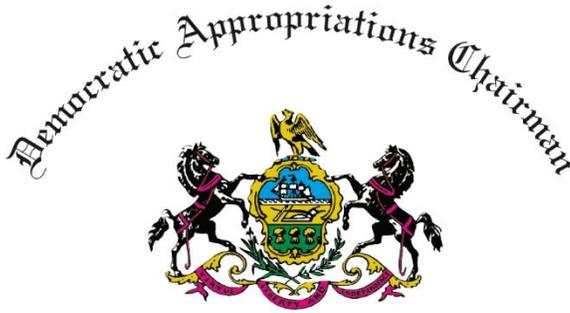


7TH DISTRICT  
**VINCENT HUGHES**

SENATE BOX 203007  
THE STATE CAPITOL  
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3007  
717-787-7112  
FAX: 717-772-0579

2401 NORTH 54TH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131  
215-879-7777  
FAX: 215-879-7778

EMAIL: [hughes@pasenate.com](mailto:hughes@pasenate.com)  
TWITTER: @SenHughesOffice  
FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/Vincent.Hughes.7](https://www.facebook.com/Vincent.Hughes.7)  
WEB: [www.senatorhughes.com](http://www.senatorhughes.com)



**STANDING COMMITTEES**

APPROPRIATIONS, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN  
FINANCE  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS  
POLICY  
RULES & EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

**APPOINTMENTS**

CHEYNEY UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES  
PA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY  
PA HIGHER EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AGENCY BOARD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
PA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS  
PA MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS BOARD

## Senate of Pennsylvania

December 20, 2019

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Governor Wolf:

Our public schools are in dire, immediate need.

Approximately 3,600 students have been displaced from their Philadelphia public schools in the first four months of the school year. Six schools across five buildings -- Laura H. Carnell Elementary, Alexander K. McClure Elementary, T.M. Peirce Elementary, Franklin Learning Center and Ben Franklin School/Science Leadership Academy -- have been shut down because of dangerous and unsafe exposure to asbestos, a deadly carcinogen. To put that in perspective, there are 367 entire school districts in the Commonwealth with fewer students than the number of students currently in danger at those schools. Certainly, if an entire school district had to close because of a deadly health hazard the state would intervene.

And yet, we know this problem is not unique to Philadelphia. Johnstown, Allentown, Clairton, Scranton and Harrisburg are a few of the school districts that face serious concerns with the conditions of their buildings.

You and I have seen first-hand some of these conditions.

I commend you for directing money to school districts throughout the Commonwealth to make up for years of reduced funding. Unfortunately, the crisis before us cannot wait for the next budget to be enacted.

I am asking that you immediately redirect funding to school buildings throughout the Commonwealth that are in dire need of funding to help cure their aging, crumbling, unhealthy and unsafe buildings. The Commonwealth has the resources to immediately address this. Just to suggest a few, as of November, revenues were more than \$166 million ahead of estimates, and

Treasurer Joe Torsella also recently secured Pennsylvania a share of the settlement from 13 large financial firms for conspiring to overcharge and underpay investors on debt bonds.

We must act to protect our children and those individuals who dedicate their life to educating our future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent J. Hughes", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Vincent J. Hughes, Chairman  
Senate Democratic Appropriations Committee  
PA 7<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District