress made in advancing equitable education funding through avenues like the Community Engaged Schools model. We commend the unanimous passage of SB 97 (Langerholc) Community Engaged Schools by the Senate Education Committee, a proven and research-backed approach to supporting students in underserved communities.

As we navigate the complexities of implementing a constitutionally compliant state budget and address the broader issue of education funding equity, we urge the Senate to reject Senate Bill 795. Vouchers are not a viable solution, especially at this critical juncture. Let us seize this opportunity to propel our public schools forward by

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prioritizing funding, redefinition, and innovation to meet the needs of all students in Pennsylvania.

Respectfully,

Paul J. Mangione
Board President