

The Public School Forum's Friday Report

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And That's the \$1.5 Billion Question

Will the General Assembly leadership respond to the Governor's call for increasing new revenue by double the amount proposed by the House of Representatives and rollback of some of the proposed education cuts, or won't they? That is the \$1.5 billion question mark swirling around Raleigh as Senate and House conferees begin final deliberations on the 2009-10 budget.

Governor Perdue met with legislative leaders this week and urged them to go farther in identifying additional revenue sources just before kicking off a statewide series of rallies at which she is taking her message to the public (see scheduled rally sites below). Speaking to a standing-room only group of primarily educators at the old state capitol in Raleigh on Wednesday, the Governor decried the deep proposed cuts to education and reiterated her call for finding a more balanced approach that combines new taxes with program cutbacks.

The proposed House budget contains specific revenue proposals that would bring in roughly \$780 million dollars. The Senate budget contained a provision for \$500 million of additional tax revenue but did not include specifics on how that amount would be raised. However, press reports today indicate that the Senate has unveiled proposals that would raise over \$900 million in the coming year and as much as \$1.3 billion in the 2010-11 fiscal year.

House and Senate revenue proposals differ dramatically. The Senate plan apparently relies primarily on extending the sales tax to a variety of services that are not now taxed and would lower income tax rates. The House plan would rely on a combination of higher sales and income taxes.

For budget conferees, the clock is ticking as the state nears the June 30th end of its 2008-09 fiscal year. If the budget debate drags on beyond the July 1 start of the new fiscal year, proposed cuts may have to go deeper in order for the state to realize projected savings. For schools, it means more weeks of uncertainty for teachers and other employees who have been notified that their jobs may no longer exist and who are in a state of limbo until budget deliberations come to an end.

In the meantime education groups like the NCAE, PTA and NCASA are urging their members to attend the Governor's rallies and to contact their legislators. Their message is resonating as the ripple-down impact of the recession is being felt locally and more counties are announcing staffing and educational cutbacks on an almost daily basis.

The Governor's rally schedule:

Wednesday, June 17th at 11am – State Capitol Building, Raleigh

Wednesday, June 17th at 2:30pm – Ben L. Smith High School, Greensboro

Thursday, June 18th at 10am – Elizabeth Traditional Elementary School, Charlotte

Monday, June 22nd at 10am – Minnie Evans Art Center, Wilmington

Monday, June 22nd at 12pm – South Central High School, Greenville

Conferee Appointments Made This Week

As expected, the Senate, on Monday, rejected the House's budget plan. In a unanimous vote, the Senate failed to concur with the \$18.6 billion budget plan adopted by the House late Friday and early Saturday morning. Senate leaders named conferees, including all chamber Democrats and three Republicans who voted for the initial Senate budget bill. House leaders named conferees on Tuesday. To see a complete listing of conferees for both Houses, go to: <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/confcomm/confcommittee.pl?BillChamber=S&BillID=202&session=2009>.

Secretary Duncan Charts Course for 'Race to the Top'

Over the weekend, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan delivered the keynote address at the 2009 Governors Education Symposium sponsored by the Hunt Institute. In the second of four major policy speeches on the priorities for the "Race to the Top" Fund, Secretary Duncan announced that the Department of Education will commit up to \$350 million of the \$4.35 billion Race to the Top Fund to support states in the creation of rigorous assessments linked to the internationally benchmarked common standards being developed by states.

Currently, each state sets its own academic standards, and many of those standards fail to prepare children for college or careers. The National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers have committed to leading an effort to create common standards in English language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards will be research- and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations, and include rigorous content and skills.

Secretary Duncan said the Education Department will help states pay for the development of assessments aligned to those standards because that will ensure the success of the effort. The Department of Education will conduct a national competition among states this year for \$4 billion of the Race to the Top Fund to improve education quality and results statewide. The Race to the Top Fund will support states' effort to drive substantial gains in student achievement.

Secretary Duncan (cont'd)

Race to the Top grants will be made in two rounds. Secretary Duncan laid out a course to the "Race" as follows:

Late July- The Department will publish a notice of proposed rulemaking in the Federal Register, inviting public comment for 30 days on the proposed grant application and the criteria for evaluating them;

October - Notice inviting applications will be published in the Federal Register;

December - Phase 1 applications will be due;

March 2010 - Phase 1 grants awarded, winners announced;

June 2010 - Phase 2 applications will be due;

September 2010 - Phase 2 grants awarded, winners announced.

Mabe Appointed Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

President Erskine Bowles announced this week that he had appointed Alan Mabe, Vice President for Academic Planning to the position of Vice President of Academic Affairs. Mabe will be filling the seat recently vacated by Harold Martin. Martin was named Chancellor at North Carolina A&T University.

President Bowles announced the appointment by saying, "Without question, Alan's extensive experience and his deep understanding of our campuses and their academic missions will be tremendous assets as he steps into this expanded leadership role. I am very grateful that he has accepted this new expanded responsibility."

NCASA's 2009 Summer Leadership Conference Goes "Virtual"

The Western Region Education Service Alliance and the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) welcome you to their first virtual conference! It will take place from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, July 14. MCNC will stream the virtual conference throughout the state, and it can be viewed at a regional site or from your home/office computer. General sessions include two keynote speakers, Michael Horn (co-author of *Disrupting Class - How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns*) and Tim Waters of McREL; updates from state education leaders, and four virtual breakout sessions presented by Architectural Design Studio, Scientific Learning, UNCG iSchool and LEARN NC.

The conference theme, "Transforming Education to Prepare Tomorrow's Leaders," represents the coming together of educators from K-12 education, Community Colleges, and the University System, all with the common purpose of sharing, networking, and learning together in the distance education world. The finalized schedule will be available Friday, July 10, via the virtual conference website.

NCASA's 2009 Summer Leadership Conference (cont'd)

In preparation for this unique event in North Carolina education, NCASA invites you to view the Pre-conference Orientation Video which is available on the conference website at www.wresa.org/virtual. Viewing the video is not required, but highly recommended. It will introduce you to the technologies used throughout the conference: Second Life, Twitter and Wimba; it will also discuss connectivity for your virtual conference experience. For more information, and to register for the event, go to www.wresa.org/virtual.

Hispanic Achievement Conference Announces Pre-Conference Workshop

The 7th annual Hispanic Achievement Conference will take place October 8th and 9th and is presented by the NC Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) in partnership with Meredith College and the NC Department of Public Instruction.

A pre-conference workshop will include Yvonne Freeman Ph.D. and David Freeman, Ph.D. The Freeman's recent books include: Academic Language for English Language Learners and Struggling Readers (Heinemann, 2009), English Language Learners: The Essential Guide (Scholastic, 2007), and Closing the Achievement Gap: How to Reach Limited Formal Schooling and Long Term English Learners (Heinemann, 2002), among others.

Registration is now open for the conference and pre-conference at: http://thencshp.org/forms/achievement_registration_form.html. For more information about the conference visit their website by clicking [HERE](#).

National EPFP Program Manager and Associate for Leadership Programs- Institute for Educational Leadership

IEL (The Institute for Educational Leadership) seeks a mid-level professional to support the Education Policy Fellowship Program and related leadership development and policy work.

Background: The Institute for Educational Leadership's (IEL) mission is to strengthen and bring together diverse leaders and constituencies to improve outcomes for children and youth. IEL is a non-profit organization based in Washington, DC, with national programs and a reputation for effective programs in education leadership and reform. IEL's programs operate in three areas: strengthening school-family-community connections, developing and supporting leaders, and connecting and improving policies and systems that support children and youth.

National EPFP Program Manager (cont'd)

The Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP) is IEL's flagship leadership development program. EPFP works as a partnership between the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and fourteen state-based sites. EPFP is organized around three curricular strands: public policy; leadership theory and practice, and interpersonal networking.

Overview: The Program Manager must be highly knowledgeable in education issues and related policy areas. The individual must have strong oral and written communication skills, experience with program management, and have demonstrated success working collaboratively with teams and organizations. The Program Manager must possess initiative, be able to take the lead on projects and work plans, and be capable of balancing multiple priorities. This position reports directly to the President of IEL.

This position may be filled on a consulting or full-time basis depending on experience and qualifications of the selected candidate. For more information about the position, please contact Stefani Wilcox at swilcox@iel.org.

Fun Facts...

Grads Flock to Teach for America

- Nationally, more than 35,000 graduates from more than 130 schools applied
- 150 NC's college graduates will be joining Teach for America this year
- 11% of seniors at Duke University applied for Teach for America (TFA)
- 9% of seniors at Wake Forest Univ. applied for Teach for America
- 7% of seniors at UNC-Chapel Hill applied for Teach for America

Twitter Serves to be a helpful Study Tool

Twitter, the web service that lets people post and share message of 140 characters or fewer, is enjoying a popularity surge in general, but as reported in *U.S. News and World Report*, some forward-thinking college professors are embracing it and find ways to include it in courses, and teachers at the K-12 level are also experimenting with the social networking site. To read more, click here:

<http://www.usnews.com/articles/education/2009/06/15/tweeting-your-way-to-better-grades.html>.

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