

Submitted to:
House Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
Senate Veterans' Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee
11 March 2009

Scotland School for Veterans' Children is a state-owned and operated residential school for children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters of veterans. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania budget proposal announced by Governor Edward G. Rendell on February 4, 2009 includes no funding to continue operations of Scotland School after June 30, 2009.

History:

- In 1895, over a dozen of the remaining Civil War-era state schools and homes for war orphans were consolidated at what was known as the Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphans Industrial School and is now called Scotland School for Veterans' Children.
- From an institution whose students were war orphans, Scotland School has evolved into a residential school providing general elementary and secondary education to eligible children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters of veterans..
- Operational responsibility for the School was transferred from the Department of Education to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in 1996.
- Several other states had similar schools/homes for war orphans and veterans' children. Most closed after World War II. The schools differed in missions and admissions criteria. Ohio's school closed in 1997, and Indiana's school is scheduled to close in May 2009.

Spending:

- Scotland School's state budget for the current fiscal year is \$13.5 million. This includes \$10.5 million in General Fund appropriations, \$2.4 million in payments from local school districts and about \$0.5 million in federal funds.
 - Scotland School spends more than \$45,000 per student per year to support nine months of schooling and residential services.¹
 - Approximately 60% (\$28,000 per year) is for expenses similar to those reported by public school districts and 40% of this spending is for room and board and related residential expenses.
- Scotland School spends 69.2% of its budget for personnel costs, 29.3% for operating costs (utilities, services, etc.) and 1.5% for fixed assets.
- In addition to the state spending on Scotland School, the Foundation for Scotland School for Veterans' Children (a IRS-recognized § 501(c)(3) charitable organization) and Pennsylvania veterans' organizations have made significant contributions to the School and its students.

¹ This number is calculated based on enrollment on February 4, 2009. The calculation, based on an average daily enrollment of 285.2, shows per student spending of nearly **\$47,800**. This figure is based on operating expenditures only and does not include any amortization of the costs of the capital projects at the School.

Faculty and Staff:

- Scotland School employs a full-time permanent complement of 138 Commonwealth employees, which includes both faculty and staff at the School.
- Scotland School also employs 48 state wage employees in a variety of positions including substitute teachers and wage house parents.

Location and Facilities:

- Scotland School is located in Scotland (Franklin County), Pennsylvania.
- The campus includes about 70 buildings spread over 183 acres.
 - The assessed value (for tax purposes) of the Scotland School property is approximately \$5 million.

○ **Students Demographics:**

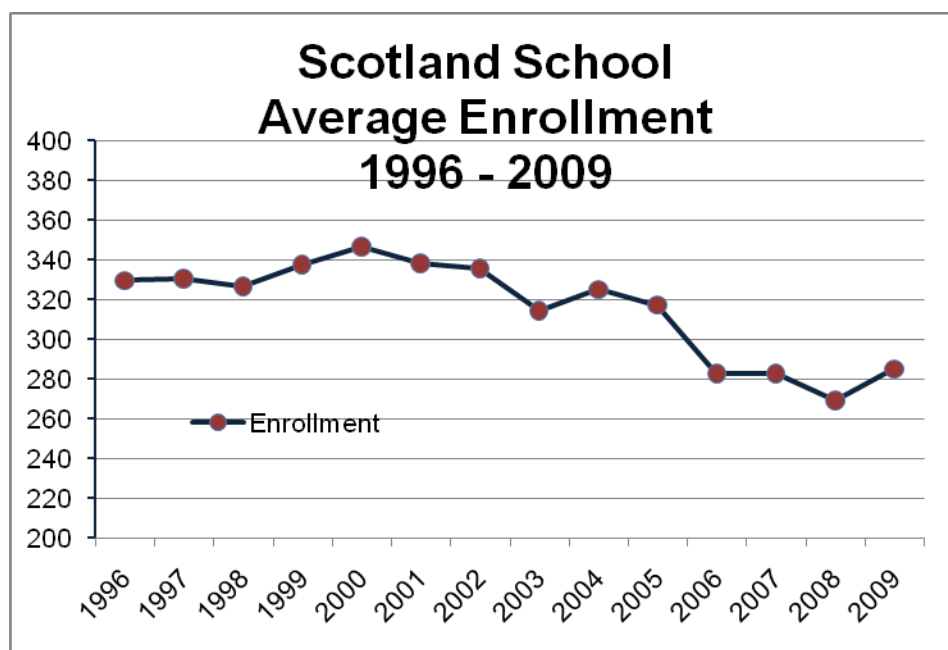
- As of February 4, 2009, Scotland School had 288 students enrolled in grades 3 through 12.²
 - The student-to-teacher ratio at the School is 8:1.
 - The average class size is 17.
 - There are 32 students in the Class of 2009.
 - The average student daily enrollment for the 2008-09 school year (through February 4) was **285.2** students.
 - Seven (7) students at Scotland School have special educational needs as documented by individualized education plans (IEPs).
- The breakdown of students by grade (February 4) is as follows:

○ Grade 3 - 13	Grade 6 - 24	Grade 9 - 40
○ Grade 4 - 16	Grade 7 - 29	Grade 10 - 42
○ Grade 5 - 19	Grade 8 - 39	Grade 11 - 34
		Grade 12 - 32
- Although students come from 33 different school districts, about 70% of the students come from the School District of Philadelphia and another 10% come from the Philadelphia area.
- The student population at Scotland School is about 62% male and 38% female. About 93% of the students are African-American and 6% are white and 1% Hispanic.
- Based on household income information collected from 125 families at initial admission over a five year period, the average income of families of Scotland School students is nearly \$45,000 per year.
- As of March 5, 2009, there are **233** families with students at Scotland School. One family has four students at Scotland School. Four families had 3 students each at the School and 34 families had 2 students at the School.
- Scotland School has identified 22 students whose veteran sponsor is currently in military service (Active Forces, National Guard, Reserves). Of these, the School identified 4 students at least one of whose parents is currently deployed overseas.
- Students at Scotland School come from 21 different counties. Of these, more than 70% come from Philadelphia County and another 11% come from Delaware County. Eleven counties have one student at the School, and 46 counties have none.

² As of March 5, 2009, the enrollment was 271 students.

Enrollment:

- Scotland School has had an average enrollment of about 315 students during the period 1996 to 2009.



School Year

- Scotland School is in operation for students for about 9 months of the year (late August to early June). It operates on an annual school schedule with a school day similar to other schools. The students live at home during summer vacation and other vacation periods.
- Scotland School does not offer a summer school. Some Scotland School students attend summer school in their home school districts.

Junior ROTC

- Scotland School is not a military school or a military academy. Although all Scotland School Students in grades 9 – 12 participate in the Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program, the School remains a civilian elementary and secondary school.

Admissions

- Admissions to Scotland School are selective based on a review of the prospective students' entire records.
 - Scotland School admits fewer than 50% of applicants. Among reasons why applicants are not offered admission:
 - Failing to meet eligibility criteria
 - Academic performance issues
 - Conduct/behavior issues
 - The need to maintain an appropriate allocation of students across various grades to prevent an imbalance in the grade mix.

- Scotland School is not a school for students who are adjudicated or otherwise in trouble with the criminal justice system. No one is forced to attend Scotland School.

PSSA Results

- For 2008, Scotland School was placed in a “Warning” status for failing to make adequate yearly progress in student performance. Scotland School made adequate yearly progress in 2007 and 2006.
- Scotland School’s performance on the latest Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) issued by the Department of Education showed the following results:

Grade	Math % Advanced	Math % Proficient		Reading % Advanced	Reading % Proficient
3	0.0	60.0		20.0	60.0
4	7.1	35.7		7.1	28.6
5	0.0	11.8		0.0	11.8
6	20.0	30.0		20.0	40.0
7	18.5	18.5		11.1	51.9
8	20.7	37.9		31.0	44.8
11	5.9	14.7		2.9	45.7
Total	11.9%	26.5%		13.2%	41.4%
	38.4%			54.6%	