

# *The Public School Forum's Friday Report*

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## *Thought for the Day . . .*

This week marked the anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision which struck down racially segregated schools in 1954. This week, not in celebration of that ruling, the Wake County School Board finalized its decision to return students to neighborhood schools, a move that most believe will result in a re-clustering of low-income, minority students in downtown Raleigh schools. Elsewhere, the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Compliance Division held public hearings in Goldsboro as part of an investigation into claims that minority young people are not receiving a sound, basic education because of racially segregated schools in the county.

## *A Second Thought for the Day . . .*

This thought is compliments of the North Carolina Association of Educator's (NCAE) "Daily Political Briefing" email. It reads:

"With 11% unemployment in NC, that includes 5,400 educator jobs, the Senate's budget continues \$14 million funding of out-of-state athletes' tuition. Out-of-state athletes cost upwards of \$42,000 annually (i.e., full cost of tuition, scholarships, etc.), mostly at NC taxpayer expense. A starting NC teacher makes \$31,000 annually."

## **Senate Budget Moves to House in Record Time**

The NC Senate leadership was true to its word as the Senate approved and sent its budget proposal to the House of Representatives in what is record time in recent history. The House must now craft its version of the budget and, once passed, differences between the House and Senate will have to be ironed out by a joint committee of both houses.

Spurring lawmakers to move quickly on this budget appear to be two factors. First, because of the amount of uncertainty surrounding the budget, schools, state agencies and colleges and universities are essentially on hold until there is clarity around the state's budget. As a result, General Assembly members have set finalizing the budget before the end of the June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year as a goal. Second, it is an election year and lawmakers appear eager to return to their districts in an effort to build support for November's elections.

# 2010-11 Supplemental Budget Comparison

State Board of Education

Governor

Senate

Beginning Appropriated Budget

\$ 7,360,833,223

\$ 7,360,833,223

\$ 7,360,833,223

<i>State Public School Fund</i>					
Average Daily Membership Adjustment	(4,845,504)	(4,980,046)	R	(4,980,046)	R
Average Salary Adjustment	(44,950,676)	(44,950,676)	R	(44,950,676)	R
Annual Leave	707,173				
Assistant Principals		(8,908,472)	R	(4,500,000)	R
At Risk		(7,634,652)	R	(1,200,000)	R
Breakfast Program		(2,017,761)	R		
Career & Tech Education - STABILIZATION		(54,658,931)	R		
Central Office		(5,400,000)	R	(10,000,000)	R
Child & Family Support Teams	1,252,183	(2,500,000)	R	(2,500,000)	R
Children with Disabilities		(6,000,000)	R	(6,000,000)	R
Classroom Materials		(2,685,716)	R	(5,000,000)	R
Classroom Teachers - LOTTERY		(36,638,646)	R	(36,638,646)	R
Contingency Reserve for ADM		(2,618,501)	R	(2,618,501)	R
DSSF		(1,975,008)	R	(1,975,008)	R
Discretionary/Flexibility Reduction	152,387,183	(135,000,000)	R		
Driver's Education - Highway Fund		32,021,964	R	32,021,964	R
EVAAS		2,000,000	R	1,000,000	R
JOBS Commission Schools				200,000	R
Learn & Earn Early College High Schools				(310,000)	R
Learn & Earn OnLine	1,476,752				
Instructional Support		(7,167,477)	R	(5,000,000)	R
Limited English Proficiency	2,000,000			(4,000,000)	R
Longevity	6,508,226				
Low Wealth		(10,081,042)	R		
Mentors-Teachers & Instructional Support	2,000,000			(9,214,190)	NR
More at Four Program ( <i>recurring</i> )		(3,240,466)	R	(10,000,000)	R
More at Four Program ( <i>nonrecurring</i> ) - TANF				(16,176,036)	NR

<b>2010-11 Supplemental Budget Comparison (cont'd)</b>		<b>State Board of Education</b>		<b>Governor</b>		<b>Senate</b>	
NBPTS		1,141,055					
NC Virtual Public Schools				10,994,157	R	(5,574,784)	R
NC Wise (recurring)				(2,000,000)	R	(2,000,000)	R
NC Wise (nonrecurring)				(5,000,000)	NR	(5,000,000)	NR
Non-instructional Support Personnel						(7,100,000)	R
School Buses		10,000,000		(11,900,000)	NR	(11,900,000)	NR
School Connectivity (recurring)						(1,000,000)	R
School Connectivity (nonrecurring)						(3,000,000)	NR
Short Term Disability		786,454					
Small County				(2,000,000)	R	(3,000,000)	R
Small Specialty High Schools		3,222,496					
Student Diagnostics (recurring)				19,129,963	R		
Student Diagnostics (nonrecurring)				21,238,000	NR	15,000,000	NR
Testing		1,242,814					
Textbooks		30,000,000					
Tort Claims		1,117,738					
Transportation				(5,000,000)	R	(10,035,622)	R
Unemployment Compensation		1,060,996					
Worker's Compensation		3,432,862					
<b>SPSF Adjustments</b>		<b>218,335,932</b>		<b>(276,973,310)</b>		<b>(165,451,545)</b>	

<b>Dept of Public Instruction</b>							
Agency Operating		1,255,227		(2,375,850)	R	(2,375,850)	R
Agency Positions (26 positions from Technology Svcs & 10 from Academic Services)		795,069		(3,908,444)	R	(3,908,444)	R
Audit Services		175,278					
Governor's Schools				100,000	NR		
Legacy Funds for IT Projects				(1,300,000)	NR	(1,300,000)	NR
Legal Services		29,961					

<b>2010-11 Supplemental Budget Comparison (cont'd)</b>	<b>State Board of Education</b>	<b>Governor</b>	<b>Senate</b>
Teacher Working Conditions Survey	215,000		
Students Against Destructive Decisions program transferred to DPI from Dept of Administration (\$113,853 and 1.8 positions)		0	
Oversight of NC School for the Deaf, Eastern NC School for the Deaf, Governor Morehead School for the Blind, Governor Morehead Preschool, Early Intervention Services-Preschool & Family Resource Center programs transferred to DPI from DHHS (no funding or positions transferred)			0
<b>DPI Adjustments</b>	<b>2,470,535</b>	<b>(7,484,294)</b>	<b>(7,584,294)</b>

<b>Education Support Organizations</b>					
Communities in Schools		(57,870)	R	(72,338)	R
Dropout Prevention Grants		1,500,000	NR	(13,000,000)	R
NCCAT		(236,529)	R	(1,000,000)	R
New Schools Project		500,000	NR		
Science Olympiad		(5,100)	R	(6,375)	R
Tarheel ChalleNGE Academy		(49,134)	R	(61,418)	R
Teach for America				(45,000)	R
Teacher Cadet				(17,000)	
<b>ESO Adjustments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,651,367</b>		<b>(14,202,130)</b>	
<b>Total Expansion</b>	<b>220,806,467</b>	<b>(282,806,237)</b>		<b>(187,237,969)</b>	
<b>Total Requirements</b>	<b>7,581,639,690</b>	<b>7,078,026,986</b>		<b>7,173,595,254</b>	

<b>Expansion Items Above Funded From Receipts</b>					
Driver's Education		(32,021,964)	R	(32,021,964)	R

Ending Appropriated Budget                      \$ 7,581,639,690                      \$ 7,046,005,022                      \$ 7,141,573,290

## Budget Implications for K-12 Schools Sobering

To date in the budget process, lawmakers and the Administration are attempting to minimize job cuts that directly impact the classroom. While a laudable goal, and in light of the State's 11% unemployment rate an understandable goal, the consequences of following that course impacts other areas across the educational spectrum. For instance,

- **Mentoring for New Teachers Eliminated** . . . all funds for mentoring new teachers, \$9 million, are cut in the Senate budget. This comes on the heels of last year's budget cuts which eliminated all state support for professional development (i.e., training) for teachers. That means that the growing number of people entering the classroom without formal training in teaching will neither be receiving state-provided training during the school year or mentoring support while learning the job.
- Budget cuts may spare classroom teaching jobs, but **front office support staff funding is reduced by 10% in the Senate budget**. If accepted by the House, the Senate budget would **also cut 5% of the Assistant Principal positions** in the state and **additional cuts to Instructional Support staff** will mean more layoffs.
- **Both More at Four and Smart Start are cut** in the Senate proposal, resulting in fewer at-risk young people and their families receiving services.
- Additionally, a range of items from subsidies for **breakfast programs to the school material budget line are cut substantially** in the Senate budget proposal.

The one bright spot in the budget is the Senate's decision not to increase the amount of discretionary reductions school would have to find in the coming year. The Governor's budget called on local schools to find an additional \$135 million in discretionary cuts on top of roughly \$225million they already have to find as a result of last year's budget.

Savings that enabled the Senate to drop the additional \$135 million cut were realized when the Senate's budget did not include funding to pay teachers for days that were furloughed during this school year, a proposal in the Administration's budget, and for substantially scaling back an Administration proposal to provide large numbers of teachers with hand-held diagnostic tools to be used for instruction.

## Senate Budget OK's Furloughs for Savings

The Senate budget gives schools the flexibility to impose up to two non-paid furlough days on school employees earning more than \$30,000 per year. It is widely assumed that many school systems will use furlough day savings to meet the additional \$80 million in discretionary cuts that were called for in last year's budget.

## State Reversing Opposition to Lifting Charter Cap In Continuing Effort to Secure Federal Dollars

At the request of the Administration and the drafters of North Carolina's Race to the Top grant, a grant that could net \$400 million federal dollars for school initiatives, the House Education Committee voted to recommend the State's long-held opposition to lifting the 100 school cap on charter schools. The Administration is seeking both Senate and House approval for the measure in time to include the new less-restrictive policy in its grant proposal, due to the federal government by June 1.

Under the provisions of the Committee recommendation, a school system which is home to one of the 135 schools in which half or more of the students scored below grade-level could turn over the management of the school to an outside operator who would operate under the same policies governing charter schools. The schools would remain under the control of the local board of education and employees assigned to the school would be employees of the school system, not the charter school.

The language of the recommendation, however, states that the change should not be interpreted as increasing the maximum number of charter schools authorized by statute.

If the recommendation can secure passage of the full House as well as the Senate Education Committee and full body in time to meet the deadline remains to be seen. Also remaining to be seen is whether this move will garner additional points for the state in its attempt to win a Race to the Top grant in the second round of federal competition.

## The Public School Forum Hits a Milestone

Next week the Public School Forum of North Carolina marks its twenty-fifth anniversary with a program moderated by former Governor James B. Hunt Jr. that will look at the Forum's work and assess the state's efforts to build a stronger system of public schools.

Former Governor Hunt will be leading a discussion that brings together the business leaders, foundation officials and legislators that created the Forum in 1985. In 1985 they occupied key positions in the General Assembly and in the business community.

The Forum's founders included leaders such as Representative Martin Lancaster who later represented North Carolina in Congress and returned to the state to be the President of the Community College System; Representative Dan Blue who went on to become the Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives and is now a member of the North Carolina Senate, and business leaders Sherwood Smith CEA of at-that-time Carolina Power & Light and Dick Daugherty IBM's statewide manager, both of whom chaired the State's Chamber of Commerce during the eighties.

## The Public School Forum (cont'd)

The Forum, a Raleigh-based think tank, has worked since 1985 to build a consensus around educational programs and practices that would strengthen the State's public schools. The organization is best known for having proposed and managed the state's Teaching Fellows Program, one of the nation's largest teacher scholarship programs. Its current work is heavily focused on creating out-of-school programs for disadvantaged young people, providing training to teachers and administrators in low-performing schools and continuing to work with members of the General Assembly to build support for initiatives that will improve the quality of schools in North Carolina. To register for the event, [click here](#).

**What:** Event Commemorating the Forum's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
**When:** NC Museum of History, Raleigh, NC  
**When:** Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 PM (program begins at 5:30PM)

## Collaborative Project Represented at 2010 K-5 Earth Science Teacher Leadership Academy

ExxonMobil and the American Geological Institute are pleased to announce that 8 of the 32 teachers nationwide accepted in the third annual Leadership Academy in Earth science for elementary school teachers are from districts participating in the Collaborative Project. The Leadership Academy will be held in Houston, Texas on July 25-30, 2010 (the program starts with a reception and dinner on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> and concludes at noon on July 30<sup>th</sup>).

The Academy will provide teachers with Earth science content, hands-on activities, resources and field experiences that they can use with their students in the classroom and with their colleagues in professional development settings. The program will be residential in Houston, and all travel, lodging and subsistence costs will be covered by a grant from ExxonMobil.

Topics covered during the 40 hours of the workshop will include:

- Introducing Earth system science to students
- Teaching Earth science as inquiry
- Using Earth science as a context to teach reading and mathematics
- Using learning centers in workshop settings
- Planning, conducting and evaluating successful Earth science workshops
- Hot topics in Earth science
- Resources for learning and teaching Earth science (*K-5 GeoSource* website & others)
- The work of geoscientists in the energy industry

## Call for EPFP Applications

Applications are now being accepted for the Forum's Education Policy Fellowship Program (EPFP). The ten-month seminar program meets weekly on Tuesday night from 5:30 to 8:30 pm from September 14, 2010 to May 17, 2011. The program addresses issues related to policy and leadership development. North Carolina boasts over 600 EPFP alumni. The program seeks high energy individuals committed to enhancing their professional career through networking and exploring leadership and policy in the real world. An application may be obtained at the Forum's website. Go to [www.ncforum.org](http://www.ncforum.org) and click on EPFP. The deadline is when the new class reaches its 30<sup>th</sup> participant or August 1, 2010 whichever comes first. Don't delay. Apply today!

## 2009 Local Finance Study is Here!

The Public School Forum's annual Local Finance Study is available for order. This study has become the "last word" in county expenditures on schools. The study annually ranks North Carolina's 100 counties on their actual spending on schools as well as the effort they make in supporting schools. School boards, finance officers, and county commissioners routinely rely on the Forum's annual study as budget decisions are made.

"The Finance Study is a great tool for benchmarking a school district; the information analysis is essential to making a rational budget augment with detractors." - *Bill McNeal, North Carolina Association of School Administrators.*

To order your copy today, visit the Forum's website and complete the order form by going to: <http://www.ncforum.org/doclib/lfsf-order.aspx> .

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