

UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT HOSTS PUBLIC SCHOOL EDUCATION FUNDING PRESS CONFERENCE

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Superintendent Dr. McGarry discusses Basic Education Funding and Adequacy Gap impact on the Upper Darby School District

Upper Darby, PA - The Governor's preliminary Pennsylvania state 2024-2025 basic education funding budget proposal was released on February 7, 2024. Like school districts across the commonwealth, Upper Darby School District is gearing up for the impact of the state budget proposal on its budget planning and funding for education. Upper Darby School District is hosting a press conference on **Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.** at its Administration Building located at 8201 Lansdowne Avenue in Upper Darby, PA to discuss the impact funding has on public schools in Pennsylvania.

Located eight miles from Philadelphia, PA, Upper Darby School District is a very densely populated community that is beautifully diverse. The rich diversity is evident within and among its 13 schools. Upper Darby School District provides education to close to 12,500 students from about 90 different birth countries, representing over 100 different home languages. The District provides special education services to over 2,300 students and English Learner support services to approximately 2,100 students. Upper Darby School District requires adequate funding to meet the ever-changing and diverse needs of all of its students.

"I have been meeting with our parents, student representatives, our entire staff and union leaders as well as each of our Home and School Associations throughout the District over the past several weeks," says Dr. Daniel P. McGarry, Superintendent of Schools. "I have been discussing with all our stakeholders the history of a lack of equitable funding for public schools in Pennsylvania. Our students are our highest priority, and public education is vital to the overall success of our local communities and, I would argue, the country. Year after year, we are asked to build a budget without clear state funding. Public schools must balance their budgets by June 30th, and we are deeply concerned that we will again be faced with inadequate education funding."