

## Costs of PSERS pension increases to school districts

Using the latest payroll data from the Public State Employees' Retirement System and PSERS' projections of future contribution rates, the conservative-leaning Commonwealth Foundation has come up with estimated cost impacts of the pension crisis by school district. State government pays the entire employer contribution for the State Employees' Retirement System, or SERS.

It pays about 54 percent of the cost of PSERS contributions for public school employees, with school districts or charter schools paying the remainder.

Projected contributions for PSERS and SERS will increase from \$1.7 billion in 2011-12 to more than \$6.2 billion in 2016-17, according to the CF. These projections assume 7.5 percent annual rate of return on investments.

State government contributions to PSERS and SERS goes from about

\$1.1 billion in the 2011-12 fiscal year to \$4.2 billion in 2016-17 (see "State contributions," page 11).

For school districts, total contributions to PSERS rises from about \$561.5 million in 2011-12 to \$1.93 billion in 2016-17.

That equates to \$134 more in school property taxes per commercial property and \$299 more per homeowner by 2016-17, according to the CF.

The CF compiled impact data on a per-property basis. Unless spending is reduced elsewhere, the report indicates significant state and local property tax increases will be needed to cover the added pension costs.

Increases in school district contributions vary by school district based on payroll and the number of school taxpayers.

	School district	Property owners	2010-11 payroll	2011-12 contribution	2016-17 contribution	Total increase*	Local share	Increase per commercial	Increase per home
CUMBERLAND COUNTY	Big Spring	5,960	\$18.7M	\$1.7M	\$5.8M	\$4.1M	\$1.9M	\$99	\$221
	Camp Hill	2,236	\$7.8M	\$692K	\$2.4M	\$1.7M	\$795K	\$110	\$245
	Carlisle Area	8,475	\$30.5M	\$2.7M	\$9.5M	\$6.8M	\$3.1M	\$114	\$253
	Cumberland Valley	16,034	\$45.9M	\$4.1M	\$14.3M	\$10.2M	\$4.7M	\$91	\$202
	East Pennsboro Area	5,403	\$16M	\$1.4M	\$5M	\$3.6M	\$1.6M	\$94	\$209
	Mechanicsburg Area	7,346	\$24.6M	\$2.2M	\$7.6M	\$5.5M	\$2.5M	\$106	\$236
	Shippensburg Area	6,067	\$19.3M	\$1.7M	\$6M	\$4.3M	\$2M	\$101	\$224
	South Middleton	4,566	\$14.3M	\$1.3M	\$4.4	\$3.2M	\$1.5M	\$99	\$220
DAUPHIN COUNTY	Central Dauphin	24,162	\$70.2M	\$6.2M	\$21.8M	\$15.6M	\$7.2M	\$92	\$205
	Derry Township	5,435	\$23.5M	\$2.1M	\$7.3M	\$5.2M	\$2.4M	\$137	\$305
	Halifax Area	2,257	\$8.2M	\$734K	\$2.6M	\$1.8M	\$843K	\$116	\$258
	Harrisburg City	6,689	\$56.8M	\$5.1M	\$17.7M	\$12.6M	\$5.8M	\$269	\$599
	Lower Dauphin	6,825	\$24.9M	\$2.2M	\$7.7M	\$5.5M	\$2.5M	\$115	\$257
	Middletown Area	4,538	\$16.5M	\$1.5M	\$5.1M	\$3.7M	\$1.7M	\$115	\$257
	Millersburg Area	1,687	\$5.9M	\$523K	\$1.8M	\$1.3M	\$601K	\$111	\$246
	Steelton-Highspire	1,669	\$9M	\$800K	\$2.8M	\$2M	\$919K	\$171	\$380
	Susquehanna Township	6,837	\$18.5M	\$1.6M	\$5.8M	\$4.1M	\$1.9M	\$86	\$191
	Upper Dauphin Area	2,570	\$7.7M	\$683K	\$2.4M	\$1.7M	\$784K	\$95	\$211
LANCASTER COUNTY	Cocalico	6,193	\$20.8M	\$1.9M	\$6.5M	\$4.6M	\$2.1M	\$107	\$237
	Columbia Borough	2,220	\$9.2M	\$817K	\$2.9M	\$2M	\$938K	\$131	\$292
	Conestoga Valley	7,343	\$25.2M	\$2.2M	\$7.8M	\$5.6M	\$2.6M	\$109	\$242
	Donegal	5,160	\$16.5M	\$1.5M	\$5.1M	\$3.7M	\$1.7M	\$102	\$226
	Eastern Lancaster County	6,906	\$19.5M	\$1.7M	\$6.1M	\$4.3M	\$2M	\$90	\$199
	Elizabethtown Area	7,059	\$22.3M	\$2M	\$6.9M	\$5M	\$2.3M	\$100	\$223
	Ephrata Area	7,988	\$23.7M	\$2.1M	\$7.4M	\$5.3M	\$2.4M	\$94	\$209
	Hempfield	13,096	\$48.8M	\$4.3M	\$15.2M	\$10.9M	\$5M	\$118	\$263
	Lampeter-Strasburg	5,757	\$21.1M	\$1.9M	\$6.6M	\$4.7M	\$2.2M	\$116	\$258
	Lancaster	11,827	\$78.8M	\$7M	\$24.5M	\$17.5M	\$8.1M	\$211	\$470
	Manheim Central	6,718	\$18.9M	\$1.7M	\$5.9M	\$4.2M	\$1.9M	\$89	\$198
	Manheim Township	10,198	\$36M	\$3.2M	\$11.2M	\$8M	\$3.7M	\$112	\$248
	Penn Manor	10,956	\$30M	\$2.7M	\$9.3M	\$6.7M	\$3.1M	\$87	\$193
	Pequea Valley	4,053	\$11.9M	\$1.1M	\$3.7M	\$2.6M	\$1.2M	\$93	\$207
	Solanco	7,287	\$21.6M	\$1.9M	\$6.7M	\$4.8M	\$2.2M	\$94	\$210
Warwick	8,076	\$27.9M	\$2.5M	\$8.7M	\$6.2M	\$2.9M	\$110	\$244	
LEBANON COUNTY	Annvile-Cleona	3,105	\$9.2M	\$816K	\$2.9M	\$2M	\$938K	\$94	\$208
	Cornwall-Lebanon	10,402	\$29.8M	\$2.7M	\$9.3M	\$6.6M	\$3M	\$91	\$202
	Eastern Lebanon County	5,738	\$14.5M	\$1.3M	\$4.5M	\$3.2M	\$1.5M	\$80	\$178
	Lebanon	4,395	\$26.6M	\$2.4M	\$8.3M	\$5.9M	\$2.7M	\$192	\$427
	Northern Lebanon	4,942	\$14.9M	\$1.3M	\$4.6M	\$3.3M	\$1.5M	\$95	\$212
	Palmyra Area	6,559	\$17.5M	\$1.6M	\$5.4M	\$3.9M	\$1.8M	\$84	\$188
	Central York	9,897	\$33.8M	\$3M	\$10.5M	\$7.5M	\$3.5M	\$108	\$241
	Dallastown Area	10,947	\$46.7M	\$4.2M	\$14.5M	\$10.4M	\$4.8M	\$135	\$301
	Dover Area	7,606	\$21.3M	\$1.9M	\$6.6M	\$4.7M	\$2.2M	\$89	\$198
	Eastern York	5,606	\$18.3M	\$1.6M	\$5.7M	\$4.1M	\$1.9M	\$104	\$231
YORK COUNTY	Hanover Public	3,470	\$12M	\$1.1M	\$3.7M	\$2.7M	\$1.2M	\$110	\$244
	Northeastern York	6,408	\$26.1M	\$2.3M	\$8.1M	\$5.8M	\$2.7M	\$129	\$287
	Northern York County	6,134	\$17.2M	\$1.5M	\$5.4M	\$3.8M	\$1.8M	\$89	\$198
	Red Lion Area	10,549	\$33.3M	\$3M	\$10.4M	\$7.4M	\$3.4M	\$100	\$223
	South Eastern	5,582	\$21.1M	\$1.9M	\$6.6M	\$4.7M	\$2.2M	\$120	\$267
	South Western	7,418	\$26M	\$2.3M	\$8.1M	\$5.8M	\$2.7M	\$111	\$248
	Southern York County	6,150	\$23.3M	\$2.1M	\$7.3M	\$5.2M	\$2.4M	\$120	\$267
	Spring Grove Area	8,242	\$23.5M	\$2.1M	\$7.3M	\$5.2M	\$2.4M	\$90	\$201
	West Shore Area	16,122	\$52M	\$4.6M	\$16.2M	\$11.6M	\$5.3M	\$102	\$228
	West York	6,452	\$19.7M	\$1.8M	\$6.1M	\$4.4M	\$2M	\$97	\$216
York City	5,926	\$46.7M	\$4.2M	\$14.5M	\$10.4M	\$4.8M	\$250	\$556	
York Suburban	5,833	\$23.6M	\$2.1M	\$7.4M	\$5.3M	\$2.4M	\$128	\$286	

\*Numbers might not match due to rounding.

SOURCE: COMMONWEALTH FOUNDATION, BY LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT, ALPHABETICALLY BY COUNTY (CUMBERLAND, DAUPHIN, LANCASTER, LEBANON, YORK)