



August 13, 2013

Honorable Members  
Philadelphia City Council  
City Hall  
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Councilmember:

The undersigned organizations urge you to act this week to end the current public education funding crisis and ensure that the schools can open on time.

Council President Clarke has expressed strong concern about the current school funding agreement, maintaining that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is at least as responsible for the continuing school funding crisis at the School District of Philadelphia and arguing that additional state funds must be part of the solution. We agree and applaud the Council President for speaking up on this issue.

We thank Council for everything that has been done over the last two years to provide needed funding for the schools, and pledge to work with you to advance proposals for permanent, new state funding for the district.

We write, however, in support of the current proposal which would allocate \$50 million this year and dedicate revenue from the 1% sales tax extension to the schools. We believe it is absolutely necessary if the city is to avert this significant immediate crisis.

We urge you in the strongest possible terms to provide the assurances required by the school district that will enable the schools to open on time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Education Law Center

Education Voters of Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center

Philadelphia Education Fund

Public Citizens for Children and Youth

Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Southern New Jersey