1. **In regards to equity and access for student.  What are ways to close the gap?  What should we advocate for from our state and local leaders?**

-Resources. Resources. Resources. Invest more dollars into education.

-Establishing Community Learning Centers

-Accountability systems

-Differentiated learning models

1. **What holds up more resources for the School District of Philadelphia from our Pennsylvania legislature? Is three(3) billion dollars not enough?**

Not sure if these are two separate questions, or two parts to the same question.

The first part is asking why the legislature doesn’t provide more resources for the School District of Philadelphia.

Racism.

It’s not a coincidence that the most underfunded school districts in the state have the most black and brown students.

The School District of Philadelphia’s budget.

Here’s how it breaks down:

Local Revenue FY 20 - $1.5 billion

State Revenue FY 20 - $1.7 billion

Federal Revenue FY 20 - $16 million

FY 20 revenues total approximately $3.2 billion; expenditures total approximately $3.3 billion.

Multiple studies, going back to 2006, have shown the District to be underfunded by approximately $300-$400 million.

1. **What strategies do you recommend to get people, who live in districts led by elected officials who oppose adequate and equitable funding, to pressure those elected officials to support more funding, particularly people in rural districts where they are actually not be funding adequately like wealthy districts.**
* In general, writing or calling district offices is a good start.
* Encouraging local school board members or local superintendents to also reach out can be effective; as is having local business leaders call or write to their local elected officials.
* Also, the are several statewide organizations working on school funding.

\_ The PA Schools Work Campaign: [PA Schools Work | INVEST IN STUDENTS, SECURE OUR FUTURE](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpaschoolswork.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CTiffany.Wilson%40pasenate.com%7Ccedb29f29e6f4ed1428908d8d38b8ea2%7C93627e0e68cc4884b5c889613a97e74e%7C0%7C0%7C637491943644020730%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=pKd7Vc5HDsHvo%2BIMQNlL9kLnm1mtO%2B%2FvU95LEDl2Y%2FA%3D&reserved=0)

\_ Education Voters PA: [Education Voters of PA - Informing the public about the needs and importance of our public schools (educationvoterspa.org)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Feducationvoterspa.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CTiffany.Wilson%40pasenate.com%7Ccedb29f29e6f4ed1428908d8d38b8ea2%7C93627e0e68cc4884b5c889613a97e74e%7C0%7C0%7C637491943644020730%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uryxEizj0AzUWw6IeTN0v571Qebk0A36hUJe4vyXqJ8%3D&reserved=0)

\_ Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools: [Home - PARSS](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.parss.org%2F&data=04%7C01%7CTiffany.Wilson%40pasenate.com%7Ccedb29f29e6f4ed1428908d8d38b8ea2%7C93627e0e68cc4884b5c889613a97e74e%7C0%7C0%7C637491943644030688%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=thlBfa%2FfyBuiVgjAcARvGQTOugEKmR7oySQNBGOi1S8%3D&reserved=0)

1. **What should community organizations, religious, etc. be doing to hold our Philadelphia Superintendent of School, mayor, politicians, etc accountable for the disparities before covid and more so now.**
* Contact the Mayor – he appoints the school board
* Contact City Council members – they have to approve the Mayor’s appointees
* Sign up to speak (virtually, for now) at the monthly school board meetings
* Advocate for an elected school board
1. **Does this panel have ideas that could have been attempted or solutions that could have mitigated some of the learning loss that is evident and the psychological effects of total and complete social isolation?**

**For example, could enough buildings have been made safe to host students one or two days a week in small groups w/COVID protocols in place?**

The mental health issue is a big one. As for the second part, that’s exactly what was proposed in the fall and what’s being hashed out right now.

1. **What advice would the panel give to educators who are trying to hold themselves together as well as absorbing the trauma of our learning communities?**

Clearly, there were real mental health issues for students, teachers and families that were prevalent before the pandemic. If there is any bit of good to come out of the pandemic, let it be a wake-up call to begin addressing these issues in our schools in a more deliberate way; and ensuring that mental health programming is built into all aspects of a school community going forward.

1. **Is there a role for individuals in the community who want to help address some of these needs and if so, what's the best way that the panel thinks that individuals can get involved?**

Local engagement ideas and some statewide groups are mentioned above. There are a large number of ways folks can get involved at the community level.