

NCATA Legislative News
August 12, 2009

Dear Members,

Following are some of the details of the 2009-2011 North Carolina education budget. This data comes from a legislative report sent out by Representative Hugh Holliman, House Majority Leader.

Reductions:

- Reduced funding for about 100 programs; eliminated 23 programs.
- Delayed the adoption of math textbooks in grades 6 through 12 - **(\$48 million)**
- Reduced General Fund support for More at Four - **(\$5 million)**
- Cut funding for local school systems across the state (LEA Discretionary Reduction). *Local education officials* will decide how to manage the cut, and the state will allow systems some additional *flexibility* in moving money around to protect classroom instruction. - **(\$225 million in 2009-2010) (\$304,774,366 in 2010-2011)**
- Eliminated funding for all 200 Literacy Coaches - **(\$12 million)**
- Reduced funding for non-instructional support personnel in public schools. Non-instructional support personnel include clerical assistants, custodians, and substitute teachers, amongst other items. - **(\$10 million)**
- Reduced funding for public school transportation, which supports salaries of transportation personnel as well as the maintenance of buses - **(\$15 million)**
- Reduced funding to the following non-public school organizations: Communities in Schools, Schools Attuned, ExplorNet, Teacher Cadet, NC Network, Science Olympiad, Teach for America, NC Math & Science, and Project Enlightenment - **(\$4.6 million)**
- Reduced funding to a number of UNC Centers and Institutes – **(\$12 million)**

Additions:

- Allocated funds to prevent the elimination of 3rd-grade teaching assistants - **\$130 million**
- Allocated funding to protect K-3 teaching positions - **\$139 million**
- Provided funding for 12 additional Learn & Earn high schools that will be operational in FY 2009-10 - **\$3.6 million**
- Allocated funding to expand the District and School Transformation Initiative, which is part of the state's redesigned framework for delivering technical assistance and other support to low performing districts and schools. - **\$ 2.5 million**
- Provided recurring funding for additional dropout prevention grants - **\$13 million**
- Fully funded enrollment growth in community colleges - **\$58 million**
- Fully funded enrollment growth in universities - **\$44 million**
- Allocated funding to re-establish and place renewed emphasis on vocational and technical education programs at community colleges. - **\$4.5 million**
- Financial aid for UNC system - **\$35 million**
- Increased the state's contribution to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. - **\$21 million**

We are hopeful that the majority of teacher assistants employed in 2008-2009 remain employed for the upcoming school year. At present we do not have actual numerical data as to teacher assistant employment statewide or in individual school systems so we cannot say for certain the final outcome of the budget process and the toll it took on our profession. NCATA members worked diligently for the funding to be put back into the budget for third grade assistants and that happened; but our goal was no loss of teacher assistant jobs and so NCATA does not claim we had "a *win* for teacher assistants." Many teacher assistants have lost their jobs or had their work hours cut back.

Very tough times face us still. Please remember as you return to school to encourage membership in NCATA. Together we do make a difference!

Sincerely,
Melinda
Melinda K. Zarate

NCATA Legislative Chair