

Background PASS Scholarships

- PASS offers an Education Opportunity Account (EOA) to any student residing in a school ranked in the bottom 15 percent of performance.
- Gov. Josh Shapiro repeatedly endorsed the concept during his campaign but threatened to veto the proposal in this year's budget.
- While many of our local school districts do a phenomenal job, thousands of children are assigned to schools that persistently rank low for student achievement.
- According to latest statewide assessments, 77% of Pennsylvania eighth graders are not proficient in math and 44% are not proficient in language arts, with pandemic learning loss being even more severe for minority students.
- Among the bottom 15%, less than one-in-ten students is proficient in math, and only one quarter are proficient in English.
- In 40 of these schools, there were zero students doing math at grade level.
- PASS provides immediate relief to students in these lowest-performing public schools.
- The scholarships directly fund students—not institutions—so students can choose the education that best fits their needs.
- An overwhelming majority of parents want school choice – 2 out of 3 Pennsylvania parents.
- A 2023 poll revealed widespread support for educational choice, and in particular helping families in low-performing schools.
- Sixty-seven percent of registered voters support giving families EOAs to use for their children's educational expenses.
- The argument that the scholarships only help a small percentage of students flies in the face of logic -- saving one child and or giving PA's most vulnerable a lifeline vs. keep students trapped is worth it.