

Submitter: Cecily Peterson
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5516

Dear Representatives

My two children go to school in the PPS school district. Ockley Green Middle School and Cesar Chavez Elementary.

While being a part of the PPS School district for 7 years I have witnessed appauling conditions at the schools with having functional buildings and the ability for children to learn from teachers.

In the year 2023 I arrived at Cesar Chavez Elementary to see that there was no roof on the cafeteria, not because of a leak, but the school had to wait till the actual school year to start to have the roof replaced due to funding. It took 2 weeks for the children to beable to eat indoors again.

My children have called me, needing to leave school because the classrooms got too hot and it was making them feel ill. I watch as parents drag in air conditoners from their cars, for their child's class room to make the learning enviroment actually function.

Last years budget cuts drove all of the coucelors that my children had at both schools to leave, due to the inability of the school to be able to pay them a livable wage.

These councelors had been with the schools building up relationships between, students, parents, and teachers for over 6 years. In schools where families have less resources that can be expected of any families to overcome, due to finanical, education and language barriers.

At these two schools parents live under the poverty line and cannot afford to donate enough money to a public school to make any gaps finiancially that the school has to improve the learning enviroment. Its very disturbing to me that this is something that the economic status of a neighborhood indicated what services a school is able to offer on a basic level.

Please do not make any financial cuts to an already unworkable budget. These current conditions our state's children are having to overcome due to lack of funding, is disrespectful to our countries future population.

Regards,

Cecily Peterson

Parent of PPS Students