

Talking Points: Taxing Students is Illegal and Unfair

- Many students also work in the City of Pittsburgh and pay City Wage taxes and the Local Services Tax.
- Most students and/or their parents pay real estate taxes either directly as homeowners or through their rental payments.
- Students also pay the Regional Asset District Tax, Amusement Tax and Parking Tax.
- As presented, the tax will charge a student between \$27 and \$400 per year for the privilege of studying at his or her school. These students attend school approximately eight months per year. Compare this to the \$52 Local Services Tax per year that individuals living outside the City of Pittsburgh and working in the City pay, even though they may be earning anywhere from \$4,000 to \$4 million over twelve months of employment.
- Both of the City's financial oversight bodies confirm that the City has not done enough to reduce expenditures and consolidate services and functions with the County of Allegheny to lessen its costs.
- The Mayor's tuition tax proposal is contrary to well established law in Pennsylvania and the United States. **This proposed tax is illegal and unenforceable.** It is an unfair and counterproductive effort to force students to pay for decades of neglect and mismanagement of the City's finances and pension fund.
- Education plays a major role in the vibrancy and marketability of this Region. As anchors in our neighborhoods, we act as economic generators to promote places where people want to live, work, play and invest, thus bringing more revenues to the City. The Mayor's proposal weakens the City's credibility as a progressive city and will hinder both community and economic development.
- Pittsburgh's universities are part of the largest employment sector in the Region and the only employment sector to add jobs every year since 1995. Additional taxes on students will discourage attendance at Pittsburgh universities and reverse the job growth they provide.
- Pittsburgh has an emerging reputation as a dynamic, innovative college town. Taxing students will ruin that positive reputation.