



2008-09 Enacted Budget Highlights

The 2008-09 enacted General Fund budget is \$28.3 billion, an increase of \$1.1 billion, or 3.98 percent, over 2007-08. The enacted budget is \$72.4 million less than the Governor's proposed budget.

This 2008-09 enacted budget has no tax increases.

More than 32 percent of the 1.1 billion increase in the General Fund budget – or \$347.4 million – is for education.

The 2008-09 enacted General Fund budget increases spending by only 1.3 percent in all areas other than Education, Public Welfare, Corrections, and Probation/Parole, while improving many vital state-funded services.

The 2008-09 enacted budget includes the investment of \$350 million to repair more than 400 of the state's worst bridges and \$15 million for airport and rail improvements.

The budget includes an economic stimulus package – Protecting Our Progress – to counteract the current economic slowdown and pump more than \$2 billion into the state's economy.

Protecting Our Progress

Redevelopment Capital Assistance – Increase the cap by \$800 million, which will enable more than \$1.6 billion in development projects to proceed. The construction projects will sustain local economies and create jobs.

Rebuild Pennsylvania Infrastructure Initiative – Invest \$365 million in our public infrastructure – \$350 million to repair more than 400 of the state's worst bridges, plus \$15 million for airports and rail.



Energy Independence Strategy – Invest \$650 million to help Pennsylvania companies and consumers to lower their energy costs, to reduce their dependence on foreign oil and develop renewable energy industries. This includes:

- \$180 million for solar energy projects
- \$165 million to encourage alternative energy projects
- \$25 million for green buildings and \$25 million for pollution control technology projects
- \$40 million to support early stage business activities
- \$25 million for wind and geothermal projects and
- \$40 million for emergency energy assistance.

In addition, another \$150 million will be available over seven years to help consumers and small businesses weatherize their homes and adopt conservation tools and offer tax credits to businesses developing and building alternative energy projects in the commonwealth.

H2O PA – Provides \$800 million over four years combined with an additional \$400 million following voter approval for PENNVEST water and sewer infrastructure improvements. Projects may range in cost from \$500,000 up to \$20 million. Total funding includes a minimum of \$100 million for flood control projects and a minimum of \$35 million for to repair unsafe high hazard dams.

PennSecurity Fuels – Increase the use of biofuels in retail gasoline and diesel fuel. Every gallon of diesel fuel use an increasing percentage of biodiesel as in-state production levels increase and reach defined thresholds. Additionally, gasoline must include at least 10 percent cellulosic ethanol once production reaches 350 million gallons annually. New investments will also be made in Pennsylvania's biofuel producers; up to \$5.3 million will be available annually through June 2011 to encourage the production of ethanol and biodiesel.



Education

PreK-12 Education – Nearly \$9.7 billion in total funding for basic education – a \$306 million, or 3.3 percent, increase.

Basic Education Funding – \$5.23 billion in funding – a 5.5 percent increase – to support PreK-12 education and begin to close the school funding “adequacy gap” identified in the legislature’s November 2007 report on adequate school funding.

Accountability Block Grant – \$271.4 million to fund proven educational programs. Includes \$14 million for quality pre-kindergarten and \$18 million for full-day kindergarten.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts – \$86.4 million for pre-kindergarten – an \$11.4 million increase – to benefit 11,800 children.

Science: It’s Elementary – \$14.5 million – a 7.4 percent increase – to help more than 62,250 students become active science explorers.

Project 720 – \$10.9 million to transform Pennsylvania high schools by increasing the rigor of academic programs. More than 160 high schools are already participating.

Dual Enrollment – \$10 million to help students earn college credit. High school students are taking nearly 23,000 college-credit courses this year as a result of the state’s current investment of \$10 million.

Classrooms for the Future – \$45 million to continue changing the way teachers teach and students learn by putting a laptop on each student’s desk to engage the technology generation in more effective learning.

Higher Education Programs – More than \$2 billion in total, including \$519 million for the State System of Higher Education and \$281 million for community colleges.

Special Education – \$1.03 billion in total funding, a \$16.8 million increase.



Caring for All Pennsylvanians

Prescription for Pennsylvania – \$20.9 million in state and federal funds to implement a series of initiatives to improve the coordination and quality of healthcare.

Cover All Kids – Third-year funding includes \$364.6 million in state and federal funds to provide affordable health care coverage for 186,000 children – an enrollment increase of nearly 11 percent over 2007-08.

Expanding Services for the Disabled – \$395.4 million in state and federal funds – an increase of \$57.9 million or 17 percent – including funds to enable 1,337 more people receiving non-institutional, community-based care to remain in their own homes.

Child Care – \$794.4 million in state and federal funds – an increase of \$52.7 million or more than a 7 percent – including funds to expand services to 2,600 more children.

Long-Term Living – \$4.2 billion in total funds for nursing home and home and community-based services. Includes funding to enable 2,100 additional seniors to remain in their homes as an alternative to nursing home care.

PACE Plus Medicare – \$332.1 million for the state pharmaceutical program that complements Medicare Part D. An additional 24,000 seniors will be served by PACE, for a total of more than 407,000 enrollees.

Community - Based Mental Retardation Services – \$1.8 billion in state and federal funds – an increase of \$87.4 million or 5 percent.

Early Intervention – \$367.1 million in state and federal funds – a \$10.5 million or nearly 3 percent increase – to serve 77,665 developmentally delayed children up to age five.

Autism – \$46.4 million in state and federal funds to provide autism services – a \$23.4 million increase that more than doubles the funding for this program.