

## Text of the Change.org Petition Recommended for Posting

### Budget Impacts to Rural PA Schools:

Governor Corbett's proposed budget is particularly damaging to rural schools districts in the Northwestern PA region. The Governor's budget calls for a second year of significant cuts that lead to larger class sizes, reduction in services to students and families, and extremely limited classroom supplies. We are unable to replace textbooks, provide technology opportunities for students or support professional development for our teachers. In our district, like most, personnel comprises 60% - 70% of the budget, meaning that after instructional supplies and teacher training are cut, there is no choice but to remove teachers, counselors and administrators who support our students on a daily basis.

One of the most egregious features of the proposed budget is the proposal to include Basic Education Funding, transportation reimbursements and Social Security payments within one general payment. This lays the groundwork for net losses in future years, even if the legislature approves a minimal increase to the general payment. The net losses will occur in the future because minimal increases will not overcome rising transportation costs for a district like Warren County, which is nearly 800 square miles; nor will a minimal increase address the rising costs of the pension system for state employees which is increasing 43% for the 2012-2013 school year.

The Governor's budget as it is proposed makes it impossible for a school district to fund a quality education for students for the long term while maintaining fiscal responsibility to our local taxpayers. A strong educational system is the backbone of strong local communities. Please consider the impact of your decisions on all of Pennsylvania's citizens.

Sincerely,

[Your name]