**Talking points**

For Under-resourced Districts

Parents

* Our children have the right to a high-quality public education.
* This isn’t just an opinion.
* The PA constitution guarantees our children and every public student in the state a thorough and efficient education.
* In our district, this isn’t true.
* Our children are struggling to get what they need because of it.
* They aren’t alone.
* PA fails far too many children across this state including ours because their schools are underfunded and under-resourced.
* In fact, most of PA’s students attend schools that do not receive adequate funding from the state.
* We rank 45th in the country when it comes to PA’s state share contribution to education funding.
* Our leaders in Harrisburg are shortchanging our students especially those of color and poor students.
* It shouldn’t have taken a lawsuit for Harrisburg to understand these inequities or do something about it.
* And it shouldn’t take a judge to order them to fund our schools to make sure our students have what they need.
* They can choose to fix this problem now by adequately and equitably funding our schools.
* We must put pressure on them to adopt a state budget that gets our students the funds they need - so they can have the tools, services and resources to help them thrive and graduate with the skills employers want.
* These are our children. They are our future.  Now is the time to do better.
* Fund our schools!

Community Activist

* While our leaders are severely shortchanging students in poor school districts across the state, they are especially harming our Black,  Hispanic and poor students.
* They have done so in the past and they continue to do it today.
* How do we know?
* Across the state, the 100 school districts farthest away from adequate funding educate:

o   65% of Pennsylvania’s Black students

o   58% of Pennsylvania’s Latinx students

o   58% of Pennsylvania’s students in poverty

o   64% of Pennsylvania’s English learners

* Our leaders in Harrisburg have created a school funding system where the students who need the most get the least, because of where they live.
* Yet they think our students will graduate with the skills they need to go to college or their careers.
* It’s wrong and It’s unconstitutional.
* Harrisburg has had decades to fix this problem, but has not
* This lawsuit can do what Harrisburg hasn’t done
* This court can order the state legislature to do what the constitution says it should do – thoroughly and efficiently, equitably and adequately fund our schools.

Talking Points for Organizations

* In 2014, six school districts, organizations and parents joined the fight for our students’ future.
* PA has failed to provide the resources our children need to be as successful.
* Each year, our district has struggled to meet the challenges that many of our students face.
* We simply do not have adequate or equitable funding to provide our students with the resources as wealthy districts.
* We all know that resources matter.
* In this district,
  + Ex: we must choose whether to fix the leaky roof or hire a school counselor;
  + Ex: we can hire librarians that we desperately need or the books we need to stock the library.
* Expert witnesses in the trial have testified what we already know: money matters.
* Without resources, students struggle.
* When poor kids, children of color or English language learners have adequate resources like reading and math specialists, more kids make the grade, graduation rates go up and have a clearer path to success.
* The federal funds are temporary, and because of them, we have been able to do more than we ever have before.
* Imagine what our children could do if our schools consistently had the funding we needed.
* Our kids deserve better.
* Fund our schools!

Students

* Thank you all for being here today
* You are a part of history
* You are here because you’ve decided it's not ok for Harrisburg to keep funding our schools unfairly and inequitably
* From an early age, children, like me, are taught to learn the difference between right and wrong
* This is wrong
* I should not get less of an education because I don’t live in a wealthy school district
* I should not be told to make due with what I have and be satisfied
* It should not be that adults in Harrisburg are deciding that I am not worth investing in because I’m not on “the track” to success
* They don’t know my track or what I’m capable of
* I am talented
* I can achieve my goals
* I am persistent, motivated and determined
* But all of the persistence, motivation and determination in the world will not get me or my classmates the tools, services and resources I need to be prepared for college or my career
* Adequate and Equitable funding will
* Making sure I graduate with competitive skills will. Ensuring that that I have access to challenging courses before I leave will
* Harrisburg, I’m your opportunity to get it right
* You don’t have to wait for the Court to fix PA’s broken school funding system.
* You can do it now.
* My future depends on you getting this right

Well-resourced Districts

Parents

* Our children have the right to a high-quality public education.
* This isn’t just an opinion.
* The PA constitution guarantees our children and every public student in the state a thorough and efficient education.
* In our district, this is true.
* Our children aren’t struggling to get what they need.
* But, PA fails far too many children across this state including ours because their schools are underfunded and under-resourced.
* In fact, most of PA’s students attend schools that do not receive adequate funding from the state.
* We rank 45th in the country when it comes to PA’s state share contribution to education funding.
* Our leaders in Harrisburg are shortchanging too many of our students especially those of color and poor students
* It shouldn’t have taken a lawsuit for Harrisburg to understand these inequities or do something about it
* And it shouldn’t take a judge to order them to fund our schools to make sure our students have what they need
* They can choose to fix this problem now by adequately and equitably funding our schools
* We must put pressure on them to adopt a state budget that gets all of PA’s students the funds they need - so they can have the tools, services and resources to help them thrive and graduate with the skills employers want
* These are our children. They are Pennsylvania’s future.  Now is the time to do better.
* Fund our schools

Community Activist

* While our leaders are severely shortchanging students in poor school districts across the state, they are especially harming our Black,  Hispanic and poor students.
* They have done so in the past and they continue to do it today.
* How do we know?
* Across the state, the 100 school districts farthest away from adequate funding educate:

o   65% of Pennsylvania’s Black students

o   58% of Pennsylvania’s Latinx students

o   58% of Pennsylvania’s students in poverty

o   64% of Pennsylvania’s English learners

* Our leaders in Harrisburg have created a school funding system where the students who need the most get the least, because of where they live.
* Yet they think students who live in districts without adequate and equitable resources will graduate with the skills they need to go to college or their careers.
* It’s wrong and It’s unconstitutional
* Harrisburg has had decades to fix this problem, but has not
* This lawsuit can do what Harrisburg hasn’t done
* This court can order the state legislature to do what the constitution says it should do – thoroughly and efficiently, equitably and adequately fund our schools.

Talking Points for Organizations:

* In 2014, six school districts, organizations and parents, joined in the fight for PA’s students’ future.
* The state failed to provide the resources our children need to be as successful.
* Each year, districts like these six, struggle to meet the challenges that many of our students face.
* They simply do not have adequate or equitable funding to provide their students with the resources well-funded districts like ours can.
* We all know that resources matter. Don’t you see it here?
* In this district, we don’t have to choose whether to fix the leaky roof or hire a school counselor;
* And we can afford to hire librarians and order the books we need to stock our library.
* These are resources and tools every child deserves
* During the trial, expert witnesses testified about something we already know: money matters.
* Quality costs money
* Without money for needed resources, students struggle.
* When poor kids, children of color or English language learners have adequate resources like reading and math specialists, more kids make the grade, graduation rates go up and have a clearer path to success.
* If that’s what we say we want for our children, we must act like it

Students

* Thank you all for being here today
* You are a part of history
* You are here because you’ve decided it's not ok for Harrisburg to keep funding our schools unfairly and inequitably
* From an early age, children, like me, are taught to learn the difference between right and wrong
* This is wrong
* Students should not get less of an education because they don’t live in a wealthy school district
* No student should be told to make due with what they have and be satisfied if they know its not enough
* Adults in Harrisburg should not be able to decide that one group of students is worth investing in, while others are steered toward a lesser track
* They don’t know what students are capable of
* We are all talented
* We can achieve our goals
* We are persistent, motivated and determined
* But all of the persistence, motivation and determination in the world will not get our colleagues in poorer districts the tools, services and resources they need to be prepared for college or their careers
* Adequate and Equitable funding will
* Making sure they graduate with competitive skills will. Ensuring that that they have access to challenging courses before they leave will
* Harrisburg, here’s your opportunity to get it right
* You don’t have to wait for the Court to fix PA’s broken school funding system.
* You can do it now.
* The future of Pennsylvania’s children depends on you getting this right