



# STATE REP. DAWN KEEFER

*Proudly Serving the 92<sup>nd</sup> District!*



## Education Funding Recommendations Fail Students and Taxpayers

Presented with an opportunity to make transformational changes to the Commonwealth's education system, the Basic Education Funding Commission, comprised of six Republicans and six Democrats from the House and Senate and three members of the governor's administration, approved a series of recommendations that simply throw more money at the problem without addressing the root cause.

Early in 2023, the Commonwealth Court deemed our education funding system unconstitutional, and directed lawmakers to develop a remedy with attention to how funding is appropriated throughout the state. In response, the commission hosted 11 hearings across the state to gather input from public school finance experts, education advocates and others.

The House Appropriations Committee has estimated the Democrat-approved recommendations, if enacted by the Legislature, would require more than \$8 billion in recurring revenue each year, leading to a significant tax increase.

Alternative recommendations were offered by Republican members of the commission, but they only earned the support of the six Republicans.

Ultimately, it is now up to the full House and Senate to make the necessary changes to ensure all students have the same access to a quality education.

The root of this problem stems from an old "hold harmless" law that never allows a decrease in a school district's basic education appropriation from the state, regardless of a declining student population. This outdated



*The York County House Republican Delegation held an informational hearing at York College about school choice in the county to gain a better understanding of educational opportunities available to our students. School choice must be a component as the Legislature addresses school funding reform.*

law has hamstrung growing school districts and saddled their property owners with suffocating taxes in the process. For example, southcentral Pennsylvania school districts receive, on average, 35% of their per-student funding from the state, requiring their district property owners to make up the remaining 65% through property taxes. There are school districts in the west and other areas of the state receiving as much as 80% of their per-student funding from the state, leaving just 20% for their property owners to cover. This long-standing disparity is not appropriately addressed in the commission's proposal. Our students and property owners deserve better. The average per-pupil spending in Pennsylvania is \$21,000, which ranks 11th nationally. The school funding issue is not the amount of money but rather, how the money is appropriated.

Learn more about the Basic Education Funding Commission, including the final recommendations, at **[basiceducationfundingcommission.com](https://basiceducationfundingcommission.com)**.

## NEW EAGLE SCOUTS in the 92<sup>nd</sup> District



Brendan Stambaugh of Troop 284



Elija Clarke of Troop 38



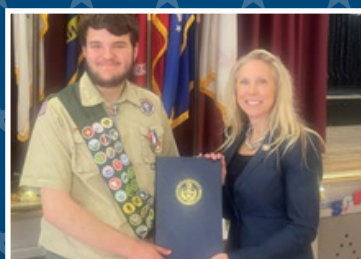
Colin Lillie of Troop 284



Samual Fisher of Troop 312



Corbin Hutchison of Troop 284



Zachary Kline of Troop 38



Bennett Waybright of Troop 203

One of the many aspects I enjoy as your state representative is celebrating Scouts who reach the rank of Eagle Scout. This past year, I had the pleasure of joining numerous Scouts and their families for Court of Honor ceremonies across the district. Congratulations to all our Scouts in the 92nd District who earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Take a look at our future leaders!

# State Representative **DAWN KEEFER** 92<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District

## DISTRICT OFFICE:

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**Phone: 717-432-0792**

**M–F: 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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# FUN AT THE FARM SHOW



I had a great time at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, where our area was well represented by local farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs. Agriculture is a rich part of our history and has a bright future thanks to the selfless farmers.

While at the Farm Show, I helped at the famed Farm Show milkshake stand run by the PA Dairymen's Association, which raises money for various agricultural-related scholarships and initiatives.

I also took part in the celebrity feed scurry, which raises money for the Friends of the PA Farm Show Foundation.

## Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program **EXPANDED!** *Are You Eligible?*

More Pennsylvania seniors and people with disabilities are eligible for increased property tax or rent relief this year, per recently passed legislation.

### *Under the expanded program:*

- Income eligibility **INCREASED** to \$45,000 annually for both homeowners and renters. Remember to exclude 50% of Social Security when calculating income.

- Maximum rebate **INCREASED TO \$1,000.**

As always, my staff and I are here to assist with rebate applications with no charge, of course. Please call my office at **717-432-0792** to make an appointment.

The Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program benefits eligible residents 65 years and older; widows and widowers 50 years and older; and individuals with disabilities 18 years and older.



# LET'S STAY CONNECTED

Did you know I put out email newsletters to keep you up to date about what's going on in Harrisburg and in the 92<sup>nd</sup> District? Visit my website at **RepKeefer.com** to subscribe.

I also post important information to my Facebook page, which can be found at **Facebook.com/RepKeefer**.