

Investing in our children

The School District of Philadelphia has made recent gains in key areas including early literacy and graduation rates. While we're moving in the right direction, that important progress is now threatened. The City is focused on providing resources to stabilize the District's finances and invest in quality programs to ensure the best outcomes for Philadelphia families.

What the Mayor's FY19 Budget Supports

- Increasing early literacy: Specialized reading coaches for every elementary school, and expanding the focus on early literacy into grades 4 and 5.
- College and career readiness: Expanded and improved CTE programs, apprenticeship programs, IT internships and other high school pathways opportunities. Expanded college access through advanced placement courses, free SAT testing, and a middle-college program where high school students can earn an associate's degree; More opportunities for more students to have career exposure and work experiences during the summer and year-round. Additional 9th grade academies that provide academic supports and counseling and reduce the risk of dropping out.
- Creating safe and welcoming environments: Investments in school climate to enhance positive and safe school cultures. Capital improvements, including upgraded elementary classrooms, to address our schools' many physical building needs.
- Bilingual supports: More counseling assistants to provide bilingual services and support to families and additional English language-learner (ELL) teachers to ensure students are acquiring needed English language skills
- High quality instruction: Additional supports for teachers including training for high school teachers to increase student achievement and engagement and funding to continue efforts to increase the diversity and quality of our teaching workforce.





The Mayor recognizes the challenges rising real estate values pose for property owners as the City experiences growth. In order to provide protections for homeowners, the Mayor proposes to increase the Homestead Exemption by 50%, from \$30,000 to \$45,000. Below is a description of the impact on the median residential property owner with a home value of \$128,100.

- If the Homestead Exemption is increased to \$45,000, the median residential property owner with a Homestead Exemption and the average assessment increase of 11% will see an increase in their annual property taxes of \$43, or \$3.58 per month.
- If the Homestead Exemption is increased to \$45,000, the median residential property owner with a Homestead Exemption and no change in assessment will see a decrease in their annual property taxes of \$162.

In order to pay for these needed investments, and ensure the stability of the School District of Philadelphia, the Mayor has proposed the following financial package which calls for contributions from both residents and businesses:

- Increasing the City's general fund contribution to the District by \$100 million over five years
- Increasing the property tax rate by 4.1%, which will provide the District with an additional \$193 million
- Slowing previously scheduled reductions in the Wage Tax to bring in \$340 million, which will then be granted to the District

