



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JOINT STATEMENT: GENERAL ASSEMBLY MUST SUPPORT BUDGET WITH ADEQUATE SCHOOL FUNDING**

HARRISBURG, PA (March 3, 2015) – As state legislators consider Governor Tom Wolf’s 2015-16 budget proposal, citizens of the Commonwealth are watching to see if their elected officials will support a quality education for children in every community. Pennsylvania’s major education leadership organizations, representing all 500 school districts, today called on the General Assembly to approve Governor Wolf’s budget request and adopt a new state funding formula that will ensure equity and adequate funding for all schools beginning next school year.

*“Education is the lynchpin for achieving the goals set forth in Governor Wolf’s proposal for economic development and creating good-paying, middle class jobs. Our state must adequately fund education and ensure taxpayer dollars are equitably distributed to strengthen our schools’ ability to prepare students for careers throughout Pennsylvania. Today’s young people are tomorrow’s skilled workforce if we invest in their futures.”*

**– Jim Buckheit, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA)**

*“The Pennsylvania Constitution includes a powerful mandate requiring the state to provide a ‘thorough and efficient’ public school system. Gov. Wolf’s budget proposal works toward meeting that mandate, but the road ahead to fully realize fulfillment of this is long and hard. A fair, adequate and equitable funding formula is needed to ensure the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania properly provides the resources needed today and into the future. The competitiveness of our great state relies on us maintaining the world-class public education system we have.”*

**– Nathan Mains, Executive Director, Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA)**

*“We are at a critical crossroad in our school districts. It is time to make bold and courageous decisions to return education as the top priority and to recognize that an investment in education pays long term dividends. We support the Governor’s proposal in calling for a new funding formula as our schools are faced with making drastic cuts in programs and personnel that directly affect the opportunities for our students. We certainly cannot change what has happened over the past few years but we have an opportunity to reverse course by implementing and sustaining a fair education funding formula.”*

**– Dr. Paul M. Healey, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Elementary and Secondary School Principals (PAESSP)**

*“We cannot continue the failed strategy of cutting our way to success. Schools need additional state resources to address the rising cost of mandated pensions, special education and charter school tuition. PASBO is extremely pleased that this budget provides additional funding to help prevent more cuts in programs and personnel.”*

**– Jay Himes, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials (PASBO)**

*"Rural school leaders are very happy to know the high value Governor Wolf puts on fair and adequate school funding, and are encouraged to hear the plans he announced today. PARSS member districts and intermediate units across the state stand ready to work with Governor Wolf and legislators to make those plans reality."*

**– Joseph Bard, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools (PARSS)**

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