

"Promoting equal opportunity
for quality education for
all students in Pennsylvania"

PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION



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OF RURAL AND SMALL SCHOOLS

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

As you know, Pennsylvania's aging infrastructure hurts our state's competitiveness, risks public safety, and impacts our citizens' quality of life. The time is right for Pennsylvania to position itself as a leader in the twenty-first century by investing in critical infrastructure needs that, for too long, have been neglected.

We write today in support of Restore Pennsylvania, a \$4.5 billion infrastructure investment plan to help catapult Pennsylvania ahead of every state in the country in terms of technology, development, and infrastructure.

The Pennsylvania Association for Rural and Small Schools is enthusiastic that Governor Wolf recognizes the need to fund and expand broadband access throughout the commonwealth. The current lack of reliable high-speed internet negatively impacts students, parents, teachers, and administrators' everyday lives.

Students miss out on new learning opportunities in the classroom and at home, and some must rely on daily commutes to available internet sources to complete homework assignments. Parents lack the necessary access to important school information for their children. School districts have difficulties performing everyday business and attracting and retaining teachers due to the slow internet speeds or nonexistent connections.

Education in the twenty-first century must provide students with the skills they need to succeed in tomorrow's workforce, and access to reliable high-speed internet is a crucial component of this. Please support Governor Wolf's Restore Pennsylvania plan, so that we may empower students, teachers, parents, and school districts to keep pace with the ever-evolving technological landscape and provide the world-class education that our young people deserve.

Sincerely,

Edward Albert, Ed.D

Executive Director of PARSS

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