

LAWSUIT TRIAL DATE DAYS AWAY

The crusade for equitable education funding continues in Commonwealth Court on Friday, November 12, 2021 with representatives from your Pennsylvania Association of Rural and Small Schools appearing on the long list of witnesses.

To review, this trial has been a long time coming. In 2014, PARSS joined the NAACP-PA, parents, and six school districts—including PARSS member Shenandoah Valley—to file the case against state legislative leaders, the PA Department of Education, and the Governor. The crux of this case is to fundamentally change how the commonwealth funds public schools so that the students who need the most will no longer get the least because of where they live – especially in rural and small school districts.

The trial begins Friday, November 12, 2021

The plaintiff (PARSS) expects to call approximately 50 witnesses. These witnesses will include the following:

- Administrators and students
- Representative(s) from PARSS
- Representative(s) from NAACP
- Experts on school funding from Penn State University
- World-wide experts on Education Funding and Pre-School Education
- Pedro Noguera (Dean of the College of Education of USC)
- Pennsylvania Department of Education (and Former PDE Representatives) such as Pedro Rivera, and Matt Stem.

The case will be made that there is a lack of resources for school districts which causes significant problems like lack of quality teachers, inability to offer educational programs, etc.

A special emphasis will be made that Pennsylvania is nearing 50% of children that come to our schools who are living in poverty.

In general:

The Courtroom is limited in terms of actual physical attendance. It will be possible to livestream the case. A link will be communicated, and additional information will be available at www.fundourschoolspa.org.

Opening statements Nov. 12th will be particularly worth listening to—petitioners will preview what they will prove during trial and the evidence the court will hear. The trial is expected to last well into January 2022.