

January 16, 2014

An Open Letter to Governor Corbett:

We, as the staff of Central High School, are writing to express discomfort with your visit. We are proud of and celebrate our students' achievements, yet we recognize that they have accomplished this *in spite of*, rather than because of, your budget cuts and educational policies.

Central students have the good fortune of success fueled by the dedication of their families, teachers, administration and alumni supporters. However, despite these resources, we—and all the under-funded Pennsylvania public schools—are being actively handicapped by the negligence and belligerence of your administration's educational policies. We strongly believe that the ability of our students to achieve will not continue, given the current funding structure.

We believe that you must provide the following—not only for Central but also for every school in the School District of Philadelphia, and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

- A fair funding formula for all schools and districts in Pennsylvania
- The state-run SRC to be held accountable to the people of Philadelphia, for their years of financial mismanagement
- Support for a teachers' contract that draws the best talent to Philadelphia
- Necessary staff such as librarians, NTAs (non-teaching assistants), nurses, secretaries, and counselors to support the students who have the least resources and the greatest needs in the state

As we observe the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., we recognize that education provides a way for students, especially those most disadvantaged, to fulfill the dream of equality. We call for an end to policies that marginalize our neediest students, and hope that the current funding structure will be seen for what it is: unjust and destructive. We hope that these policies, like the injustices of the past, will be relegated to the dustbin of history.

Staff of Central High School