



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ZACHARY REBER
SECRETARY
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF THE BUDGET

April 14, 2026

Honorable Dr. Carrie Rowe
Secretary of Education
Forum Building
607 South Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Secretary Rowe:

This certification for the 2026-27 fiscal year marks the nineteenth year of sustained or increased statewide property tax relief for Pennsylvania homeowners. This year, \$1.367 billion will be available for property tax relief, including funding for the enhanced Property Tax and Rent Rebate program. This benefits all homeowners and many senior citizens and individuals with disabilities in the Commonwealth who have come to rely on this relief from year to year. Section 503(a)(1)(iii) of the Taxpayer Relief Act ([2006 Special Session #1 Act 1](#)) requires that the Secretary of Budget “shall only certify an amount that is sustainable in subsequent years.” This certification is based on a thorough analysis of the most recent economic information and forecasts to ensure that this level of property tax relief is sustainable in subsequent years, as required by law. The analysis also considers that starting with the 2025-26 budget the recently expanded Property Tax/Rent Rebate program is fully funded with Property Tax Relief Fund proceeds, as well as a proposal in the 2026-27 Executive Budget for a \$30 million per year competitive grant program for fire companies paid with Property Tax Relief Fund dollars.

In the six months prior to this certification \$671.9 million was deposited into the Property Tax Relief Fund. This amount was reduced due to transfers from the State Gaming Fund to the General Fund (\$100 million) and Tourism Promotion Fund (\$50 million) per [Act 45 of 2025](#) (Sections 1934-A(d) and (e) of the Fiscal Code). Based on estimates provided by the Department of Revenue, it is reasonably projected that \$803.8 million will be deposited into the fund in the six months following this certification.

The Property Tax Relief Fund will transfer \$316.5 million to the Lottery Fund to fund all Property Tax and Rent Rebate claims. This includes \$27.4 million to reimburse costs related to supplemental property tax rebates and \$168.7 million for enhancements to the Property Tax and Rent Rebate program. An additional \$120.4 million will be transferred to replace the cost of the base rebates, as enacted in Act 45 of 2025 (Section 1752-A.2 of the Fiscal Code).

In addition, \$33.1 million will be used to reimburse eligible school districts pursuant to Section 324 of the Taxpayer Relief Act. These are known as Sterling Act reimbursements. I also certify that \$1.025 billion will be available for statewide property tax relief, which is consistent with the amount from the previous year.

The Department of Education is hereby authorized to provide school districts with property tax reduction allocations under Section 505 of the Taxpayer Relief Act of 2006. The department is authorized to provide school districts with \$1.025 billion for statewide property tax relief as required by Section 505 of the act and an additional \$33.1 million to reimburse eligible school districts pursuant to Section 324 of the act, commonly referred to as Sterling Act reimbursements. The Department of Education will notify each Pennsylvania school district of its property tax reduction allocation no later than May 1, as the act requires.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zachary Reber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zachary" and last name "Reber" clearly distinguishable.

Zachary Reber
Secretary of the Budget