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Every Student Succeeds Act: An Opportunity to Turnaround Underperforming Schools

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NCLB vs. ESSA

OUT WITH THE OLD	WHAT SURVIVED	WHAT IS NEW
Requirements to set "challenging" academic achievement standards	Requirement to adopt "challenging" state academic content standards	Standards must be aligned with credit-bearing courses in college
Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)	Annual testing in reading and math in grades 3-8 and high school	Innovative assessment pilot, funding for assessment audits
Mandate to achieve universal proficiency by a certain date	Grade-span testing in science	New assessment delivery options—adaptive, roll up
Federally defined sanctions including supplemental educational services, charter school conversions and school choice	State participation in NAEP	Mandate for state-developed accountability systems with limited federal guardrails
School Improvement Grants (SIG) program (replaced with a set aside)	95% participation requirement (states determine consequences)	Locally- and school-designed interventions
Race to the Top	Existing Title I formula	Optional set aside for "Direct Student Services"
Highly qualified teachers requirement	"Supplement not supplant" and "maintenance of effort" requirements (with new flexibilities and possibly new requirements depending on regulations)	Weighted student funding pilot
Teacher evaluations based on student achievement (required by waivers)	Interventions for the lowest performing schools	Extended learning in 21st Century Student Support and Academic Enrichment block grants of \$1.6 billion (if fully funded)
		Improvements to Charter Schools Program and funds for replication and expansion

Source: National Alliance for Public Charter Schools—Update on the Implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



Of the bottom 5% of secondary schools based on SPP...

- ➔ **Attendance**
20/34 are also bottom 5% in attendance
- ➔ **Graduation Rate**
20/34 are also bottom 5% in graduation rate
- ➔ **SAT/ACT College Ready Benchmark (percentage of students who scored >1550 SAT or >22 ACT)**
18/34 are also bottom 5% on SAT/ACT college ready benchmark
- ➔ **Advanced Placement Performance (percentage of students who scored a 3 or better on an AP exam)**
18/34 are also bottom 5% in Advanced Placement performance

More \$\$ is not a silver bullet

- ➔ Between 2010 and 2014, 46 schools received more than \$101 million as part of the federally-funded School Improvement Grant program
- ➔ The average grant per school comes out to more than \$2.2 million
- ➔ All chose to implement the Transformation model, the weakest of the intervention initiatives

On average, math proficiency **decreased** by 3.2 percentage points

On average, reading proficiency **decreased** by 2.2 percentage points



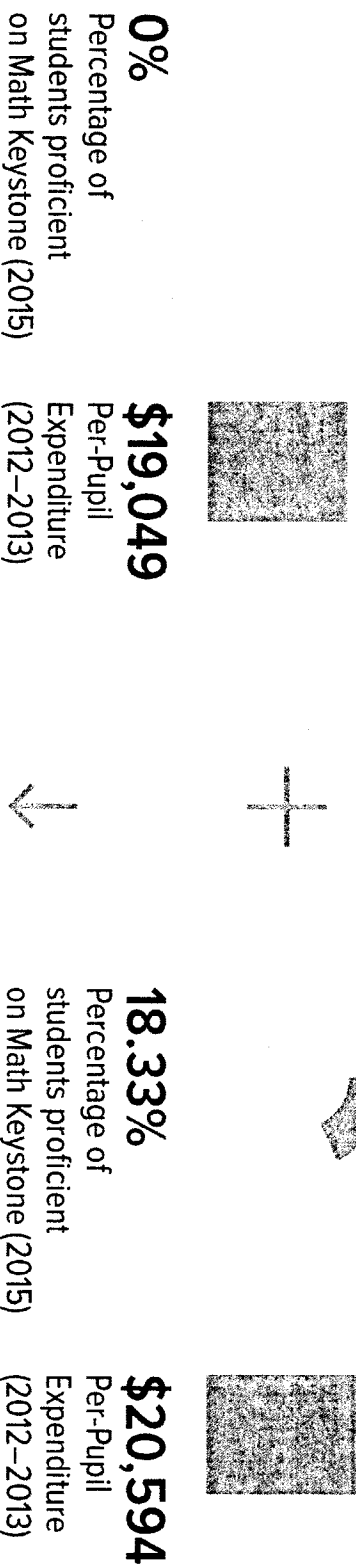
Wilkinsburg/Westinghouse Merger = squandered opportunity

Wilkinsburg

SPP: 40.7

Westinghouse

SPP: 38



PA appropriated \$3 million in state aid to facilitate transition. With ~200 students, that's ~\$15K per-pupil in **additional** state aid... with **no accountability provisions!**

What do intensive interventions look like?

EXIT CRITERIA

At the end of the 2018-2019 school year, the District must implement the educational reforms described herein, and each school building must achieve, or show significant progress towards, the academic goals set forth in the plan, including meeting the specific PSSA, Keystone Exam, and graduation improvement targets. Ultimately, school buildings that fail to meet the performance measurement criteria will be subject to more **intensive interventions**.





Thank you

For additional information on today's testimony please contact Jonathan Cetel at jonathan.cetel@penncan.org

For more information on PennCAN's theory of change for failing schools, go to: <http://penncan.org/research/school-improvement-hub>

Launched in May 2012, PennCAN: The Pennsylvania Campaign for Achievement Now, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education advocacy organization working to ensure that all kids have access to a great schools, regardless of their zip code.