

SCHOOL FUNDING PRESS CONFERENCE

CITY HALL

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Jerry Jordan, President, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers



On February 7, 2023, Judge Renée Cohn Jubelirer ruled definitively on an issue that those of us who have been in this fight for a while know deeply: the way we fund public education in this Commonwealth is unconstitutional. It is immoral.

And Judge Jubelirer has now, with finality, ordered Executive and Legislative branches of government to address this decades-long system of neglect.

And that is the task before all of us. I am proud to be joined by so many partners, both elected allies, labor leaders, and our wonderful community allies.

When we invest in public education, we invest in children. When we invest public money in private schools, we don't.

Here are a few things vouchers do NOT do:

- Vouchers do not reinvest in a system of public education that for decades has been underfunded
- Vouchers do not provide desperately needed resources for all students across the Commonwealth regardless of their race, their gender identity, their religion, or their disability
- Vouchers do not actually positively impact student outcomes and achievement

And here's just some of what vouchers DO:

- Voucher programs often discriminate against students based on myriad of factors
- Vouchers go, half the time, to students whose families earn more than \$200,000
- Vouchers go, a majority of the time, to students who would already be attending private schools
- Vouchers do, unequivocally, wreak havoc on school districts and decimate public education—the research is clear on this

The work ahead should be clear to us all. It is time to fully fund public education in Pennsylvania—not only because a judge ordered it so—but because our children and educators need and deserve it. This is the future for our children, our grandchildren, and every Pennsylvania resident.

Thank you.