# Teacher Layoffs and School Budget Cuts

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Chicago Public Schools are Targeting 3,200 Teachers and 880 Others for Layoffs; Elgin Proposing 1,079 Layoffs
Cuts Will Hike Class Sizes, Combining Grade Levels, Cut Athletics and Student Activities Including Arts, Gifted Programs, Pre-School
New Education Grads Discouraged By Chicago-Area Prospects
Illinois Teachers Spoke to U.S. Dept. of Ed. Senior Advisor About Race to the Top Proposals; Expressed Frustration with Focus on Test Scores as Only Way to Net Additional Funding
U-46 District in Chicago’s Western Suburbs Dismissed 1,000 Employees Including 700 Teachers
180 Teachers Laid Off in Illinois Community Unit School District 300 Due to Budget Constraints
Peoria District 150 Laid Off 290 Employees in Late March and May Lay Off Between 200 and 400 Staff Members Before the Coming School Year
Harlem District 122 Laid off 90 Teachers So Far This Year
Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Has Eliminated 35 Teaching Positions
Plainfield School Board Voted to Lay Off 52 Teachers, 159 Positions Expected to be Eliminated
Oswego School Board Fired 61 First Year Teachers
Triad School District Cut 41 Teachers and Staff; Over 60 Percent of Non-Tenured Teachers were Let Go
District 16 in Glendale Heights Sent Notices to 52 of its 147 Teachers
East St. Louis Will Lay Off Nearly 300 Employees Including 134 Teachers
Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 Laid Off 11 Teachers and 8 Teacher Aides
Mercer County School District Eliminating 21 Positions Including Four Teachers
Granite City Schools to Lose 26 Positions
Dupo School District 196 Cut 19 Teachers and 15 Support Staff
Highland Community Unit School District 5 Announced 40 Layoffs of Teachers and Staff
Edwardsville Schools Cut 60 Jobs Including 25 Teachers
Triad Schools Cut 34 Non-Tenured Teachers
Quincy School Board to Release 78 Staff Members Including 38 Teachers
Bethalto Cut 65 Positions, Edwardsville Cut 60 Positions (25 Teachers), Alton Cut 48 Positions (29 Teachers)
Community Unit School District 300 Planned Additional Classroom Cuts on Top of 121 Teachers Released in March
Chicago Heights School District 170 Sent Pink Slips to 87 Nontenured Teachers
New York
Gov. Patterson and State Senate Support Closing Budget Gap by Cutting $1.4 Billion in State School Aid Out of Next Year’s Budget, State Assembly Plan Could Potentially Restore Half of Cuts

Some Assembly Democrats Called on Teacher to Put Off Automatic Raises This Year to Avoid Layoffs

New York State Lawmakers Say School Cuts Are Not as Harsh As Advertised

NY Daily News Editorial: Modest Pension Reforms Would Cut Teacher Layoffs Almost In Half

New York Schools Projected to Lay Off 15,000 Teachers This Summer

Bloomberg to Announce 6,400 Teacher Cuts in Budget Proposal

Bloomberg Blamed Albany for Teacher Layoffs

Chancellor Klein: Teacher Layoffs Could Mean Additional 3 Students Per Classroom

Some Questioned Contract of Up to $5 Million a Year for Teacher Recruitment During a Time of Layoffs

Schools Chancellor Said State Budget Cuts Could Force New York City to Lay Off 8,500 Teachers

Buffalo Superintendent Said District Would be Forced to Lay Off 680 Staff Members if Gov. Paterson’s Proposed State Aid Cuts are Enacted

Hamburg Officials Announced Elimination of 13 Full Time Positions

325 New York School Districts Plan for 4.1 Percent Reduction in Teacher Work Force

Glen Falls City School District, Teachers Reach Impasse, More Layoffs Proposed

Mohawk Central School District to Eliminate Nine Teaching Positions

Facing Layoffs, Utica Teachers to Discuss Contract With District

UFT President Mulgrew: Charter Schools Can Play Important Role in Public Education

Texas

Fort Bend ISD in Houston Will Cut 470 Positions Including 195 Certified Teachers

Dallas Morning News Editorial: Keep Caps On Classroom Size in Austin

Georgia

DeKalb County Budget Includes 427 Layoffs, Seven Teacher Furlough Days and At Least Four School Closings

Cobb County, GA Plan Could Force 6 Furlough Days for Teachers

Columbia County Schools to Eliminate 25 Positions

Houston County Schools Lay Off 50 Teachers

New Jersey

Ninety-Three Percent of New Jersey School Boards Consider Layoffs

Christie Administration Said 20 Percent of School District Reported Staff Wage Freezes or Reduction in Budget Plans

Gov. Christie Slammed Teachers Unions for Failing to Respond to Challenge to Freeze Wages for Social Security and Medicare Payroll-Tax Aid; NJEA Said Christie was Asking Teachers to Sacrifice but Not the Affluent

Districts with Staff that Agree to Freeze Salaries Would Get Additional Aid of 7.65 Percent of Resulting Wage Savings

Bill to Allow State Employees Retiring Before August 1 to Retain Free Lifetime Medical Benefits Could Spark NJ Teacher Retirements and Avert Planned Layoffs

After Up to 500 Students Walked Out of a High School to Protest Cuts, Christie Traded Barbs With NJEA
Connecticut

South Carolina

North Carolina

In Lexington, School Officials Expect 46 Employees to Be Laid Off

Greenville County Schools Will Eliminate 226.5 Teaching Positions, Mostly Through Attrition

Majority Whip Clyburn Said, “We Are Seeing Significant Headlines as I Left Home this Morning — I Saw a Big Headline That We’re About to Lay Off 4,000 Teachers in South Carolina”

Greenville County School Superintendent Expecting Nearly 4,000 Education Workers to Lose Their Jobs Including 2,500 Teachers

North Carolina

South Carolina Superintendent Expects Nearly 4,000 Education Workers to Lose Their Jobs Including 2,500 Teachers

State Superintendent Rex Said Teacher Job Cuts Could Cause a Slip in Academic Performance

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Connecticut

NJEA President: Chris Christie is a Liar

Christie: Voters Should Reject Budget Proposals In Districts Where Teachers Have Not Agreed to Pay Freeze

New Jersey Teachers Feel Demonized By Demands for Wage Freeze

Market for New Teachers in New Jersey Could Collapse After Teacher Layoffs

Schools in New Jersey Plan Heavy Cuts After Voters Reject Most Budgets

West Orange District Must Consider Heavy Steps After Budget Was Rejected

Local Union President Makes Concessions Worth $1 Million, But Still Faces 80 Layoffs

Students Staged a Walkout of Cliffside High School to Protest Plan to Cut 25 Teachers; District Considering Layoffs of 45 Staff


Christie Said Teacher Could Avoid Layoffs if They Take Pay Freezes and Pay 1.5 Percent of Salary Toward Health Care

Edison School District To Lay Off 92 Teachers Even if Budget is Passed

Teaneck School District Set to Cut 21 Staff, Buy Fewer Textbooks and Supplies

Camden School Board Approved Budget That Could Eliminate 94 Teachers

In March, Woodbridge Superintendent Called for 280 Layoffs Including 25 Teaching Positions Due to 33 Percent Drop in State Aid; Requested Salary Freeze from Teachers and Union Members

Pay Freeze Concession Would Save $2.6 Million Allowing Woodbridge District to Avoid Laying Off 150 People

In April, Woodbridge School District Decided to Lay Off 120 Teachers, Reduce Bus Service and Security Officers

New Jersey School Board Association Said 188 Districts Statewide are Discussing Reopening Contracts, 250 in Negotiations

North Carolina

500 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Teachers Will Get Layoff Notices

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Could Lay Off 1,000 Employees

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Anticipated Cutting 600 Teachers

On Argument that Federal Funds Could Help CMS Retain Teachers, CMS Superintendent Said “We Already Know Our Federal Money”

Charlotte Superintendent Plan Includes Steps Toward Laying Off About 600 Teachers

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board Sought Furloughs for Teachers to Avoid Layoffs

South Carolina

South Carolina Superintendent Expects Nearly 4,000 Education Workers to Lose Their Jobs Including 2,500 Teachers

State Superintendent Rex Said Teacher Job Cuts Could Cause a Slip in Academic Performance

Majority Whip Clyburn Said, “We Are Seeing Significant Headlines as I Left Home this Morning — I Saw a Big Headline That We’re About to Lay Off 4,000 Teachers in South Carolina”
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**Reductions in Force**

- Sen. Tom Harkin, the Senate's leading Democrat on education issues, proposed a $23 billion bailout April 14th to help avert layoffs of tens of thousands of teachers and other school personnel in the coming academic year. As of Wednesday afternoon, the bill had at least 13 Democratic co-sponsors, but no Republican endorsements.

  - The legislation offered by Sen. Harkin would be modeled on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. That fund was included in the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the economic-stimulus measure approved by Congress last year. The money could be used for compensation and benefits to help districts hold on to existing employees and to hire new staff members to provide early-childhood, K-12, or postsecondary services. It could also be used for on-the-job training for ‘education-related careers.’

  - During the April 14th Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, the state superintendent of schools in Alabama urged lawmakers to support Sen. Harkin’s bill. He said he surveyed his districts and found that, without the additional aid, there are likely to be more than 2,800 job cuts in Alabama next year, including nearly 1,600 teachers. Ramon Cortines, the superintendent of the Los Angeles school system, which recently agreed to shorten the school year by five days to help avert layoffs, also testified in support of the measure. He said it could save as many as 3,000 jobs in his district alone.

  - An April 20 New York Times article quoted Senior Democratic aides as saying that because Mr. Harkin’s bill would add to the deficit, it was unlikely to pass.

    - As of May 5th, the education jobs bill has no Republican support. When asked if he would back the measure, Senate HELP Committee member John McCain, R-Ariz., responded, “How is [Harkin] going to pay for it? I want to know how he is going to pay.” Another GOP member, Richard Burr of North Carolina, said he hadn't seen the bill but “couldn't imagine” he would support it, positing that it's not the role of the federal government to hire teachers.

    - If the bill is unable to pass as a standalone, a Senate appropriations staffer indicated that it may latch on to a military supplemental.

- Education Secretary Arne Duncan estimated that school layoffs could total from 100,000 to 300,000 unless Congress acts. “It is brutal out there, really scary,” Duncan told reporters on Capitol Hill. “This is a real emergency. What we're trying to avert is an education catastrophe.”
Secretary Duncan’s public support for such aid marks the first time the Obama administration has explicitly called for new federal funding to help schools weather the continuing economic problems facing states and school districts.

Teachers in several states have rallied to keep school funding, and across the USA, teachers on May 4th wore pink hearts as part of a national ‘Pink Hearts, Not Pink Slips’ campaign organized by the American Federation of Teachers.

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said on May 3rd that the situation was serious. “I'm very, very concerned,” he said in an interview. “I can't say that strongly enough.”

In an MSNBC interview, Arne Duncan said, “I'm desperately concerned about the number, literally, potentially, hundreds of thousands of teachers being laid off going into this fall, fall 2010. And so I've been urging Congress absolutely strong as I can to take action to save teacher jobs around the country. We cannot afford those layoffs educationally. Our economy can't afford those layoffs...I'm strongly, strongly pushing Congress to take action to save hundreds of thousands of teachers' jobs now around the country.”

- When asked if his warnings are being heeded by Congress, he responded, “Absolutely. Are people listening? There's not a law that's been put out there yet, legislation for folks to vote on. But I'm actively talking to both Democrats and Republicans around the country. I'm very hopeful that we can break through, but there's a lot of hard work ahead of us.”

On May 3rd, journalist Helen Thomas wrote, “President Barack Obama needs to wake up to the fact that the nation's school systems are going down the drain... We are depriving students of their right to a decent education. Granted that school systems are under state control, the federal government needs to step up and help them overcome their financial woes.”

The American Association of School Administrators reported that two-thirds of members surveyed cut positions for this school year and 90 percent expect to do so for the coming year. The survey of 453 administrators also found that 62 percent anticipated raising the average class size, 34 percent were considering the elimination of summer school and 13 percent were weighing the possibility of a four-day school week. In California, the budget situation is so bleak that more than 20,000 educators have been given notice they might not be rehired in the next school year.

Teachers looking to retire in big numbers due to layoffs or other reasons nationwide could find that the money they expect to finance their futures is not all there. Research into the nation's teacher pension programs by the Foundation for Educational Choice and the Manhattan Institute suggests that many states have underfunded the retirement plans by billions of dollars through the use of conservative accounting methods reflecting current market trends instead of future expectations of investment returns. Teacher
pension liabilities for all 50 states total about $933 billion -- nearly three times more than reflected on balance sheets -- which could bankrupt some state budgets as they struggle to meet retirement obligations.

- On March 15th, the California state Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O'Connell announced that Education budget cuts prompted school districts to send out more than 23,000 pink slips, notifying teachers and other certificated employees they may not have jobs next year. At the news conference, he said 21,905 pink slips had gone out from districts, which had to meet a state-mandated Monday deadline to notify staff they may not have jobs next year but by that afternoon, the number of notices had swelled to 23,225, according to figures from the California Teachers Association. Pink slips were sent by 464 school districts statewide, including more than 4,100 in the greater Bay Area, the union said. Final layoff notices will be mailed in May, after districts have a better idea about the state budget for the 2010-11 school year.

  - California state tax collections plummeted unexpectedly in April, wiping out months of steady gains that legislators hoped would ease their budget troubles and restore California's economy faster than experts predicted. Revenue for April, the biggest revenue month because it is when most Californians pay their taxes, lagged projections by nearly 30% — roughly $3 billion. The retraction could mean even deeper cuts in government services — schools, healthcare for the poor and services for the elderly.

  - On April 22, Escondido Union School District announced it rescinded layoff notices sent to 84 teachers a month ago, when it thought it would lose funding because of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed $2.4 billion in education cuts. The Escondido board of trustees decided last week that layoffs wouldn't save much money, said Bob Leon, deputy superintendent for human resources. He explained that fewer teachers would result in bigger classes, which would cause the district to lose state funding aimed at keeping classes small. At the same time, 45 people have retired, and the district can apply that money to teacher salaries, he said.

  - San Francisco teachers marched through city streets en route to a contentious Board of Education meeting where union members called for the school district to rescind layoff notices sent to some 900 educators. Contentious contract talks between the San Francisco Unified School District and the teachers union have gone from bad to worse, with a mediator is being requested to help jump start stalled negotiations before layoffs begin. United Educators of San Francisco insisted it's done its share by agreeing to furlough days and other monetary concessions. Schools Superintendent Carlos Garcia said the progress made was wiped away by new demands from union pertaining to hiring, teacher evaluations and pick up and mail delivery.

    - On May 11th, the San Francisco school board rescinded half of the 701 pink slips sent to teachers and administrators in March, vowing Tuesday
night to save at least 150 more jobs after a preliminary agreement reached with teachers is a done deal. The 5-1 vote to cut layoffs down to 350 positions followed an 11th-hour deal reached between the teachers union and district negotiators minutes before the board meeting started. The union was still scheduled to hold a meeting with members May 20 to consider a strike authorization vote, the outcome likely dependent on settling a contract, union officials said.

- In Illinois, state education funding woes have triggered a tsunami of pink slips to thousands upon thousands of teachers and support staff in school districts statewide, with about 9,800 announced layoffs of teachers so far. Another 1,600 retiring teachers won't be replaced. Total planned layoffs stand at more than 17,000 school personnel. And that's with just 75 percent of districts responding to a survey sent by a coalition of education groups. When all is said and done, school layoffs statewide could top 20,000, the coalition warns.

  o Due to huge funding shortfalls from the state, Chicago Public Schools (owed the most money from the state: $255 million) is targeting 3,200 teachers and 880 others for layoffs. Northwest suburban Elgin, the second-largest district (owed $12 million) is proposing 1,079 layoffs.

  o Approximately 15,000 people including members of the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers participated in one of the largest Statehouse rallies ever to support an income-tax hike that could avert billions of dollars in crippling budget cuts. On several occasions during the late-morning rally, protesters turned away from the stage across from the Capitol to face the ornate seat of state government and chant, "Raise our taxes!" and "Save Our state!"

  o In the U-46 district in Elgin, Ill., the superintendent eliminated early childhood classes for 100 children, cut middle school football, increased high school class sizes from 24 to 30 students, drained swimming pools to save chlorine, and dismissed 1,000 employees, including 700 teachers.

- In New York, as state lawmakers struggle to close a projected $9 billion budget gap by the end of the month, school aid is emerging as the main battleground. Gov. David A. Paterson has proposed cutting $1.4 billion in state school aid out of next year's budget, cuts that Democrats in the State Senate endorsed but the Assembly will probably restore half of the cuts.

  o A recent survey of 325 school districts found that schools are planning for an average 4.1 percent reduction in the teacher work force, or layoffs to about 6,300 teachers outside New York City, the Council of School Superintendents and School Boards Association said.
On May 6th, Mayor Bloomberg announced 6,400 teacher job cuts in his budget proposal for the next fiscal year.

- Critics are questioning the need to approve a contract worth up to $5 million a year to recruit more teachers at a time of huge layoffs. Since 2000, the New Teacher Project has contracted with the city to recruit New York City Teaching Fellows. For this school year, the group received $2.8 million for recruiting 705 teachers. “Signing a contract for teacher recruitment in this economic situation is like ‘Alice in Wonderland,’” said teachers union President Michael Mulgrew.

- Schools Chancellor Joel Klein warned New York City schools that layoffs of 8,500 teachers are part of a doomsday scenario city officials have begun considering in the face of massive cuts from Albany.

- The Buffalo Public Schools will be forced to lay off 680 staff members — or nearly 10 percent of its work force — if Gov. David A. Paterson’s proposed state aid cuts are enacted, School Superintendent James A. Williams said.

- Fort Bend ISD in Houston, TX is beginning to cut jobs as part of their effort to address a projected budget deficit of about $20 million. Out of a total of 9,500 full-time positions in FBISD, it was determined that 470 positions must be eliminated as part of the overall budget reduction plan, according to a statement from the school district. Of the 470, the district has identified 195 certified teaching positions along with 80 certified non-teaching professional positions, and 195 non-certified positions for reduction (which includes all other positions).

- In Georgia, the DeKalb County school board will vote on a budget for next year that balances the current projected deficit with at least 427 layoffs, seven teacher furlough days and at least four school closings -- but no tax hike.

- Mike Yaple with the New Jersey School Board Association said some districts have turned to desperate measures. “Ninety-three percent of school boards are looking at layoffs, but then when asked how many were looking at laying off teachers it was about 85 percent. So, it looks like it’s going to be hitting classrooms as well as the support staff,” Yaple says. “We saw two-thirds of school districts expect to cut sports and clubs. Thirty-two percent of school districts are looking at student activity fees.”

- Gov. Christie reiterated his call for school district employees to freeze their wages to help spare jobs and programs. Districts that did, he said, would get some additional aid from Social Security and Medicare payroll-tax savings. Christie slammed teachers and their unions as failing to respond to his challenge. ‘Unfortunately, these figures illustrate the obvious: that the teachers’ unions overwhelmingly believe everyone else should share in the sacrifice, but they alone should be held harmless in the middle of this fiscal crisis,’ Christie said in a
statement. The NJEA said the budget called for shared sacrifice not just of teachers. Districts in which staff agree to wage freezes are in line to get additional aid amounting to 7.65 percent of the resulting wage savings on salaries up to $106,000.

- School officials across New Jersey said on April 21 that they would most likely have to lay off hundreds of teachers, increase class sizes, eliminate sports teams and Advanced Placement classes, cut kindergarten hours and take other radical steps to reduce spending after 58 percent of districts’ budgets were rejected by voters on Tuesday, the most in at least 35 years. Residents rejected 316 of the 541 budgets on the ballot which sent school officials hurrying to prepare contingency plans to present to their town councils, or local municipal boards, which now must review the budgets and decide by May 19 whether to demand more cuts.

  - Mr. Christie exhorted New Jerseyans to use the budget votes to take a stand against school spending, particularly in districts where unions refused to freeze wages.

- In New Jersey, the governor’s 10 percent cut in overall school spending – about $820 million – was distributed so that no district saw more than 5 percent of its total annual budget vanish. While Christie had told school districts to prepare for a 15 percent cut in state aid, many districts ended up seeing 100 percent of aid wiped out. Though Christie’s budget proposal is not final and must be approved by the Democrat-controlled legislature by the end of June, school districts are using his aid figures as a guide when creating budgets that go up for a vote on April 20.

  - At Cliffside High School, students protested a plan to cut 25 teachers but the governor’s response to the student walkout was to blame the union for inciting students and called the students “pawns” and “victims.”

    - Christie said teachers could avoid layoffs if they reopen their contracts, take pay freezes and pay 1.5 percent of their salary toward their health care. He said students should ask their teachers why they are unwilling to do that.

  - Camden, struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools.

  - In Woodbridge, the superintendent’s plan called for 280 layoffs including 25 teacher positions - most of the $12 million in cuts were made to compensate for a 33 percent drop in state aid. The superintendent said that if teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut.
Frank Belluscio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, said a statewide survey has shown that 188 districts, out of 313 respondents, are discussing reopening contracts. More than 250 districts are in ongoing negotiations.

In Charlotte, NC, employees of CMS administrative offices began getting layoff notices as the board authorized Superintendent Peter Gorman to cut about 46 central-office jobs, but Gorman has not yet given details about his proposed restructuring or an update on steps toward laying off about 600 teachers. The superintendent’s formal plan April 13, is expected to include up to $80 million in cuts from current spending.

“We are doing things and considering options I never thought I’d have to consider,” said Peter C. Gorman, superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools in North Carolina, who expects to cut 600 of the district’s 9,400 teachers this year, after laying off 120 last year.

On May 11th, the school board voted to approve preliminary layoff notices for about 500 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools teachers. 170 teachers will lose their jobs because of low job ratings and/or lack of proper licenses. Another 20 in that category would have gotten layoff notices but have already resigned, he said. Also getting preliminary notices are 240 teachers who are working on short-term contracts and 99 whose skills don't match any available jobs. The 99 could still be placed if jobs open up. Layoffs are not final until a board vote, scheduled for June.

CMS Superintendent Peter Gorman said that federal money won't be enough this year. ‘We already know our federal money, and we're not going to have that federal piece come to save us, so we don't share that optimism this year,’ Gorman said.

In early May 2010, South Carolina Superintendent Jim Rex said he expected 3,800 education employees will lose their jobs, including about 2,500 teachers. Rex’s numbers are based on a survey of the state's 85 school districts. Local school boards are currently writing their budgets for the coming school year.

Following an economic forum, held in the Speaker’s Office, Majority Whip James Clyburn said, “My take-away from this meeting today is that it is very, very important for us to do what is necessary in the interim to continue to stabilize governments. We are seeing significant headlines as I left home this morning — I saw a big headline that we’re about to lay off 4,000 teachers in South Carolina. And that is an ominous thing to think about as we try to get our young people educated and we’re going forward.”

The Indiana State Teachers Association estimated that up to 5,000 teachers statewide could lose their jobs by next fall.
In Indiana, 284 Fort Wayne Community School employees will be laid off and about a third will be permanent.

In Arizona, many local school budgets are waiting for a May referendum on a 1 percent sales tax before being finalized. Tempe’s school governing board already approved a reduction in force in the event the measure does not pass since the tax increase could reduce its current $11.8 million gap to $6 million. Paradise Valley Unified School District said it would have to lay off 57 teachers and 16 additional support staff if the tax fails to pass. The Flagstaff Unified School District has already sent out 454 reduction in force letters.

The Washoe Education Association and other school district employee groups have agreed to salary freezes and furloughs of two professional days in the upcoming school year, saving the district $11 million and possibly avoiding layoffs. The Clark County School District and its employees have yet to agree to wage concessions, and the Clark County Education Association is expected to declare an impasse on several sticking points and will ask for binding arbitration. The School Board in Washoe on Wednesday approved a tentative operating budget with a $30 million shortfall, which would require cutting more than 1,000 positions to balance. The district has notified 90 school-site administrators that their positions could be eliminated. Those cuts, along with about 20 central office administrative jobs, would save the district $11 million. Increasing class sizes in grades 1-3 would reduce teacher ranks by 540 positions and save another $30 million.

In Nevada’s Clark County School District, due to the growing budget deficit spawned by the recession’s effect on tax revenue, the amount of money per student distributed by the state to Clark County may plummet 20 percent or more, wiping out gains in per-student funding going back to 2003. Superintendent Walt Rulffes said reducing employee compensation by about 2 percent across the board would cover the $28 million gap and save the equivalent of 400 teaching jobs. The district expects to eliminate more than 540 positions by increasing class sizes in grades 1-3.

In Connecticut, about 2,000 teaching jobs statewide are set to be eliminated in June as school boards resort to layoffs to cut expenses during difficult budget deliberations. “This is absolutely the worst I’ve seen in my tenure,” said John Yrchik, executive director of the Connecticut Education Association.

The Connecticut Department of Education reported that the number of teacher openings dropped by nearly 35 percent from fall 2008, when there were 4,533, to fall 2009, when there were 2,957.

Hartford schools, facing a $15 million budget gap, are preparing to lay off as many as 92 employees, including 49 teachers. In Norwich, nearly a quarter of the district’s teachers have been notified that their jobs are on the line. Wallingford officials have recommended 80 layoffs, more than 10 percent of the workforce.
Stamford officials are talking about closing a middle school. Bristol plans to close an elementary school and eliminate more than 20 jobs.

- During an April 14th Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, the state superintendent of schools in Alabama, Joseph B. Morton, told lawmakers he surveyed his districts and found that, without the additional aid, there are likely to be more than 2,800 job cuts in Alabama next year, including nearly 1,600 teachers.

- In Maryland, the Prince George's County school board has approved a budget that slashes 800 positions and the Fairfax County school board has approved a salary freeze and cut of more than 200 positions.

- In Florida, the Broward County School Board is meeting to try and figure out how the budget ax will fall on public school employees. When all is said and done, in a few weeks, hundreds are expected to lose their jobs. On April 23, 461 administrative and non-instructional staff were laid off to help fill a $130 million dollar hole. A workshop has been scheduled for Thursday to consider these layoffs, which could lead to anywhere between 800 and 1,000 pink slips over the next two to three weeks.

- U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that Louisiana will get more than $191 million more from the federal stimulus package. The funds are to prevent teacher layoffs and other education cuts, to provide special support to students with disabilities, and to improve schools in poor districts, among other goals. Stringent reporting requirements are attached to the money.

- On April 20 about 40 percent of the teachers in the Detroit Public Schools, over 2,000 teachers, received layoff notices as part of the city’s emergency financial plan. If the layoffs proceed, many of the teachers could be recalled before fall depending on several factors such as retirements, resignations and seniority, said DPS spokesman Steve Wasko. The layoffs included tenured teachers with more than 15 years experience.

  - Just weeks after massive teacher layoff notices were sent, Detroit Public Schools emergency financial manager Robert Bobb announced that he intends to bring the well-known program Teach for America back to the city in the fall. “I look forward to signing a contract next week with Teach for America,” Bobb said. Keith Johnson, Detroit Federation of Teachers president, said Bobb’s announcement was premature. “No TFA is coming into DPS when I’ve got teachers facing layoff,” he said.

- The Seattle, WA school district anticipated only sending pink slips to 30 to 50 teachers (rather than 172 teachers last year) to protect the classroom from cuts. It has put a freeze on hiring and has eliminated the equivalent of 85 full-time jobs in its central office. The district is also planning to use about $4.4 million of savings, and to raise about $1 million in new revenue. It's working to determine how to cut an additional $6 million
• On April 13, D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee stunned council members at a Tuesday meeting by revealing that part of the five-year, 20 percent raise promised to teachers in the new proposed labor contract would be financed with $34 million in salary savings discovered in late February -- three months after laying off 266 educators due to budget concerns.

  o Rhee said she was under no obligation to disclose the existence of the funds in the midst of labor negotiations, nor would she reinstate the 266 teachers. “We got this information very late in the game,” Rhee said. “The most important thing is for people to look forward.”

  o American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten and Washington Teachers' Union President George Parker said Rhee's disclosure of the extra money renews questions about the legitimacy of the October layoffs, which sparked bitter protests and an unsuccessful union lawsuit.

    ▪ Teachers charged that Rhee contrived the budget crisis by hiring more than 900 teachers in the spring and summer of 2009, and then targeting older instructors for layoffs. A D.C. Superior Court judge rejected the union's claims. Union President George Parker has met with lawyers and said the union would probably return to court within two or three days. He said Rhee's announcement of the surplus “changes materially the facts upon which [D.C. Superior Court Judge Judith Bartnoff] made her decision.”

    ▪ Weingarten and Parker demanded Tuesday that Rhee reinstate the laid-off educators or face a renewed court challenge to the legality of the job reductions.

    ▪ But both union leaders said they would urge their members, who will begin to review the proposed contract in informational sessions this week, to regard the layoffs as a separate issue that will be resolved in court.

• The Omaha Public School District mailed 225 certified letters to people who may not have their contracts renewed for next fall and had planned to eliminate 147 teaching and administrative positions.

School Budget Cuts Directly Forcing School Closures/Consolidations

• Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools, unveiled his plan to turn around the school system in March 2010 including closing 45 more schools this year. Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit’s 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $219 million.
- The closures are forced by predictions of continued enrollment loss with no clear end in sight. The trend is attributed to a declining birthrate, exodus of families from the city and competition from other schools. In all, the district expects to lose more than 30,000 students within five years, or a third of its population.

- Bobb wouldn't say how many jobs would be lost under the plan, but acknowledged the district would need fewer principals, teachers and staff. The job losses would be part of an expected work force reduction of 2,100 next year.

- On April 16, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wendy Baxter put a temporary halt to school closure plans while she considers a school board lawsuit that claims Bobb has overstepped his authority by making academic decisions without meeting with the board. Hearings on the lawsuit have been set for early June. MI Attorney General will challenge the court’s decision to temporarily block the plans and filed an emergency motion.

- In March 2010, the Kansas City School Board approved a plan to shutter 29 of 61 schools as part of a plan to erase a projected $50 million budget shortfall. The plan also calls for the elimination of 700 of 3,000 jobs, including teaching positions.

  - Experts said that in the school board’s years of inaction is a cautionary tale for school districts everywhere. Students have been leaving the Kansas City public schools in droves. Close to 18,000 students exited to better suburban districts or charter schools in the last 10 years alone. The student enrollment is now 17,400 children, who are mostly black and impoverished.

- St. Louis school system plans to shut down six schools and eliminate nearly 500 jobs to reduce a $58 million budget deficit. The schools slated for closing consist of an ROTC high school, one middle school, two alternative education schools, an after-school program and a special education site. Adams' plan would affect 226 teachers, 130 teaching assistants and office workers, 54 administrators and central office workers and 80 long-term substitute teachers. The superintendent said he hopes to avoid layoffs through early retirement and attrition - 150 employees had already accepted retirement offers since they were presented earlier this week.
Van Roekel Discounted Idea That Increases In Hiring Are Linked to Layoffs

“An increase in teacher hiring in recent years is leading some observers to posit a link to the waves of pink slips that districts are sending across the country. Thus far, hiring patterns have not been widely studied as part of the current discussion about layoffs. But national data from the U.S. Department of Education and from the National Education Association’s annual ‘Ranking & Estimates’ report show that between the 1999-2000 and the 2007-08 school years, the teacher force has increased at more than double the rate of K-12 student enrollments. Dennis Van Roekel acknowledged that districts have added teachers to the rolls to reduce class sizes and to staff initiatives tailored to specific populations, such as students with disabilities. But often, he said, districts have pursued such policies because of perceived needs. Research shows that smaller class sizes in early grades benefit minority students, for example. He discounted the idea that the policies might be linked to the slew of layoffs. ‘I don’t think it could ever be attributed to that,’” he said. “I just can’t imagine any district bringing on more educators than they need.’” (Education Week, May 13, 2010)

Wave of New Hiring Can Be Attributed to Several Factors Including Increased Student Enrollment and Fewer Than Anticipated Retirements

“The NEA’s annual ‘Rankings & Estimates’ report shows that from 1999-2000 to 2007-08, student enrollment increased from 46.6 million to 48.9 million, an increase of about 5 percent. The number of K-12 classroom teachers during that time period rose from 2.89 million to 3.2 million, an increase of 11 percent. In sum, the hiring of new teachers does not appear to have been offset by attrition or other factors, despite warnings of a wave of baby boomer teacher retirements. In fact, according to the national Common Core data, more than a dozen states have added teachers to the rolls even as their student enrollment declined overall. Although federal funding for class-size reduction waned after 2001, new types of staffing arrangements have sprung up, including efforts to move full-time teachers into coaching positions. In those roles, they observe other teachers and provide feedback, help teachers integrate content-specific pedagogical techniques, provide mentoring support, or model practices in classrooms. Schools have also added more specialists in English-language instruction, special education, and specialized intervention programs. Some experts contend that the up-to $100 billion in education dollars in the federal economic-stimulus legislation, most of it pushed out through formula to states and districts, has only exacerbated the problem. But other experts say that state and local mandates have effectively reduced districts’ ability to make careful hiring and layoff decisions.” (Education Week, May 13, 2010)

Sen. Harkin Proposed $23 Billion Bailout For Schools

“As public schools nationwide face larger class sizes and cuts in programs, Sen. Tom Harkin, the Senate’s leading Democrat on education issues proposed a $23 billion bailout Wednesday to help
avert layoffs of tens of thousands of teachers and other school personnel in the coming academic year. Educators nationwide are warning that their finances have been stretched to the breaking point. The Prince George's County school board has approved a budget that slashes 800 positions. The Fairfax County school board has approved a salary freeze and cut of more than 200 positions. Los Angeles schools have notified 5,200 teachers, principals and other staff members that their jobs may be cut. Education Secretary Arne Duncan estimated that school layoffs could total from 100,000 to 300,000 unless Congress acts. ‘It is brutal out there, really scary,’ Duncan told reporters on Capitol Hill. ‘This is a real emergency. What we're trying to avert is an education catastrophe.’ Duncan stopped just short of endorsing Harkin's bill.” (The Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

**Bill Had 13 Co-Sponsors, No Republican Support**

“As of Wednesday afternoon, the bill had at least 13 Democratic co-sponsors, but no Republican endorsements. Sen. Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.) said after the hearing that he was considering Harkin's proposal. ‘We cannot get ahead by under funding education,’ he said. Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) said he worried about where the government would find $23 billion for a bailout in a time of growing federal budget deficits. In December, the House approved a spending bill of similar scope to help save education jobs. But that measure stalled in the Senate.” (The Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

**Harkin’s Legislation Would be Modeled on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund to Include Funds for Compensation and Benefits to Help Districts Retain Existing Employees and Hire New Staff to Provide Early-Childhood, K-12, or Postsecondary Services**

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan today urged Congress to pass new aid to preserve education jobs. He testified before the Senate Appropriations subcommittee that deals with education spending on the same day the panel’s chairman introduced a bill that would provide $23 billion for that purpose. The legislation offered by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, would be modeled on the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. That fund was included in the $787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the economic-stimulus measure approved by Congress last year. The money could be used for compensation and benefits to help districts hold on to existing employees and to hire new staff members to provide early-childhood, K-12, or postsecondary services. It could also be used for on-the-job training for ‘education-related careers.’” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)

**Senior Democratic Aides Said Sen. Harkin’s Bill Unlikely to Pass Due to Deficit**

“Warning of an educational emergency, Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat of Iowa, proposed a $23 billion school bailout bill last Wednesday that would essentially provide more education stimulus financing to stave off the looming wave of school layoffs. Michael J. Petrilli, who served in the Education Department under President George W. Bush, predicted that the bill could attract significant support. But even if it is approved,
Mr. Petrilli said, it would leave an underlying problem unresolved. ‘Is the federal government going to try to prop up states and districts forever’ he said. ‘If not, we’re just kicking the can down the road. Eventually, districts need to learn to live with less.’ Senior Democratic aides said that because Mr. Harkin’s bill would add to the deficit, it was unlikely to pass.” (New York Times, April 20, 2010)

Sec. Duncan’s Told Reporters About Scary School Budget Climate Including “Massive Layoffs Around the Country;” Marked First Time the Administration Explicitly Called for New Federal Funding to Help Schools Weather Economic Problems

“Secretary Duncan’s public support for such aid marks the first time the Obama administration has explicitly called for new federal funding to help schools weather the continuing economic problems facing states and school districts. ‘It is brutal out there,’ Mr. Duncan told reporters after his testimony. ‘It is really scary. We’re seeing massive layoffs around the country.’” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)

In December the House Approved a Measure to Allocate $23 Billion in Job Aid to Schools Including $4.1 Billion for School Facilities but Has Not Been Considered by Senate

In December, the House of Representatives approved a measure that would also allocate $23 billion in job aid to schools, but the Senate has yet to consider such legislation. The House measure also includes $4.1 billion for school facilities, an issue that Mr. Harkin has championed. But he said facilities funding would not be in his version of the bill. Sen. Harkin said in an interview that, while he isn’t “giving up” on the idea of more aid for school modernization, he wants to keep the focus of this package on jobs.” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)

Duncan Told Reporters Congress Should Pass an Education Jobs Package in May to Help Schools Plan Budgets Before Teachers are Out of Work

“Following his testimony, Mr. Duncan told reporters that he would like to see Congress pass an education jobs package in May, so that school districts could count on the aid as they work out their budgets for the next school year. He said he wasn’t sure if the $23 billion that Sen. Harkin is proposing would be sufficient, but he called it ‘a good start.’ Sen. Harkin agreed that Congress needs to act quickly, saying the measure ‘can’t wait until August’ when many teachers would already have been put out of work. ‘The number of pink slips for educators for educators could easily, easily, top 100,000,’ Mr. Harkin said in his opening statement at the hearing. ‘Job cuts of this magnitude would, of course, have a devastating impact on families throughout the country.’ The senator said the $23 billion figure is roughly half of what was in the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund portion of the stimulus package, which covered two fiscal years. The new measure would only cover the 2010-11 school year.” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)
Duncan Estimated Budget Cuts Imperiled Up To 300,000 Public School Jobs and Urged Congress to Approve Additional Stimulus Funds to Save School Jobs

“School districts around the country, forced to resort to drastic money-saving measures, are warning hundreds of thousands of teachers that their jobs may be eliminated in June. ‘We are doing things and considering options I never thought I’d have to consider,’ said Peter C. Gorman, superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools in North Carolina, who expects to cut 600 of the district’s 9,400 teachers this year, after laying off 120 last year. Districts in California have given pink slips to 22,000 teachers. Illinois authorities are predicting 17,000 job cuts in the public schools. And New York has warned nearly 15,000 teachers that their jobs could disappear in June. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan estimated that state budget cuts imperiled 100,000 to 300,000 public school jobs. In an interview on Monday, he said the nation was flirting with ‘education catastrophe,’ and urged Congress to approve additional stimulus funds to save school jobs. Some of the deepest cuts are in Los Angeles, where Superintendent Ramon C. Cortines sent notices to 5,200 of the district’s 80,000 employees last month, telling them that they were losing their jobs.” (The New York Times, April 20, 2010)


“Facing a recession and the coming end of billions of dollars in federal stimulus funding, school districts nationwide are handing teachers pink slips for the upcoming school year. The cuts may ultimately be milder than the dire predictions — and critics are already joking that school advocates should soften the ‘teacherpocalypse’ rhetoric. But the grim predictions have already generated protests. Teachers in several states have rallied to keep school funding, and across the USA, teachers today will wear pink hearts as part of a national ‘Pink Hearts, Not Pink Slips’ campaign organized by the American Federation of Teachers, the nation's second-largest teachers union. U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Monday that the situation was serious. ‘I’m very, very concerned,’ he said in an interview. ‘I can't say that strongly enough.’ Although most of the pink slips are conditional on final budget calculations — and in many cases warnings are required by teacher contracts — the teachers federation says there's little good budget news in most of the hardest-hit states, which include California (36,000 pink slips), Illinois (20,000 jobs threatened), Michigan (4,000) and cities such as New York (8,500).” (USA Today, May 4, 2010)

“The ‘Pink Hearts, Not Pink Slips’ campaign aims to draw attention to the devastating impact educational budget cuts—and the resulting layoffs—will have on our students, their schools and our communities. Starting on May 4, National Teacher Day, we are encouraging everyone to wear pink hearts to acknowledge the important contributions of educators. Educators put their heart and soul into their work, and every day they make a real difference in the lives of children. Budgets may be tightening, but students need educators in the classroom, not in unemployment lines. Our government didn’t walk away from Wall Street. We should demand no less from them when it comes to saving our children’s future. We must voice our support for federal legislation that will provide
$23 billion to help school districts avoid layoffs and cuts in vital services for children. Help us preserve the education lifeline our students deserve.” (AFT Website: Pink Hearts Not Pink Slips, About)

**New York Times Editorial: Congress Must Act to Prevent Teacher Layoffs That Could Damage Fragile Economy**

“Last year’s $100 billion education stimulus plan insulated the public schools from the worst of the recession and saved an estimated 300,000 jobs. With the economy still lagging and states forced to slash their budgets, Congress must act again to prevent a wave of teacher layoffs that could damage the fragile recovery and hobble the school reform effort for years to come. In March, Representative George Miller introduced a jobs bill that included a $23 billion school rescue plan. Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat of Iowa, has since introduced a similar plan fashioned as an emergency spending bill. The House version is the better of the two. The need for a second school stimulus plan was underscored on Monday by a new analysis from the American Association of School Administrators, which reported that cash-strapped districts were prepared to cut as many 275,000 jobs in the 2010-2011 school year. The loss of that many paychecks — and the resulting decline in consumer spending — could kill off still more jobs in the communities where teachers and other school employees live.” (The New York Times, May 5, 2010)

**House Leaders Should Insist on Two Important Changes to Existing Bills:**

*Discard Ambiguous Language to Allow for Expenditures Other Than Education and Remove a Provision Exempting States from Requirement Not to Cut Budgets and Fill Holes with Federal Funds*

“Assuming that both houses pass their respective bills, House leaders should insist on two important changes. First, they should discard ambiguous language in both bills that could allow that states to use the money for expenditures other than education. Second, they should remove a provision of the Senate version that exempts the states from adhering to important reform requirements laid out the original stimulus bill. Under those conditions, states are barred from cutting school funds and using the new federal dollars to fill the gap. They are also required to create data driven systems for monitoring student progress and evaluating teachers — and to ensure that low-income and minority children are no longer disproportionately taught by unqualified teachers.” (The New York Times, May 5, 2010)

**Helen Thomas Column: “Granted that School Systems are Under State Control, the Federal Government Needs to Step Up and Help Them Overcome Their Financial Woes”**

Helen Thomas writes, “President Barack Obama needs to wake up to the fact that the nation's school systems are going down the drain. Thousands of teachers face a payless summer. Millions of school children are looking at a drop in educational standards and bigger classes. We are depriving students of their right to a decent education. Granted that school systems are under state control, the federal government needs to step up and help them overcome their financial
woes. Obama promised change. But change from his predecessor's policies and priorities required a giant leap, and he has not made it. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, has proposed a $23 billion federal bailout to help states avert teacher layoffs. This is a pittance compared with the cost of enforcing U.S. foreign policy around the world.” (TimesUnion.Com, May 3, 2010)

**Democratic Leaders of the U.S. House Met in Speaker’s Office to Emphasize Need for Public Support to Save Teaching Jobs**

“Following an economic forum, held in the Speaker’s Office this morning, Members of Congress and economic experts emphasized the need to provide support to state and local governments to save jobs. Rep. George Miller said, ‘…we look at the crisis looming with somewhere between 250,000 to 300,000 teachers being laid off across the country. The revenues that were stripped from those school districts came from a result of the financial scandals on Wall Street.’ Majority Whip James Clyburn said, ‘My take-away from this meeting today is that it is very, very important for us to do what is necessary in the interim to continue to stabilize governments. We are seeing significant headlines as I left home this morning — I saw a big headline that we’re about to lay off 4,000 teachers in South Carolina. And that is an ominous thing to think about as we try to get our young people educated and we’re going forward.’ (The American Chronicle, May 11, 2010)

**Duncan: “I’m Strongly, Strongly Pushing Congress to Take Action”**

In an MSNBC interview, Arne Duncan said, “I'm desperately concerned about the number, literally, potentially, hundreds of thousands of teachers being laid off going into this fall, fall 2010. And so I've been urging Congress absolutely strong as I can to take action to save teacher jobs around the country. We cannot afford those layoffs educationally. Our economy can't afford those layoffs…I'm strongly, strongly pushing Congress to take action to save hundreds of thousands of teachers' jobs now around the country.” When asked if his warnings are being heeded by Congress, he responded, “Absolutely. Are people listening? There's not a law that's been put out there yet, legislation for folks to vote on. But I'm actively talking to both Democrats and Republicans around the country. I'm very hopeful that we can break through, but there's a lot of hard work ahead of us.” (Federal News Service, May 11, 2010)

**New Jersey Star Ledger Editorial: Congress Should Pass Stimulus for Schools to Stem Teacher Layoffs**

“A bill drafted by Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and supported by the both New Jersey senators and the governor would pump $23 billion into schools as part of an economic stimulus package. That’s a fraction of the $100 billion education stimulus that was passed last year, but it would help. New Jersey’s share would be about $630 million. The bill faces long odds, mainly because of concerns about the national debt. That’s wrongheaded economics. Most economists have concluded that last year’s stimulus bill made a significant dent in unemployment and helped turn around the economy’s nosedive. The real problem is not short-term deficits during a recession, but long-term debt, which is driven overwhelmingly by Social Security and health programs. For now, while unemployment remains high, deficit spending is sensible economic policy. None of this will rescue New Jersey schools before September. Even if Congress moves quickly, the
money wouldn’t arrive until six months after the president signs the bill. And that means for the
time being the best hope for teachers remains the teachers themselves. They need to accept pay
freezes to avoid layoffs. By the most recent count, teachers in only 34 districts had accepted
freezes or reductions.” (NJ.com, May 7, 2010)

**Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel** Editorial Headline: Bill In Congress Could Supply $400 Million To Save State Educators’ Jobs

“Wisconsin's schools chief ramped up lobbying efforts Tuesday for a $23 billion education jobs
bill pending in Washington that could stave off teacher layoffs next year. State Superintendent of
Public Instruction Tony Evers said that if the bill passes Congress, it could bring more than $400
million to Wisconsin in extra stimulus funding, enough to save thousands of full-time teaching
positions across the state next school year. The severity of educator layoffs is worse in other
parts of the country. Cleveland Public Schools, with about 50,000 students, is expecting to lay
off 545 teachers and 100 principals. In Atlanta, the 90,000-student Fulton County School System
might have to cut about 1,000 jobs, including close to 500 teaching positions. Milwaukee Public
Schools, with about 85,300 students, has proposed comparatively more layoffs than any other
district in the state: 850 employees, including around 150 to 200 teachers. Elsewhere in
Wisconsin, proposed job cuts are less severe. The Appleton Area School District may have to
eliminate about 50 positions, most of them teachers. The School District of Beloit is looking at
12 staff cuts, Beloit Education Association President Tim Vedra said Tuesday. Evers said he did
not know the total number of teacher and school staff layoffs proposed in Wisconsin, nor the
exact number of jobs the potential $415 million could save. But it would be a lot, he said.” (The
Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, May 11, 2010)

**Republican Sen. Richard Shelby Left Open Possibility to Back a Limited Stimulus Aimed Only at Education**

“Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., the top Republican on the Senate education appropriations
subcommittee, did not support the ARRA. But he left open the possibility that he would back a
more limited package aimed only at education, saying that he was taking a look at his
colleague’s measure.” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)

**Superintendents Said They Could Save Thousands of Jobs with Education Jobs Bill**

“During the [April 14th Senate Appropriations Committee] hearing, the state superintendent of
schools in Mr. Shelby’s home state, Joseph B. Morton, urged lawmakers to support Sen.
Harkin’s bill. He said he surveyed his districts and found that, without the additional aid, there
are likely to be more than 2,800 job cuts in Alabama next year, including nearly 1,600 teachers.
‘We know that we need a jobs bill,’ he said. Ramon Cortines, the superintendent of the Los
Angeles school system, which recently agreed to shorten the school year by five days to help
avert layoffs, also testified in support of the measure. He said it could save as many as 3,000 jobs
in his district alone. ‘Our students and teachers are losing instructional time and taking a pay
cut,’ Mr. Cortines said. Layoffs are still expected, he added.” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)
Education Jobs Bill Has No Republican Support

“To date, the education jobs bill has no Republican support. When asked if he would back the measure, Senate HELP Committee member John McCain, R-Ariz., responded, ‘How is [Harkin] going to pay for it? I want to know how he is going to pay.’ Another GOP member, Richard Burr of North Carolina, said he hadn't seen the bill but ‘couldn't imagine’ he would support it, positing that it's not the role of the federal government to hire teachers. If the bill is unable to pass as a standalone, a Senate appropriations staffer indicated that it may latch on to a military supplemental.” (The National Journal, May 5, 2010)

Van Roekel: Appreciate Our Teachers, and Call on Senate to Pass “Keep Our Educators Working Act”

In an editorial, NEA President Dennis Van Roekel writes, “This is Teacher Appreciation Week, a time when students and parents show their gratitude for those who have guided them through another school year. Along with these tokens of gratitude, this year, many teachers have also received pink slips. It’s happening across the country as desperate school districts implement layoffs. Educators will be out of work but it is our public school students who will really be out of luck. If these layoffs stand, many beloved teachers will be gone when students return to school next fall – but the students will still be there, and their needs will be the same. Need more individual attention? Too bad. They’ll be crowded into classrooms with 35 or 40 other students. Need a reading specialist? Gone. Sports programs, art classes, bus routes — all will be cut, and students will live with the impact for the rest of their lives. That’s why the U.S. Senate should immediately pass the Keep Our Educators Working Act. The House has already passed similar legislation that would save school programs across the nation. Children get only one shot at an education. It is not their fault they are in school during a devastating economic crisis.” (The Hill, April 5, 2010)

Ed Week Rick Hess Blog: Duncan’s Support of Harkin’s Education Stimulus Bill Compromises Effectiveness as Reformer

“Even as our earnest Secretary of Education Arne Duncan enthusiastically embraces Senator Tom Harkin's pander-refic $23 billion ‘Keep Our Educators Working Act of 2010’ he's insisting that this development won't compromise his credibility or effectiveness as a reformer. Me, I'm skeptical. The crux of reform is the insistence on changing the way business is done. That's much harder to do when one is proffering gifts with no strings attached, and especially when those gifts dwarf the meager allowance that parents are urging children to earn. Making it easier for states and districts to kick the can down the road on addressing unaffordable benefits, inefficient outlays, and problematic staffing and pay arrangements, and doing so with no strings attached, is a recipe for sustaining the status quo. That's the position that Secretary Duncan, the would-be reformer, finds himself in.” (Education Week, April 22, 2010)

NEA is Diminishing and Trivializing Administration Education Initiative

“Duncan has been out cheering Harkin's bill, with the Department press mavens eagerly
touting his angst. Duncan would have us believe this impassioned defense of the status quo won't undercut Race to the Top or the administration's reformist tendencies. Unfortunately for Duncan, the biggest beneficiary of the intended largesse--the NEA--is busy arguing otherwise. Talk about a lousy playmate. As the eagle-eyed Mike Petrilli called to my attention, the NEA yesterday sent out an ebullient press release headlined: ‘Most states would receive more aid under an education jobs bill than a Race to the Top grant.’ The NEA's release gloatingly quoted NEA President Dennis Van Roekel's opinion that, ‘Now is not the time for competition. Competition is a luxury our states should have during a budget surplus, not when they are facing record deficits and slashing jobs. Our children's future should not depend on whether their state or district receives a competitive grant.’ Duncan just can't get Van Roekel to win gracefully, can he? Last year, he gave the NEA $100 billion as a get-acquainted gift. The RTT guidelines were amended last year to insist on ‘buy-in’ from union locals, among others. And, yet, even when he's out shilling for them, he can't get the NEA to avoid an ostentatious victory dance that diminishes and trivializes the administration's prize education initiative. The result undercuts Duncan's carefully crafted reform stance.” (Education Week, April 22, 2010)

**Department of Education Solicited Information from States**

“A couple of terrific sources shared a solicitation from the Department of Education that was sent to ‘one’ trusted source in each state, seeking info the Department can use to advocate for another $23 billion in fresh borrowing--despite the domestic discretionary freeze that a somber President Obama unveiled in January. In the solicitation that the administration seems to presume that some states have already counted on nonexistent federal aid in building their fiscal 2011 budgets. Hard to pose as a reformer where you're doing everything you can to marshal borrowed dollars to help subsidize the status quo.” (Education Week, April 22, 2010)

**Survey Found That 90 Percent of Administrators Expect to Cut Positions For Coming Year**

“Last week the American Association of School Administrators reported that two-thirds of members surveyed cut positions for this school year and 90 percent expect to do so for the coming year. The survey of 453 administrators also found that 62 percent anticipated raising the average class size, 34 percent were considering the elimination of summer school and 13 percent were weighing the possibility of a four-day school week. In California, the budget situation is so bleak that more than 20,000 educators have been given notice they might not be rehired in the next school year.” (The Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

**Study Finds Teacher Pension Funding Gap Especially Troublesome for Retirements in Big Numbers Due to Layoffs or Economic Reasons**

“Teachers looking to retire in big numbers due to layoffs or other reasons nationwide could find that the money they expect to finance their futures is not all there. Research into the nation's teacher pension programs by the Foundation for Educational Choice and the Manhattan Institute
suggests that Georgia and other states have underfunded the retirement plans by billions of dollars through the use of conservative accounting methods reflecting current market trends instead of future expectations of investment returns. But officials with the Teacher Retirement System of Georgia say they made the appropriate adjustments when the nation's economy turned downward, and even the pension study suggests that the state's program is among the best funded in the country. Teacher pension liabilities for all 50 states total about $933 billion -- nearly three times more than reflected on balance sheets -- which could bankrupt some state budgets as they struggle to meet retirement obligations. The report recommends that states could save money by switching new teachers to a 401(k) plan so they, like employees in private industry, can assume the bulk of the risk for their retirement.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 14, 2010)

**Federal Report Claimed Recovery Aid Prevented 250,000 RIFs**

“Federal economic recovery aid has created or saved 250,000 education jobs, the Obama administration announced Monday, although states and school systems continue to face enormous fiscal pressures. The report issued by the White House and the Education Department does not address how many education jobs have been cut this year because of the recession, nor does it project how many are in jeopardy in the coming year… Monday's report suggests that without $67 billion in federal aid provided through Sept. 30 under the economic stimulus law, state and local budgets for public schools and higher education would be hemorrhaging. The report previews more detailed education jobs data that will be announced Oct. 30. The largest share of the $67 billion, about $35 billion, went straight to states to shore up teetering budgets, mainly for education. Another $22 billion bolstered special education instruction and programs for disadvantaged students. The rest was spent on college student aid and other programs.” (Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

**February 2009 Emergency Education Financing Saved More Than 342,000 School Jobs**

“In the economic stimulus bill passed in February 2009, Congress appropriated about $100 billion in emergency education financing. States spent much of that in the current fiscal year, saving more than 342,000 school jobs, about 5.5 percent of all the positions in the nation’s 15,000 school systems, according to a study by the Center on Reinventing Public Education at the University of Washington. States will spend about $36 billion of the stimulus money in the next fiscal year, leaving their budgets short by some $144 billion, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-leaning research group.” (New York Times, April 20, 2010)

**Stimulus Funding Accounted for 9 Percent of K-12 Spending in California, Indiana, Alabama and Oregon in the 2008-09 Fiscal Year**

“The report estimates that stimulus funding accounted for 9 percent of state K-12 education spending in California, Indiana, Alabama and Oregon in the 2008-09 fiscal year. The portion for Illinois was 23 percent. In the District, Virginia and Maryland, the report found, stimulus aid accounted for a smaller share of regular K-12 spending -- ranging as high as 2 percent. About $30 billion in education aid from the stimulus law
remains unspent, including $5 billion earmarked for school reform. By "jobs saved," the report means potential reductions in force that had been averted through restoration of funds. The report emphasizes that figures are preliminary. Jobs saved or created, it says, "include teachers, principals and support staff in elementary and secondary schools, and educational, administrative and support personnel in institutions of higher education." Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, said the federal aid backfilled state and local funding cuts. "It was mostly saving jobs, as opposed to creating new jobs," Domenech said. But he said larger average class sizes across the country showed that many jobs were not saved." (Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

**NCSL Reported that 27 States are Forecasting Shortfalls for FY 2011**

“From coast to coast, officials are warning of education funding troubles ahead. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that 27 states are forecasting shortfalls for fiscal 2011 that total at least $61 billion, with five more states predicting unspecified budget shortages. Widespread state cutbacks would threaten a major source of school revenue. ‘You could be looking easily at another 24 months before states come out from under water,’ said David Quam, director of federal relations for the National Governors Association. This month, D.C. school officials laid off more than 380 teachers and other personnel, citing a budget shortage. Fairfax County school officials said they are considering major cuts to fill a $176 million budget hole.” (Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

**CALIFORNIA**

**California Tax Collections Plummeted Unexpectedly in April (by Roughly $3 Billion), Deeper Cuts to Government Services are Predicted**

“State tax collections plummeted unexpectedly in April, wiping out months of steady gains that legislators hoped would ease their budget troubles and restore California's economy faster than experts predicted. Revenue for April, the biggest revenue month because it is when most Californians pay their taxes, lagged projections by nearly 30% — roughly $3 billion, according to state officials. The decline sets Sacramento back as next month's deadline for passing a budget approaches. Lawmakers face a deficit of $18.6 billion — about 20% of general fund spending — with no easy options left for addressing it, as they have already cut state services severely and temporarily raised income, sales and vehicle taxes. The retraction could mean even deeper cuts in government services — schools, healthcare for the poor and services for the elderly. Lawmakers may also be forced to consider more reductions in funds for public universities, as well as tax hikes. For months, the Democrats who dominate the Legislature have hoped they would be able to balance the state's books with the help of an upswing in revenue, delaying any substantial budget cuts.” (Los Angeles Times, May 4, 2010)
Mercury News Headline: More Than 23,000 Layoff Notices Issued to Teachers Statewide

“Education budget cuts have prompted school districts across the state to send out more than 23,000 pink slips, notifying teachers and other certificated employees they may not have jobs next year. In a morning news conference, state Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said 21,905 pink slips had gone out from districts, which had to meet a state-mandated Monday deadline to notify staff they may not have jobs next year… By Monday afternoon, the number of notices had swelled to 23,225, according to figures from the California Teachers Association, which represents 325,000 teachers. Pink slips were sent by 464 school districts statewide, including more than 4,100 in the greater Bay Area, the union said. These do not include notices given to probationary teachers who will not be permanently hired, said spokesman Mike Myslinski. Of those who received the notices, however, it's unknown how many will ultimately lose their jobs. Final layoff notices will be mailed in May, after districts have a better idea about the state budget for the 2010-11 school year.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

In California, Nearly 22,000 Teachers Have Received Layoff Notices

“Around North County (California), teachers are getting laid off by the hundreds as public school districts struggle with multimillion-dollar deficits. Statewide, nearly 22,000 teachers have received notices that they could be laid off at the end of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The state requires districts to notify teachers by March 15 that they could be laid off in the coming year. Final decisions must be made by May 15.” (San Diego Tribune, March 21, 2010)

Here is a roundup of tentative teacher layoffs in several districts around North County: In Cardiff School District, the district issued tentative layoff notices to three tenured teachers. Four temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Del Mar Union School District, the district issued 45 tentative layoff notices- 44 tenured teachers and one administrator. Nineteen temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Encinitas Union School District, the district issued 22 tentative layoff notices- 17 tenured teachers and five probationary teachers. Eight temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Escondido Elementary School District, the district issued tentative layoff notices to 77 tenured teachers. Thirty to 40 teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Oceanside Unified School District, the district issued 118 tentative layoff notices- 116 tenured teachers and two probationary teachers. Eighty-two temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Poway Unified School District, the district issued 130 tentative layoff notices- 97 tenured teachers, 27 probationary teachers, three counselors, one psychologist and two administrators. Sixty temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In San Marcos Unified School District, the district issued 40 tentative layoff notices- 29 tenured teachers and 11 probationary teachers. One hundred thirty-two temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Vista Unified School District, the district issued 20 tentative layoff notices- 13 tenured teachers and seven probationary teachers. Sixty-two temporary teachers on one-year contracts
were released. More than 150 teaching positions in all were eliminated. Ninety-seven teachers signed up for an early-retirement incentive program, which helped lower the number of teachers who received tentative layoff notices.” (San Diego Tribune, March 21, 2010)

**In the Past Two Years, K-12 Funding Has been Cut by $18 Billion in CA, in 2009 Over 16,000 Teachers Lost Jobs**

“Last year, more than 16,000 teachers lost their jobs. In the past two years, about 10,000 classified school employees such as secretaries and custodians have been let go as public education funding for K-14 schools in California has been cut by about $18 billion, according to the state Department of Education.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

**16,000 California Teachers Lost Jobs Due to Budget Cuts Last Year**

“California public schools have lost about $17 billion from what they could have normally expected from the state over the past two years. About 16,000 teachers lost their jobs due to budget cuts last year, state officials said. In January, the governor proposed cutting an additional $2.4 billion. (Ventura County Star, April 6, 2010)

**NEA Vice President Eskelsen Said California Funding Needs to be Determined Before Layoffs Can Be Prioritized**

Lily Eskelsen, Vice President of the NEA, spoke on the KGO radio station in California on April 21, 2010. She was asked about Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposal to prevent teacher layoffs based on seniority. She responded, “Well, those details can be worked out. What they’re doing right now is saying ‘maybe we don’t need a music program,’ so they lay off all the music teachers. So, if it’s its seniority or if it’s an entire program that disappears, it’s our kids who are going to lose if you don’t have the right people waiting at that schoolhouse door in September. And until we get the money to ensure that you can have the kinds of programming and the type of class size that supports good, quality learning conditions, we’ll never get to the debate on how you prioritize.” (Lily Eskelsen on KGO, April 21, 2010)

**Eskelsen: Layoffs Will Widen Gaps Between “Haves” and “Have Nots” in California**

The host of the program said that the budget cuts and layoffs were going to make gap between haves and have nots wider in California. While wealth districts can raise money to pay teachers, poorer districts cannot do this. Eskelsen commented, “Absolutely, if we don’t have the proper funding. I know what kind of needs those kids bring to the classroom because they have all the disadvantages in their neighborhoods and in their homes. So we’re going to have more kids on free and reduced lunch, we’re going to have more kids whose families are struggling to just put food on the table and pay the rent- the stress that puts on a family! In some of our neighborhoods where the kids are going to
need a counselor, where the kids are going to need a teacher who can spend real quality time with them, there’s going to be 42 kids in the classroom and you’re going to be able to give them less and less of what they need.” (Lily Eskelsen on KGO, April 21, 2010)

**LA School Superintendent Told Senate Appropriators that an Education Jobs Bill Could Save As Many As 3,000 Jobs in His District Alone**

“Ramon Cortines, the superintendent of the Los Angeles school system, which recently agreed to shorten the school year by five days to help avert layoffs, also testified in support of the measure. He said it could save as many as 3,000 jobs in his district alone. ‘Our students and teachers are losing instructional time and taking a pay cut,’ Mr. Cortines said. Layoffs are still expected, he added.” (*Education Week*, April 14, 2010)

**Megan Fox School Budget Film Dramatized Effects of Cuts on L.A. Elementary School; Earned PTA President a Trip to Talk with Governor’s Staff**

“A Los Angeles-area PTA even persuaded actress Megan Fox to film a comedy short dramatizing the effects of school budget cuts — and mocking California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's tough-guy image. The short Fox film dramatizes the effects of budget cuts on an L.A.-area elementary school. It was sponsored by the Wonderland Avenue Elementary School PTA in Laurel Canyon. Principal Don Wilson, who appears briefly in the film, says the project began as a letter-writing campaign for kids, but the PTA expanded it and asked Fox's boyfriend, Brian Austin Green, a Wonderland Avenue parent, to pitch in. The duo and production staff worked free. Response to the film, Wilson says, has been 'overwhelmingly positive.' Among other things, it earned the PTA president a trip to Sacramento to talk with Schwarzenegger's staff.” (*USA Today*, May 4, 2010)

**Wonderland School Faces 21 Layoffs, No Korean Translator**

“Wilson says most of the cuts at his school are real — since last May he has lost an assistant principal and special-education teacher; his nurse now shows up just once a week. This year, three of 21 teachers have been pink-slipped — he believes that two of the jobs will be saved. In one of the film's more jarring moments, Fox looks on as a fifth-grader complains about school conditions — in Korean. No one can translate. Wilson says the exchange is fairly typical. Though most of the Korean-American children at Wonderland Avenue speak English, few Korean parents do. He has been trying to get a translator on staff ‘for years,’ he says: ‘Almost half of our school is Korean, and nobody speaks Korean.’” (*USA Today*, May 4, 2010)

**San Francisco Teachers Union Called for District to Rescind Layoff Notices Sent to 900 Educators; Mediator Requested for Contentious Contract Talks**
San Francisco teachers marched through city streets Tuesday night en route to a contentious Board of Education meeting where union members called for the school district to rescind layoff notices sent to some 900 educators. Contentious contract talks between the San Francisco Unified School District and the teachers union have gone from bad to worse, with a mediator being requested to help jump start stalled negotiations before layoffs begin. United Educators of San Francisco insisted it's done its share by agreeing to furlough days and other monetary concessions. Schools Superintendent Carlos Garcia said the progress made was wiped away by new demands from union pertaining to hiring, teacher evaluations and pick up and mail delivery. Union secretary Susan Solomon countered that the demands were not unfair, just a request that the district show respect for the financial sacrifices teachers are agreeing to make.” (KTVU.com, April 14, 2010)

San Francisco School Board Rescinded Half of 701 Pink Slips Sent to Teachers and Administrators

“The San Francisco school board rescinded half of the 701 pink slips sent to teachers and administrators in March, vowing Tuesday night to save at least 150 more jobs after a preliminary agreement reached with teachers is a done deal. The 5-1 vote to cut layoffs down to 350 positions followed an 11th-hour deal reached between the teachers union and district negotiators minutes before the board meeting started. The union was still scheduled to hold a meeting with members May 20 to consider a strike authorization vote, the outcome likely dependent on settling a contract, union officials said. To stay financially solvent, district officials asked several unions for contract concessions, including furloughs and suspension of teacher and administrator sabbaticals. With those concessions, Superintendent Carlos Garcia said he could commit to not exceed 200 layoffs. The preliminary agreement includes some changes to working conditions, including teacher preparation time and limitations on sabbaticals. The district also agreed to rescind half the pink slips to teachers' aides. The agreement also includes four unpaid furlough days this year and next, which would make the school year shorter for students and result in a de facto cut in teachers' pay.” (The San Francisco Chronicle, May 12, 2010)

85 Teacher Layoff Notices to Be Approved in 2 Districts (But They are Lower Than Originally Put Forward)

“Layoff notices for over 85 teachers in two districts should be approved today, a final step to cutting the employees as part of budget reduction plans. California law requires final teacher layoff notices to go out by May 15. Notifications of potential releases went out in March. Numbers before the San Mateo-Foster City and Belmont-Redwood Shores elementary school districts are lower than originally put forward. If approved, the layoff notices will go out next week. Despite the decisions, teachers are still hopeful teachers will be asked back. ‘The San Mateo-Foster City School District currently estimates the need to make $8.4 million in reductions through 2011-12. Many of us are holding our breath, waiting for the governor’s May Revise, hoping that funding to education will improve so that our district (along with others) will be able to restore programs and positions,’ said Phyllis Harris, San Mateo Elementary Teachers Association president. Originally, the district planned layoffs based on increasing class sizes to 31, which would require far fewer teachers. At the moment, it’s proposing an increase to 25 and
San Mateo County Schools Prepare for Teacher Layoffs and Increased Class Sizes

“Hundreds of layoff notices will go out to teachers at the end of the week as districts prepare final votes before the state required deadline of May 15 to notify those who will be out of a job. California required districts to send out preliminary notices to teachers by March 15. That number is refined this month as final layoff notices must be sent out by May 15, this Saturday. On Wednesday, the San Bruno Park Elementary School District Board of Trustees will vote to release 26 certificated employees. It originally noticed 33 people. The Millbrae Elementary School District Board of Trustees will vote Wednesday to release 33.75 full-time equivalent employees, known as FTEs. Most of those position cuts are due to plans to increase class sizes in kindergarten through third grade from 20:1 to 28:1. The South San Francisco Unified School District Board of Trustees meets Thursday to discuss laying off 50.65 FTEs. Earlier proposals for cuts showed increasing class sizes, going to 23.9 students to one teacher in kindergarten through third grade, and increasing class sizes through high school, will result in the loss of 26 to 27 teachers. Other positions could be eliminated due to a reduction in summer school offerings. Art teachers and physical education teachers are all among the possible cuts. Twenty individuals in the San Carlos Elementary School District, representing 12.65 FTEs, could have their positions reduced or eliminated. Numbers for the Redwood City Elementary School District will be delayed. In March, the district sent preliminary pink slips to 127.2 FTEs. Eighty-two of those positions are classroom teachers who will be lost due to increasing class sizes, which at the time was estimated to rise to 34. Notices were issued from the San Mateo-Foster City and Belmont-Redwood Shores elementary school districts. The San Mateo-Foster City School District identified over 100 certificated and administrator positions for potential layoffs in March, but voted to release 66.12 FTEs Thursday. Belmont-Redwood Shores previously let go 19.5 temporary teachers. Otherwise, the district was able to reinstate nearly all other positions, said Superintendent Emerita Orta-Camilleri.” (The Daily Journal, May 12, 2010)

San Marcos Unified School District Finalized 40 Teacher Layoffs to Bridge Budget Gap

“Trustees in the San Marcos Unified School District approved final layoff notices for 40 teachers Monday night as a step to help offset a projected $15 million budget shortfall in the next school year. Michael DeVries, president of the San Marcos Educators Association, pleaded with the board to rescind at least some of the layoff notices originally announced on March 8 because several teachers have taken early retirements or resigned since then. Superintendent Kevin Holt said he could not recommend rescinding the notices because there still is too much uncertainty about the amount of money the district will receive from the state for the next fiscal year. Besides the permanent teachers receiving layoff notices, the district is not rehiring 130 temporary teachers, including 41 who are working full time.” (North County Times, May 10, 2010)

Cajon Valley Union Schools Face Layoffs of Up To 61 Teachers
“Larger classes, a shorter school year, and layoffs of up to 61 teachers — those are some of the grim choices facing members of the Cajon Valley Union School District board as they look for ways to cut $8 million from a $145 million budget. Like other school districts in California, Cajon Valley is expecting much less from the state this year, although the final amount won’t be known for several months. The district must approve its 2010-11 budget by mid-June. Increasing class sizes to 30 students from 25 for kindergarten through third grade — and laying off 50 teachers — will save more than $578,000, a district analysis showed. The laid-off teachers would also have first rights for substitute jobs in the district.” (San Diego Union Tribune, May 1, 2010)

**As of April 22nd, 84 Escondido Teachers No Longer Face Layoffs**

“Escondido Union School District has rescinded layoff notices sent to 84 teachers a month ago, when it thought it would lose funding because of Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed $2.4 billion in education cuts. The Escondido board of trustees decided last week that layoffs wouldn’t save much money, said Bob Leon, deputy superintendent for human resources. He explained that fewer teachers would result in bigger classes, which would cause the district to lose state funding aimed at keeping classes small. At the same time, 45 people have retired, and the district can apply that money to teacher salaries, he said. Escondido Union has 18,000 students.” (The San Diego Union-Tribune, April 22, 2010)

**Escondido School District Teacher Layoff Rescinded, Reductions Not Seen as Cost-Effective**

“The Escondido Union School District is rescinding layoff notices sent to teachers last month and the Poway Unified School District is close to doing the same, officials said. In Escondido, district officials have found laying off 84 teachers would not create the cost-savings originally expected. In Poway, officials are rolling back salaries, cutting the school year and considering using reserve funds to save teaching jobs. Bob Leon, deputy superintendent of human resources in the Escondido Union School District, said the district will rescind 84 layoffs sent last month, but will continue to look for other ways of cutting costs before adopting its budget for the 2010-11 school year. First, the district would lose incentive money the state provides districts to reduce class sizes, he said. Also, teachers who have been laid off are called first as substitute teachers and the state education code says if they work more than 20 days in two months, the district must pay them the same salary they earned as full-time teachers. In Poway, where the district is trying to cut about $24 million from a proposed budget of about $235 million budget, layoff notices had been sent to 129 employees, including teachers, counselors and assistant principals in 124 certificated positions. Associate Superintendent Bill Chiment said it appears all 120 permanent teachers who received layoff notices will be retained under a deal reached last week with the district’s teachers union. The Poway Federation of Teachers and the district last week reached a tentative two-year agreement to reduce salaries by 4.3 percent. They already are working under an agreement to reduce salaries by 2.7 percent, and the recent agreement adds an additional 1.6 percent reduction to save $10 million over two years.” (North County Times, April 26, 2010)
Long Beach School District Will Issue 243 Pink Slips, Mostly To Teachers

“Members of the Long Beach Board of Education on Tuesday voted to issue pink slips to 243 employees - mostly teachers - at the end of this school year as part of a budget-cutting effort. The five-member board unanimously voted to lay off the employees to help the Long Beach Unified School District cut $90 million over the next two fiscal years. Ninety of those affected are workers on year-to-year contracts, while the remainder are permanent or probationary employees. Union president Michael Day, of the Teachers Association of Long Beach, said that the district mishandled the layoff process. Day said that LBUSD officials failed to adequately maintain an accurate list ranking each teacher by seniority. Teacher layoffs under state law are done largely by seniority and academic credential. The district anticipates ordering a second round of teacher pink slips next month. But at least 200 of the total pink slips are expected to be rescinded before the school year starts, under a tentative labor agreement between the district and teachers union. The tentative labor agreement - which still must be approved by union members and the board - would have all teachers take five unpaid furlough days next school year, a cost-saving measure that LBUSD officials say will save 200 jobs.” (The Press-Telegram, May 11, 2010)

Oceanside Unified School District Finalized 61 Teacher Layoffs

“Hundreds of educators packed an Oceanside Unified School District board meeting Tuesday, many saying they were upset about ongoing contract negotiations and layoffs. School board trustees at the meeting voted to finalize layoffs for 61 permanent teachers. In March, district officials sent warnings to 118 permanent teachers, saying they may lose their jobs at the end of the year. They were able to cut that number nearly in half because of the large number of employees who retired this year. Luis Ibarra, associate superintendent in charge of human resources, said he hopes to be able to bring back even more teachers before next school year starts. As many as 82 teachers hired on year-to-year contracts also are expected to lose their jobs at the end of this school year. The layoffs are part of the district's plan to close an estimated budget shortfall of more than $19 million next year, caused by spending cuts at the state level. One of the employees on the layoff list was recently named teacher of the year by the district. Fewer teachers will mean larger classes at the district's 23 schools. Some classes could grow to as many as 45 students.” (North County Times, May 11, 2010)

Mt. Diablo School Board Agrees to Lay Off 200 Teachers

“The Mt. Diablo school board on Tuesday unanimously agreed to cut nearly $4.9 million from special education over three years and to lay off 200 teachers because of state budget reductions. The special education cuts include reducing summer school from six weeks to four, reducing contracts with outside schools and service providers and eliminating an administrative position. In addition, 24 resource specialist teacher positions for those who currently assist students not in special education may be cut to save $1.7 million a year, unless the board adds them back to the general education budget in June, Superintendent Steven Lawrence said. Trustee Gary Eberhart said laying off so many educators was ‘tragic,’ but he blamed legislators for failing to adequately fund education. Eberhart said the board is hoping unions will agree to $9.8 million a year in cuts
that include furlough days and reduced benefits. The teachers union has not begun negotiations because it must discuss survey results with its members, union President Mike Noce said.”  
(Mercury News, May 12, 2010)

**Mt. Diablo School District Sent 350 Layoff Notices**

“The Concord-based Mt. Diablo school district sent out about 350 preliminary layoff notices to teachers, librarians and other certificated staff, said Gail Isserman, assistant superintendent for personnel services. This includes part-time people who work in about 200 full-time equivalent jobs. Some of the pink slips were issued to people whose jobs have not yet been eliminated by the board, but may be through negotiations or future cuts. These include music teachers and librarians, she said.”  
(Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

**Union President Said District Laid Off 200 Teachers Last Year After Sending Out 705 Preliminary Pink Slips**

“Mike Noce, president of the Mt. Diablo teachers’ union, said the district laid off 200 teachers last year after sending out 705 preliminary pink slips. He plans to survey teachers in the next few weeks regarding possible concessions to their contract, which must be renegotiated now that the district has asked to bargain salaries, benefits, work hours and class sizes. ‘We're going to have to come up with new proposals,’ he said. ‘We have to negotiate a lot of things, and we have to get our members' input. I don't know if they're going to go along with eliminating retirement benefits, elementary prep time or raising class sizes.’”  
(Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

**Of 350 Layoffs in Mt. Diablo, 180 Have Been Rescinded**

Out of about 350 pink slips issued by the Mt. Diablo school district, 180 have been rescinded, the assistant superintendent for personnel told me this afternoon. That leaves about 170 teachers and other credentialed employees wondering if they'll have jobs in the fall. Music teachers have been hit especially hard because the school board has agreed to eliminate fifth-grade instrumental music next year. Isserman said the district has not yet begun negotiations with the teachers’ union. Teachers who have received preliminary layoff notices can attend public administrative hearings regarding credentials and/or seniority April 27-29 at the Willow Creek Center in Concord. Teachers will receive final layoff notices in May. (Silicon Valley Mercury News, April 25, 2010)

**Rialto Unified School District Considers Finalizing Layoff Notices to 103 Certificated Personnel**

“Trustees for the Rialto Unified School District will consider finalizing layoff notices to 103 certificated personnel, and cutting 32 classified positions. The state deadline for final layoff notification to teachers is May 15. Bill Hedrick, president of the Rialto Education Association, said Monday he believes most of the notices to teachers here will be rescinded in late May or early June. Hedrick said about 70 positions would be cut, but 68 of those are retirements that would not be replaced. The district earlier this year offered an early retirement package made up
of 82 percent of a worker's final salary to be paid in an annuity. Hedrick said the public will see the impact of the cuts as class sizes increase and programs face possible cuts.” (Redlands Daily Facts, April 26, 2010)

**Santa Cruz Laid Off 66 K-12 Teachers**

“As negotiations continue with teacher and support staff unions, Santa Cruz school officials finalized teacher layoffs and set in motion the layoff process for maintenance, clerical and other assistance jobs on Wednesday. The final notices, due May 15, affect 66 K-12 teachers, not taking into account 41 possible retirees, whose retirements were approved last week. Nine adult education teachers were laid off, and seven parent cooperative preschool teachers were laid off. Of 300 classified staff, 85 have been given 45 days notice of possible layoffs, per their contract. Negotiations, a revised state budget due mid-May and other factors could mean some of layoffs will be rescinded.” (Santa Cruz Sentinel, April 29, 2010)

**Bakersfield City School District Rescinds Most Teacher Layoff Notices**

“Six teachers and six counselors in the Bakersfield City School District will be notified of possible layoffs next year -- a dramatic change from nearly 100 notices sent out earlier this year. And it's possible, district officials said, that the 12 will also remain employed come the start of the school year. Retirements and resignations have freed up enough space to keep the educators employed, officials said. In February, the district's school board approved a proposal to cut positions, mostly teachers, to close a $5.5 million gap in next year's budget. The decision translated to about three positions lost for each of the district's 41 school sites. In all, 83 teachers will be notified they will not be laid off. This year, BCSD approved what Superintendent Michael Lingo recently called a ‘history making’ retirement incentive plan. The plan was responsible for many layoff notices being rescinded.” (The Bakersfield Californian, May 11, 2010)

**Oakland Notified 47 Tenured Teachers and Counselors of Possible Layoffs; 226 Teachers and 89 Administrators Could be Transferred to Other Positions**

“In Oakland, about 47 tenured teachers and counselors received notices of possible layoffs this year — in most cases, because they did not get their mandated certifications to teach English learners, said spokesman Troy Flint. Oakland did not send out more notices in part because of the high rate of staff turnover, which is about 14 percent. Still, 226 Oakland teachers and 89 administrators might be transferred to other positions because at least a portion of their salaries comes from "categorical" funds — special-purpose state grant money that might not be available next year. Those teachers are guaranteed employment as long as they have tenure; otherwise they might lose their jobs. And 47 untenured and temporary teachers were told they won't be returning in the fall, decisions the school board may later rescind.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)
Little Lake City School District Cut Spending by Over 10 Percent Over the Past Year and Issued RIF Notices to 30 Classroom Teachers in March 2010

In March 2010, Philip Perez, superintendent of Little Lake City School District, wrote an op-ed about the difficulty of RIF’s in his California district. “The Little Lake City School District, like every other school district in the state, is battling to maintain instructional programs for our students. Over the last 12 months, we have been required to find ways to reduce our spending by more than 10 percent. Although the initial rounds of cuts were made in areas that did not directly affect students, it is no longer possible to cut around the classroom. This month, the school district issued Reduction in Force (RIF) notices to 30 classroom teachers whose positions will be eliminated in the coming school year. The majority of these positions are primary teaching positions, but the impact has been felt at all levels of the district due to the complex rules governing reductions of this type.” (Whittier Daily News op-ed, March 28, 2010)

Pasadena Star-News HEADLINE: Pink Slips Rain Down on 426 Pasadena Area Teachers as State Deadline Hits

“A total of 426 teachers in the Pasadena area received pink slips Monday as the state deadline for reduction in force notices arrived. Teachers in Pasadena, Alhambra, South Pasadena, San Marino, Monrovia and Duarte all received layoff notices. No teachers will be laid off in Arcadia. The number could be slightly higher, but Temple City school officials did not respond to repeated requests for information about potential layoffs there. Pasadena Unified led the way, sending layoff notices to 164 educators in an effort to save the district more than $15 million, officials said. The cuts come as the district is facing a $23 million budget deficit due to state cuts in education and declining enrollment. ‘We are saddened that we’ve had to issue layoff notices, and this process is painful for all concerned,’ said Shelly James, chief human resources officer for Pasadena Unified. ‘We are reacting to the budget crisis imposed upon us by Sacramento. Our hearts go out to all the impacted employees.’ Officials at each district said layoffs would help balance their respective budgets in the face of a state fiscal crisis that has taken its toll on public education. Final notice for teachers who will not be brought back in the fall will be sent to teachers by May 15.” (Pasadena Star-News, March 15, 2010)

Other potential cuts will are looming in:
-- Monrovia Unified School District, which handed layoff notices to more than 67 teachers.
-- Duarte Unified School District put 37 teachers on notice.
-- South Pasadena Unified School District sent layoff notices to nearly 15 percent of its staff, exactly 41 teachers.
-- San Gabriel Unified School District sent 45 certificated staff members layoff notices. Included in the potential cuts are one assistant principal and a reduction two other assistant principals' hours, district officials said.
Associated Superintendent Said Layoffs Were Driven By Elimination of Class Size Reduction and Slight Declining Enrollment

“The layoffs are being driven by the elimination of class size reduction and slight declining enrollment in our K through 12 program,” said Debby Collins, associate superintendent for human resources at Monrovia Unified. The Monrovia district also ended class size reduction as the state budget forecast began to look grim in early 2010. The move could ultimately cost the district between 16 and 20 kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, Collins said. Duarte Unified School District hoped its planned cuts would balance the district budget, said Wendy Wright, Duarte Unified’s assistant superintendent for education services. “On Jan. 15, when the state came out with the new budget, we had to cut another $1 million from our budget,” she said explaining the layoffs. In South Pasadena, as with Pasadena Unified, the planned layoffs could keep South Pasadena public schools fiscally afloat, Superintendent Joel Shapiro told the Star-News in early March. San Marino Unified School District’s planned cuts represent one-third of its certificated staff. Despite more than $1000 in annual parcel taxes on each property in the city, the district was faced with a $5 million deficit without the layoffs, according to district officials. As teachers open layoff notices and class sizes swell in many school district in the San Gabriel Valley, Alhambra Unified School District won't make cuts to elementary, middle and high school teaching staff, Superintendent Donna Perez told the Star-News March 12. The district made its cuts to the adult education program cutting 29 teachers and effectively eliminating the program, she said. Arcadia Unified School District was the lone district that avoided any teacher layoffs, according to district officials.” (Pasadena Star-News, March 15, 2010)

Pasadena Unified Set To Approve 160 Teacher Layoffs

“School board members are scheduled to vote on whether to approve more than 160 final layoff notices for Pasadena Unified School District teachers during tonight’s board meeting. With the failure of Measure CC and the May 15 state deadline for teaching layoff notices looming, Pasadena Unified Superintendent Edwin Diaz recommended not rescinding the notices, which were issued in March. Measure CC, the proposed public school parcel tax could have saved as many as half the teaching positions lost to budget cuts, district officials said. The teacher layoffs come as negotiations between PUSD and United Teachers of Pasadena, the teachers' union, have stalled again. Impasse was declared in February and three meetings between the union, the district and a mediator failed to end the labor stand off, according to the district’s personnel supervisor.” (San Gabriel Valley Tribune, May 11, 2010)

Over 300 Teachers in Whittier-Area School Districts Received Pink Slips

“More than 300 temporary and tenured teachers at seven Whittier-area school districts received notice Monday they may be out of a job this fall. That's because $2.5 billion in state cuts to education proposed for the 2010-11 fiscal year forced the districts into making deep staffing cuts. The 20,000-student Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District sent out the largest number of teacher layoff notices. The Reduction In Force (RIF) notices went to 145 certificated employees.
Districts had until Monday to notify certificated employees - teachers, counselors, nurses, administrators - they could be laid off for the 2010-11 school year. Final layoff notices must go out by May 15.
Other area districts also sent out notices, including:
El Rancho Unified, which mailed out 65 layoff notices;
Little Lake City: which notified 37 employees;
Los Nietos SD sent notices to 27 employees;
South Whittier SD notified 18 employees;
Whittier City SD, which sent out about 46 layoff notices;
and Whittier Union High School District, which informed eight employees of potential layoffs.”
(Whittier Daily News, March 15, 2010)

In Ventura County, 525 Teachers Were Handed Layoff Notices in March

“Facing another round of deep state funding cuts, California school districts issued pink slips to thousands of teachers this year — a situation that state officials warn could lead to a shortage of qualified teachers. Locally, 525 teachers were handed layoff notices in March, informing them they could be out of work at the end of the school year. ‘This is leading to fewer beginning teachers staying in the profession and fewer candidates entering teacher preparation programs. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of educators will retire within the next decade,’ said state schools chief Jack O’Connell in a statement released Tuesday. ‘All these factors are contributing to a significant future teacher shortage in California,’ he said. ‘In California, because of the layoffs, we are going to have a large pool of fully-trained, fully-credentialed teachers who are not working in the field of education,’ said Paula Lovo, executive director of the Ventura County Office of Education’s Teacher Support Services.” (Ventura County Star, April 6, 2010)

15 Teachers in Hemet School District to Lose Jobs, Remaining Teachers Face 4.35 Percent Pay Cut

“The Hemet teachers union and the school district have reached a tentative contract agreement that will result in up to 15 teachers losing their jobs and five days being shaved from each of the next two school years. The district had sought to cut about $5 million in teacher pay as part of an attempt to eliminate $19.7 million in spending before the 2010-11 school year due to the state's budget crisis. The district had initially proposed cutting pay by 7 percent. The teachers union called on the district to reduce what it termed non-core programs and the benefits received by the top administrators. The deal calls for two furlough days this year and eight in each of the next two years. The eight will consist of five fewer instruction days, two fewer days to prepare for the school year, and one more day on which students would not have been present. Union President Jerry Hall said the unpaid days amount to a 4.35 percent pay cut. (Press-Enterprise, April 6, 2010)

Glendale School District Expects to Cut Up To 105 Jobs

“Glendale school district teachers are anticipating the results of the final seniority rankings, with teachers high on the list being more likely to lose their jobs. The list, due out this week, is
expected to range from one to 105, down from a possible 112 teachers who were notified they could be let go, officials said. District administrators held a lottery Wednesday, the last step in 12 rounds of tiebreaking, to determine seniority. Each round rewarded teachers with points for training and credentials in subjects like foreign language, math, nursing, English and diversity. Points were also awarded for graduate degrees and specialization. District officials project an $18.5-million deficit in 2011-12 and have sought concessions from employee groups to offset state cuts to education. Officials project a more than $50-million deficit in 2012-13, which cannot be offset without laying off teachers, officials said.” (Glendale News Press, April 4, 2010)

ILLINOIS

Layoffs of School Personnel in Illinois Could Top 20,000

“In recent weeks, state education funding woes have triggered a tsunami of pink slips to thousands upon thousands of teachers and support staff in school districts statewide, with about 9,800 announced layoffs of teachers so far. Another 1,600 retiring teachers won’t be replaced. Total planned layoffs stand at more than 17,000 school personnel. And that’s with just 75 percent of districts responding to a survey sent by a coalition of education groups. When all is said and done, school layoffs statewide could top 20,000, the coalition warns. ‘What looms this school year is devastating for all of Illinois. It’s going to significantly diminish the quality of education throughout the state,’ said Charlie McBarron, spokesman for the Illinois Education Association. ‘And in an economic crisis, the worst thing you can do is put thousands and thousands of people into unemployment. The General Assembly has to do something significant. They’ve got to do it now.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

State Superintendent Said 13,000 Teachers and Staff Could be Laid Off, if Funding is Cut the Figure Could Grow to 30,000

“According to State Superintendent Christopher Koch, at least 13,000 teachers and others will be laid off from their jobs in schools across the state. If education funding from the state is cut, he said, that figure could grow to 30,000.” (Chicago Daily Herald, March 22, 2010)

People from Illinois Federation of Teachers and Illinois Education Association Joined in “One of the Largest Statehouse Rallies Ever” to Encourage Lawmakers to Raise Income Tax by One Percent

“In one of the largest Statehouse rallies ever, thousands of unionized government workers and social-service advocates rallied for an income-tax hike that could avert billions of dollars in crippling budget cuts. Three hundred busloads of people, mostly from AFSCME Council 31, SEIU, the Illinois Education Association and the Illinois Federation of Teachers, converged outside the Capitol while lawmakers were in session. On several occasions during the late-morning rally, protesters turned away from the stage across from the Capitol to face the ornate
seat of state government and chant, "Raise our taxes!" and "Save Our state!" Organizers of the rally and the Illinois secretary of state's office estimated the crowd size at 15,000, requiring that streets around the Capitol be shut down during a demonstration that had union leaders lobbing fiery insults at lawmakers unwilling to support Gov. Quinn's push to raise the individual income tax from 3 percent to 4 percent.” (Chicago Sun-Times, April 22, 2010)

Chicago Public Schools are Targeting 3,200 Teachers and 880 Others for Layoffs; Elgin Proposing 1,079 Layoffs

“Facing a void of aid from a cash-strapped state government woefully behind on paying its 2009-2010 bills -- and eyeing further budget cuts in 2010-2011 -- districts such as the Chicago Public Schools are drastically plugging holes that may only get bigger. By law, the districts must inform staff of proposed layoffs for next year in the spring. CPS is owed the most money from the state: $255 million. CPS is targeting 3,200 teachers and 880 others for layoffs. Northwest suburban Elgin, the second-largest district -- owed $12 million -- is proposing 1,079 layoffs.” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

School Layoffs Go Beyond Poor Districts: Park Ridge to Ax 75 Teachers, Evanston-Skokie to Lay Off 29 Teachers, Naperville to Lay Off 145 Staff

“And as federal stimulus dollars dry up, only an infusion of state cash -- such as through a state income tax increase urged by education groups and Gov. Quinn -- would prevent the cuts. It's not just traditionally poor districts jettisoning staff and programs. North suburban Park Ridge's Maine Township High School District 207, for example, is axing 75 teachers; Evanston-Skokie School District 65 plans to lay off 29 teachers. Naperville's Indian Prairie School District 204 has targeted 145 staff. ‘We keep looking at our immediate crisis, and it is a crisis, but there is a bigger issue with our school funding formula,' said Herman Brewer, acting president and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, which has long condemned the inequities of a school finance system based on property taxes. ‘These folks who have known nothing but prosperity are now in shock because all of a sudden the crisis they have generally associated with poor communities -- with the city of Chicago -- has hit them,’ Brewer said. ‘Our funding formula has created disparities so acute, people are starting to see it now.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

Cuts Will Hike Class Sizes, Combining Grade Levels, Cut Athletics and Student Activities Including Arts, Gifted Programs, Pre-School

“The red ink bleeding districts of teachers will also burden those left with more students in each class. CPS would hike class sizes as high as 37 students; west suburban Cary Elementary School District 26 would increase classes to 33, and Kankakee School District 111 would go as high as 30. Along similar lines, Plainfield's Community Consolidated School District 202 is eyeing multi-age classrooms combining two grades. But the problems won't be limited to job losses and less instruction time in crammed classrooms. ‘The situation is far worse when we factor in elimination and reduction of hundreds of programs in sports and music and school activities,’ said Brent Clark, executive director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators. Indeed,
districts such as west suburban Morton High School District 201 are axing athletics and student activities. CPS has targeted non-varsity sports. Elgin has cut teams and shut down swimming pools. Other districts, like Queen Bee District 16 in southwest suburban Glendale Heights and Somonauk Community Unit School District 432 in the south suburbs, have wiped out art and music programs. Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 is getting rid of band for fifth-graders. In Cary, it's gifted programs. In Kankakee, bilingual ed and reading programs will go. And CPS is taking the knife to pre-school. ‘It's really ugly out there right now,’ said Lisa Scruggs of Jenner & Block, lead attorney on a civil rights lawsuit the Urban League filed last year, charging the school funding system is discriminatory. Most funds come from local property taxes; only 28 percent come from the state. ‘You're guaranteeing failure when you make these kinds of choices.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

**Some Districts Have Appealed to Labor Unions to Avoid Cuts**

“All some districts have averted draconian cuts through successful appeals to labor unions. In Gurnee, teachers agreed to freeze compensation for some positions to save 26 jobs. Teachers in south suburban Homewood School District 153 and southwest suburban Wheaton-Warrenville Unit District 200 also made concessions. The Chicago Teachers Union, however, refuses to reopen its contract to help fill a projected $700 million deficit. And Maine Township teachers rejected concessions that would have saved 45 jobs.

**Students and Parents Have Protested Cut and Education Groups Urged a Massive Onslaught on State Legislators**

“All students and parents haven't taken the cuts lying down, launching protests at schools from Chicago to Glendale Heights. On Friday, students at north suburban Waukegan High staged a walkout. Waukegan Community School District 60 is owed $6.8 million from the state and is laying off 560 staff. Parents must do more, say education groups urging a massive onslaught on state legislators. ‘There's no question that in Chicago, in Elgin, in East St. Louis, in Thornton, minorities are more severely impacted by the cuts that are taking place,’ said Scruggs, who expects to take the suit to trial this fall. ‘The New Triers of the world have reserves they can dip into to make sure kids continue to get services. Too many districts don't. It comes back to the funding formula.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

**New Education Grads Discouraged By Chicago-Area Prospects**

“All Dana Wittenberg is one of thousands of Illinois students getting ready to graduate with a degree in education. She and other beginning teachers face a discouraging situation: Leave the state in hopes of finding a job or stick it out and compete with experienced, recently laid-off educators. Some Illinois universities are telling their students that it will be difficult finding jobs in the Chicago area, given the state's budget crisis. Those that think they can easily get jobs in their hometowns are likely to be disappointed, officials said. On average, 84 percent of the university's education graduates typically stay in Illinois to teach. But the economic realities are different this year. School districts plan to cut roughly 14,600 teacher and administrator jobs this spring through layoffs and retirees not being replaced, said Brent Clark, executive director of the
Illinois Association of School Administrators. Most school district officials said they won't make final decisions about hiring until the state legislature passes a budget. As graduation looms, university officials said they are encouraging students to consider substitute teaching and teacher's aide positions to get their foot in the door.” *(The Chicago Tribune, May 11, 2010)*

**Illinois Teachers Spoke to U.S. Dept. of Ed. Senior Advisor About Race to the Top Proposals; Expressed Frustration with Focus on Test Scores as Only Way to Net Additional Funding**

“Jo Anderson got an earful Monday to take back to Washington. The senior adviser to U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan was among the two dozen teachers, community leaders and education officials at the new Elgin Area School District U-46 grass-roots group Focus on Reform's inaugural round-table discussion. Educators expressed resounding frustration with an increased focus on test scores as one of the only sure ways to net additional funding. Along with tying evaluations to student performance, Illinois' state board raised the bar for the basic skills test teachers take to get into their college of education's teaching program, raised the cap on charter schools and reconvened the governor's curriculum alignment council. Anderson reminded the group that $100 billion of the $800 billion stimulus package went to education, he said. ‘It saved 325,000 jobs and the economy hasn't yet turned around,’ Anderson said. ‘We can't expect the federal government to solve problems we behave ourselves into.’ Illinois, Anderson suggested, needs better buy-in from all sectors of the education world to net second-round funds.” *(The Daily Herald, May 11, 2010)*

**U-46 District in Chicago’s Western Suburbs Dismissed 1,000 Employees Including 700 Teachers**

“In the U-46 district in Elgin, Ill., José M. Torres, the superintendent, said he also had to contend with a budgeting roller coaster this spring. At this point, the only uncertainty is whether the district’s 53 schools in Chicago’s western suburbs will feel ‘high pain or low pain,’ Mr. Torres said. Seeking to cut at least $44 million from the district’s $400 million budget, Mr. Torres has eliminated early childhood classes for 100 children, cut middle school football, increased high school class sizes from 24 to 30 students, drained swimming pools to save chlorine, and dismissed 1,000 employees, including 700 teachers.” *(New York Times, April 20, 2010)*

**180 Teachers Laid Off in Illinois Community Unit School District 300 Due to Budget Constraints**

“The Community Unit School District 300 Board of Education laid off 27 more teachers at a special meeting Monday. The school board narrowly voted to cut some third- and fourth-year, part-time or hard-to-fill teachers, based on what they are certified to teach and what the district's projected needs are in the coming school year. Monday's layoffs brings District 300's total reductions to the coming school year's budget to about $10 million, pending union negotiations. That includes about $3.48 million in teacher layoffs alone, according to Chief Financial Officer Cheryl Crates. It also brings to 180 the total number of teachers released by the school district because of those budget constraints. The school board narrowly voted last month to release 153
teachers. That included all 121 first- and second-year teachers not in positions considered hard to fill, cut for budgetary reasons alone. Another six preschool teachers were let go in case preschool enrollment drops off in the 2010-11 school year because of proposed cuts to preschool transportation, others for performance issues or resignations. All those cuts come as the state owes District 300 about $12 million in categorical funding, and Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed cutting education spending 25 percent in the 2010-11 school year.” (The Courier-News, April 6, 2010)

**Caps on District 300 Class Sizes Will Jump About Five Students**

“With 129 fewer teachers in the next school year, the district said caps on class sizes will jump about five students in kindergarten through fifth grade -- from 28 to 32 this year, to 33 to 37 next year. Middle school classes will rise to at least 33 students, with physical education classes at 38, minimum. And not only will high school class sizes increase, but also those schools will cut some electives based on student interest.” (The Courier-News, April 6, 2010)

**Peoria District 150 Laid Off 290 Employees in Late March and May Lay Off Between 200 and 400 Staff Members Before the Coming School Year**

“Norm Durflinger serves as superintendent of Peoria School District 150, which handles 14,000 students along with 1,200 teachers and 3,000 staff members. Durflinger said the district laid off 290 employees last week and may lay off between 200 and 400 staff members before the coming school year. Only half of those laid off would be rehired if the district can afford it. Durflinger said he worries students will not get enough individual attention without as many teachers in the schools. ‘The bottom line is the individual, as much individual attention as we can give to students, is going to be decreased and that always affects learning,’ Durflinger said.” (Illinois Statehouse News, April 6, 2010)

**Harlem District 122 Laid off 90 Teachers So Far This Year**

“Near Rockford, Harlem School District 122 has had to lay off about 90 teachers so far this year, school board president Sandi Johnson said. The district planned for cuts, Johnson said, but in a district with 8,000 students, fewer teachers will be a challenge. The only silver lining Johnson sees is the statewide school cuts will bring more attention to the needs of school districts. ‘What I am hoping is that the impact it will have will be statewide, and it will maybe open people’s eyes up about what’s happening at the state level,’ Johnson said.” (Illinois Statehouse News, April 6, 2010)

**Lincoln-Way High School District 210 Has Eliminated 35 Teaching Positions**

“Facing a multimillion-dollar backlog in state payments, the school board of Lincoln-Way High School District 210 has voted to not give pay raises to administrative and noncertified staff
members during the coming school year. The vote follows a recommendation by Supt. Lawrence Wyllie to freeze salaries for the 2010-11 school year in an effort to compensate for lost education funding from the state. The state owes the district $6.3 million, according to Wyllie. The administration also had asked the teachers union to accept a freeze but the union refused. Dan Moore, president of the association, said in March it was unfair for the district to ask teachers to give back raises in lean times when teachers don't ask for larger raises during times of surplus. Besides administrators, those affected by the pay freeze will include cafeteria workers, custodians and bus drivers. District 210 has cut close to $4 million in salaries and other costs because of the delay in payments owed by the state. This has included eliminating 13 clerical positions, reducing the number of deans and assistant coaching positions at each school, and cuts to cafeteria staff and bus drivers. A total of 35 teaching positions for the coming school year have also been eliminated.” (The Southtown Star, May 11, 2010)

**Plainfield School Board Voted to Lay Off 52 Teachers, 159 Positions Expected to be Eliminated**

“Before Plainfield School Board voted to lay-off 52 teachers last week, a group of Aux Sable Middle School students begged for their choir teacher's job… Out of the 52 teachers, four were in their third year of teaching and would have become tenured at the end of this school year. The layoffs are part of the district's deficit reduction plan to cut about $22 million. In total, 159 positions are expected to be eliminated The personnel cuts comprise about $7.8 million or about 35 percent of the $22 million in cuts. Despite the pleas, the board approved the 52 teacher layoffs.” (Plainfield Sun, April 2, 2010)

**Oswego School Board Fired 61 First Year Teachers**

“Sixty-one first-year teachers will receive dismissal notices Tuesday from the Oswego school district. The Oswego School Board voted Monday to pass the second phase of its deficit-reduction plan, which includes the layoffs. The district faces an estimated budget shortfall of $12.6 million. The board passed the first phase of its cost-savings plan earlier this month. That cut about one-third of the district's support personnel.” (Oswego ABC affiliate WLS, March 30, 2010)

**Triad School District Cut 41 Teachers and Staff; Over 60 Percent of Non-Tenured Teachers were Let Go**

“The state’s funding crisis hit the Triad School District last week as the school board cut 41 teachers and staff to make up for its $3 million budget shortfall. Overall, 60 percent of non-tenured teachers (first year through fourth year) were let go, including 34 teachers, five part-time certified staff members and two part-time support staff. In addition, the board voted not to renew 27 assistant coach, department chair and club sponsor positions, though most of these employees will retain their teaching positions. Schools are required to notify teachers 45 days before the end of the school year that teachers will not be coming back. Triad officials said they will rehire teachers and staff based on need as soon as they are financially able.” (Belleville News Democrat, April 1, 2010)
District 16 in Glendale Heights Sent Notices to 52 of its 147 Teachers

“A final decision on a list of proposed budget cuts hasn't been made. Still, District 16 had a deadline to inform 32 nontenured and 20 tenured teachers that they were being let go because of a 90-day notice requirement. Superintendent Victoria Tabbert said the possibility of losing 52 of Queen Bee's 147 certified teachers is ‘an enormous hit to the district.’ She said the hope is to bring back as many of the teachers in the fall as possible. ‘We will save every job that we could save,’ Tabbert said. ‘But we have to know what kind of money we have. We can't just guess. And we can't just hope. There is no indication from the state that any dollars are actually definite.’” (Daily Herald, March 26, 2010)

East St. Louis Will Lay Off Nearly 300 Employees Including 134 Teachers

“Hundreds of East St. Louis school employees will be laid off next year, including more than 130 teachers, officials said. The cuts will affect nearly 300 employees in District 189, including 134 teachers along with administrators, social workers and counselors. The district is the largest employer in East St. Louis, one of the nation’s poorest cities, and serves more than 8,000 students. The state owes the district as much as $6 million. East St. Louis Superintendent Theresa Saunders said school leaders ‘can’t do what we can’t pay for.’ Some positions will be cut by early retirement, and all administrative salaries will be frozen for next year.” (Associated Press, March 28, 2010)

Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 Laid Off 11 Teachers and 8 Teacher Aides

“Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124, faced with declining enrollment and lack of state funding, is laying off 11 certified teachers and eight teacher aides for the 2010-11 school year. The layoffs, including six special-education teachers, will save the district $844,133 next year but fall short of covering the decrease in revenue the district had expected to get from the state for the coming year, Superintendent Diane Cody wrote in a letter to district parents. As a result of Illinois' budget crisis, the state is behind by $723,000 in payments to the district, district officials noted. Meanwhile, the district has seen a drop in students to 1,878 in 2009 from a high of 2,094 in 2003, according to Illinois State Board of Education figures. Despite the decline, district staffing has increased over the years, Cody noted. The teacher layoffs, as a result, will achieve a better alignment with enrollment, she said.” (Chicago Tribune, April 2, 2010)

Mercer County School District Eliminating 21 Positions Including Four Teachers

“The Mercer County School District is moving forward with a plan to eliminate 21 positions. The Unit 404 Board of Education made the move this week mainly because of declining revenues from the state of Illinois. ‘The district is having to respond to the state’s financial woes,’ Mercer County Superintendent Alan Boucher said. ‘The board has the intention of cutting $1.2 million from the general budget.’ The staff cuts amount to $583,000 meaning the district
still has to chop more than $600,000 from its budget heading into next school year. ‘Some of that will be through supplies and materials, athletics and capital outlay,’ Boucher said. Of the 21 positions being eliminated, five are through retirements and one is through resignation. “So, there is 16 people losing their jobs,” Boucher said. ‘Four of those would be teachers, and 12 would be support staff. The board with a heavy heart had to make those decisions.’ Mercer County, a first-year consolidation between the former Aledo and Westmer school districts, is owed more than $430,000 from the state.” (Quad City Times, March 26, 2010)

Granite City Schools to Lose 26 Positions

“Four teachers and 13 staff members from Granite City schools will lose their jobs in the latest round of school cuts. Joined by nine positions that will not be replaced -- eight retiring teachers and one open administrative position -- the district will lose a total of 26 positions. The cuts that will shave about $1.7 million from the Granite City District 9 budget were approved Tuesday at the Board of Education meeting, said Superintendent Harry Briggs.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Dupo School District 196 Cut 19 Teachers and 15 Support Staff

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Dupo School District 196, which cut 19 full-time teacher jobs and 15 support staff jobs Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Highland Community Unit School District 5 Announced 40 Layoffs of Teachers and Staff

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Highland Community Unit School District 5, which announced 40 layoffs of teachers and staff Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Edwardsville Schools Cut 60 Jobs Including 25 Teachers

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Edwardsville schools, which cut 60 jobs, including 25 teachers Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Triad Schools Cut 34 Non-Tenured Teachers

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Triad schools, which cut 34 non-tenured teachers Monday and might need to cut more costs depending on what and when the state finally pays.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)
Quincy School Board to Release 78 Staff Members Including 38 Teachers

“The Quincy School Board voted 7-0 Wednesday night to release 78 personnel members, including 28 full-time teachers and 10 part-time teachers, for economic reasons as part of a plan to cut $4 million from its budget next year. A three-hour meeting ended at approximately 10 p.m., and 30 minutes later, the board reconvened after executive session to make the vote. A special vote was taken to release Erika Lovelace, cafeteria coordinator at Quincy High School and wife of Board member Curtis Lovelace. The board voted 6-0 with Lovelace abstaining. The board voted 6-0 not to renew contracts of non-final-year probationary teachers and final year probationary teachers for economic reasons as part of a plan to cut $3.8 million from its budget next year. The board also voted 6-0 to eliminate part-time and hourly certified and educational support personnel… The board also voted 5-0 to honorably dismiss educational support personnel for economic reasons.” (Quincy Herald-Whig, March 24, 2010)

Bethalto Cut 65 Positions, Edwardsville Cut 60 Positions (25 Teachers), Alton Cut 48 Positions (29 Teachers)

“Under state law, districts must notify teachers in the spring if they will not have a job when the new school year begins. That deadline has led to pink slips for teachers in many districts, including Alton, Belleville, Bethalto, Edwardsville and Roxana. More could be coming in the next few weeks at other schools… Bethalto cut 65 positions; Edwardsville, 60, including 25 teachers; and Alton, 48, including 29 teachers.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 25, 2010)

Community Unit School District 300 Planned Additional Classroom Cuts on Top of 121 Teachers Released in March

“With state funding for the upcoming school year still uncertain, Community Unit School District 300 said Tuesday it plans to lay off additional teachers and 10 district administrators. ‘It's frustrating, but the numbers keep changing,’ Superintendent Kenneth Arndt said. ‘We're caught between a rock and a hard place.’ The school board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday to consider cutting 10 administrative positions. The meeting will be at the district's administration center, 300 Cleveland Ave. Those positions all are at the high school and central office levels, according to Arndt. The classroom cuts would come on top of 121 teachers released for budgetary reasons by the school board earlier this month. In February, the board also approved more than 20 layoffs, including elementary social workers, psychologists and media staff; high school staff, based on student enrollment in elective courses; kindergarten music and physical education staff; and custodians. Those were part of about $4.6 million in cuts to the district’s 2010-11 budget proposed by the superintendent.” (Courier-News, March 24, 2010)

Chicago Heights School District 170 Sent Pink Slips to 87 Nontenured Teachers

“Thousands of school employees added pink to their wardrobes Friday to protest a tidal wave of teacher layoffs sweeping the state. Hundreds of pink slips are landing in mailboxes of mostly
nontenured teachers in the Southland, including 87 nontenured teachers in Chicago Heights School District 170...” (Southtown Star, March 21, 2010)

NEW YORK

Gov. Patterson and State Senate Support Closing Budget Gap by Cutting $1.4 Billion in State School Aid Out of Next Year’s Budget, State Assembly Plan Could Potentially Restore Half of Cuts

“As state lawmakers struggle to close a projected $9 billion budget gap by the end of the month, school aid is emerging as the main battleground. Gov. David A. Paterson has proposed cutting $1.4 billion in state school aid out of next year’s budget, cuts that Democrats in the State Senate endorsed on Monday. The Democratic-controlled State Assembly, however, is balking at those cuts, which some lawmakers in the chamber say would go too far and cripple schools. On Wednesday, Assembly lawmakers are likely to unveil their own budget resolution, one that several said would restore perhaps half of Mr. Paterson’s cuts, though the exact amount had not been finalized.” (New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

Some Assembly Democrats Called on Teacher to Put Off Automatic Raises This Year to Avoid Layoffs

“But a few Assembly Democrats have another idea. Teachers should consider putting off their automatic raises this year, and so avoid layoffs, three Democrats said in a letter sent to the state teachers’ union on Tuesday. ‘Staff salaries are the single largest fixed cost in every school budget,’ the lawmakers — Sam Hoyt of Buffalo, Ginny Fields of Suffolk County and Michael Benjamin of the Bronx — wrote. At a time when many people in the private sector have had their earnings drop significantly, they argue, public sector employees should give back something, too. By voluntarily postponing automatic raises, the lawmakers estimated, the teachers could save school districts just over $1 billion, ‘nearly canceling the worst impacts of the proposed budget cuts.’” (New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

New York State United Teachers President Said No to Statewide Agreement Over Pay Cuts but Would Support Tax Increases, Spending Cuts and Local Salary Bargaining

“‘No deal, said Richard C. Iannuzzi, president of New York State United Teachers, the umbrella teachers’ union for the state. While some local unions may negotiate such postponements, Mr. Iannuzzi said, teachers had already sacrificed enough; more than 5,000 were laid off last year. A better option, he said, would be tax increases to raise more revenue, in combination with some spending cuts and some salary bargaining at the local level. Referring to Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Iannuzzi said, ‘He’s asking about a choice that doesn’t exist: If you take revenue, state aid cuts and local decisions, and local sacrifices, and put all that together, then you could forge a budget.’ ‘The assemblyman is correct,’
Mr. Iannuzzi said. ‘It’s time for some bold steps, and those steps are going to include some real looks at the revenue side of the ledger.’ He added that the union’s top priority was to reimpose the stock transfer tax, a move that Mr. Paterson opposes. ‘It could be a temporary decision, but it is certainly something that should be looked at,’ Mr. Iannuzzi said.” (New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

**New York State Lawmakers Say School Cuts Are Not as Harsh As Advertised**

“Some New York State lawmakers are suggesting that even the most drastic school aid cuts proposed by Governor David Paterson are not nearly as harsh as advertised. Even under the rosiest of scenarios, school districts statewide will see less aid from the state this year. The question is - will is be significantly less? Governor Paterson wants to scale back funding by 5 percent, but many Democratic lawmakers are concerned that amount is too high, especially with school districts from Buffalo to Brooklyn predicting either massive teacher layoffs or tax hikes, or both. But some lawmakers, including Assemblyman Robin Schimminger (D-Kenmore), believe those who are predicting dire scenarios for the school districts are crying wolf.” (WGRZ.com, April 7, 2010)

**Superintendent Believes Governor’s Proposed Cuts Will be Damaging**

“On Your Side spoke to Erie 1 Boces Superintendent Donald Ogilvie, who believes the governor's proposed cuts to individual school districts will be very damaging.

REPORTER: Is it fair to call these cuts ‘drastic?’

OGILVIE: I think anything that you've been counting on, that is now withheld, is a version of drastic.

REPORTER: We hear districts talking about tax hikes, and big-time layoffs for teachers. If the money is more than what it was three year ago, why is there the need for all those drastic measures in districts?

OGILVIE: It's not as though revenues keep increasing and the expenses are flat. Every year, our school budget is going up and the aid increases does not match what the expenditure increases are.” (WGRZ.com, April 7, 2010)

**NY Daily News Editorial: Modest Pension Reforms Would Cut Teacher Layoffs Almost In Half**

“Gov. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Democratic conference chief John Sampson and Senate Republican Minority Leader Dean Skelos purport to recognize education and mass transit as vital to New York's future. Yet, despite facing a historic fiscal crisis, they have backed away from tackling pension and health care costs that are draining money from critical government functions. They have thrown the kids under the bus rather than, for example, shift new workers into 401(k)-style retirement savings plans and out of pensions that are bankrupting all levels of government. Confronted by a $9.2 billion deficit, Paterson called for cutting roughly $500 million in city school aid, as well as an additional $800 million in various funding streams. Those reductions are the reason Bloomberg has called for laying off 4,419 teachers and reducing the ranks by an additional 1,995 through attrition. Meanwhile, the modest pension reforms that Albany has denied the city would save an immediate $200 million a year, enough to cut teacher layoffs almost in half. And why not? Because the unions have rejected
every bid for savings. Teachers union President Michael Mulgrew and transit workers chief John Samuelsen are cases in point. Like a conditioned reflex, both seem to believe that if they resist long and hard enough, Albany will come to the rescue. There's no money now, so thousands of their members are on the chopping block - along with the quality of life.”  (New York Daily News, May 7, 2010)

New York Schools Projected to Lay Off 15,000 Teachers This Summer

“Teachers are giving up raises in at least five Long Island districts, including Brentwood, where the 1,400 teachers will also take individual pay cuts of $900 that will be repaid to them without interest when they leave or retire. Teachers are facing a wage freeze in 44 of the 69 Connecticut districts that reached new teacher contracts this year, something virtually unheard of in a state where the average raise has been about 2.5 percent. Such concessions come amid threats of widespread layoffs, state and local government budget cuts and insistent public calls that teachers make sacrifices in a tough economy. In the New York region, at least 121 school districts — 67 in New York, 34 in New Jersey and 20 in Connecticut — have reported concessions from teachers, according to state education departments, school board associations and advocacy groups. Schools across New York State could lay off more than 15,000 teachers this summer, according to projections by union leaders and education officials; that includes 6,400 in New York City, where teachers have not agreed to salary concessions (but they also have not received any raises this year, because their contact expired in October). New Jersey is facing more than 9,000 layoffs, and Connecticut, more than 1,000.”  (The New York Times, May 11, 2010)

Bloomberg to Announce 6,400 Teacher Cuts in Budget Proposal

“Mayor Michael Bloomberg is expected Thursday to announce 6,400 teacher job cuts when he releases his budget proposal for the next fiscal year, according to an official with knowledge of his plans. But days after a failed bombing in Times Square, City Hall aides say the mayor will keep police officers at their current level of 35,000; Mr. Bloomberg had previously planned to cut 892 officers from the force through attrition. Still, the budget proposal ‘by necessity will include further cuts to many important city services,’ said Stu Loeser, a spokesman for the mayor, declining to comment further. In January, the mayor said he’d need to close at least a $4.9 billion deficit for next year. Officials confirmed Wednesday that tax revenues are slightly higher than projected, allowing the city to avoid a few of the worst budget cuts, but some—such as teacher layoffs—will remain. The total number of layoffs is based on 2% raises in pay for teachers.”  (Wall Street Journal, May 6, 2010)

Bloomberg Blamed Albany for Teacher Layoffs

“Mayor Michael Bloomberg says the city will be forced to cut nearly 11,000 jobs, including 6,400 teaching positions, in its 2011 fiscal year budget, due to what he calls ‘Albany's irresponsibility.’ Among the teacher cuts, 4,419 will be through layoffs and 1,995 through attrition. Three-hundred non-teaching positions will be cut, as well. Under union rules, teachers are laid off according to seniority, which means the newest hires will go first. However, one
agency that will not be affected is the New York City Police Department. The mayor's preliminary budget in January had called for 892 officer cutbacks in the department through attrition. This reversal comes after a recent spike in crime and, of course, the attempted bombing in Times Square. The four-year executive spending plan outlined by Bloomberg from City Hall today totals $62.9 billion, without any tax increases. However, it is contingent on the assumption that state aid will be cut by some $1.3 billion. The mayor blamed the state's inactivity with its own budget as the cause for such drastic measures. ‘Unless the Legislature acts, New York City residents will pay the price for Albany's bad decisions,’ said the mayor. ‘And I will remind everybody who unfortunately may lose their jobs, that it is because of Albany's fiscal irresponsibility for the last dozen years. and because of what they're doing this year, treating New York City disproportional to the rest of the state.’ State Budget Director Robert L. Megna fired back at the mayor's accusations. ‘The mayor's budget uses the state as a scapegoat to shirk responsibility for their own budget choices,’ he said in a statement released during Bloomberg's budget address. (NY1.com, May 6, 2010)

**Chancellor Klein: Teacher Layoffs Could Mean Additional 3 Students Per Classroom**

“As Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg unveiled a bleak $63 billion budget on Thursday, he warned that it would cause a lot of pain to many New Yorkers and he did not mince words about where to lay the blame: on Albany. Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg proposed a budget that would cost the city thousands of jobs. He cited ‘Albany's irresponsibility.’ Joel I. Klein, the schools chancellor, said teacher layoffs could mean an additional three students per classroom on average. Under the mayor’s proposal, which covers the fiscal year that starts on July 1, the city would lay off 6,400 teachers and 300 classroom aides, the first mass layoff of teachers since the 1970s. Even if Albany comes to the rescue with additional aid later this year, Mr. Bloomberg said, the layoffs might be inevitable. Mr. Klein renewed his call for an end to seniority rules that prohibit principals from laying off teachers solely based on performance. Mr. Klein said if layoffs were necessary, they should begin with the nearly 2,000 teachers who received unsatisfactory ratings from principals last year. But the city’s powerful teachers’ union, the United Federation of Teachers, is unlikely to agree to such substantial changes. Michael Mulgrew, president of the union, said there had been no progress on the issue, and he said the city should instead concentrate its efforts on lobbying lawmakers for more money.” (The New York Times, May 6, 2010)

**Some Questioned Contract of Up to $5 Million a Year for Teacher Recruitment During a Time of Layoffs**

“The city may lay off 8,500 teachers, but education officials still want approval for a contract of up to $5 million a year to recruit even more teachers. The agency's Panel for Educational Policy will vote later this month on the hefty contract, but already critics are questioning the need to spend money to recruit during a time of layoffs. Since 2000, the New Teacher Project has contracted with the city to recruit New York City Teaching Fellows. For this school year, the group received $2.8 million for recruiting 705 teachers. Education Department officials countered that even during layoffs, new teachers may still be needed for subject areas where there are shortages. ‘Signing a contract for teacher recruitment in this economic situation is like

Editorial Questioned Expanding Education Bureaucracy – Dept. of Ed Hired Five Deputy Chancellors and Wants to Spend Up to $5 Million a Year for Teacher Recruitment Contract

“The news that the Mayor intends to layoff up to 6,400 teachers is simply unacceptable. Clearly, he does not have the interests of our kids at heart. Given the Mayor's proposed cuts, layoffs to come, and rapidly rising school enrollment, this is a tsunami that will devastate our schools and our children's futures. Already, elementary principals have been told to plan for 32 students per class next fall in grades 1-5. At the same time, the Department of Education has hired five additional Deputy Chancellors, at salaries of more than $190,000 dollars each; wants to spend up to $5 million a year for five years on a contract to recruit and train new teachers, and has signed billion dollar no-bid contracts with companies for school busing. The bureaucracy is expanding while class sizes are going up at an unprecedented rate.” (Black Star News, May 6, 2010)

Schools Chancellor Said State Budget Cuts Could Force New York City to Lay Off 8,500 Teachers

“Catastrophic budget cuts in Albany could force the city to lay off more than 20% of teachers in the South Bronx, Schools Chancellor Joel Klein warned Wednesday. The upper East Side's school district would lose almost as many educators, Klein told the City Council. ‘These cuts would bring tremendous instability to our schools and students,’ Klein said. The layoffs of 8,500 teachers are part of a doomsday scenario city officials have begun considering in the face of massive cuts from Albany. However, help may be on the way. The Assembly spending plan unveiled last night restores about $600 million of the $1.4 billion in school aid cut by Gov. Paterson. The city would scoop up about $193 million of that money, according to Assembly spokesman Dan Weiller. The spending proposal also restores $151 million in city aid that Paterson had slashed, and an additional $35 million for students' MTA MetroCards. The Assembly scrounges up $200 million in new revenue with a $1-per-pack cigarette tax hike. Lawmakers are staring down a $9 billion budget gap and April 1 deadline. Paterson unveiled a bare-bones, stop-gap plan in the event Albany blows the deadline.” (New York Daily News, March 25, 2010)

According to Joel Klein, New York City Needs to Get Rid of 8,500 Teaching Positions

“A lot of New York’s teachers are about to be laid off. On March 21, the State Senate voted to slash state education funding by $1.4 billion, part of a resolution it passed in response to Governor Paterson’s January budget proposal, which has still not been finalized. A recent survey showed that district superintendents across the state plan to cut as many as 15,000 teaching jobs. The cuts will be most drastic in New York City: according to Chancellor Joel Klein, Gotham needs to get rid of as many as 8,500 of its 75,000 teaching positions next year. Since state policies mandate laying off teachers with
the least seniority first, some of the best young teachers will be lost. The seniority law poses a particular threat to New York’s school system, because it will stall or even reverse the city’s impressive progress in recruiting a new type of qualified educator. The effect on overall teacher quality in these districts will be a wash, and the resulting increased class sizes will only have a mild negative effect on student proficiency.” (City-Journal, April 2, 2010)

Buffalo Superintendent Said District Would be Forced to Lay Off 680 Staff Members if Gov. Paterson’s Proposed State Aid Cuts are Enacted

“The Buffalo Public Schools will be forced to lay off 680 staff members — or nearly 10 percent of its work force — if Gov. David A. Paterson’s proposed state aid cuts are enacted, School Superintendent James A. Williams said Wednesday evening. Williams did not specify which jobs would be cut, but hundreds of classroom teachers would certainly lose their jobs in a work force reduction of that magnitude. That, in turn, would lead to program cuts and larger class sizes. ‘We are looking at every department where there will be some adjustments made — every department,’ Williams told the Board of Education. The district has about 7,000 employees. Williams made his comments after a series of speakers urged the board to raise the pay of bus aides and cafeteria workers — some of them making as little as $8.43 an hour — to a ‘living wage’ standard. Williams said he agrees with that goal, which the board approved in principle last year, but said the first priority should be to save jobs in a fiscal crisis… Buffalo, which is accustomed to large yearly hikes in state aid, is slated instead for a $16 million cut next school year. Combined with rising costs, that results in a $34.2 million budget deficit. With the state’s own deficit now projected at more than $9 billion, there are growing signs that the State Legislature will not restore substantial amounts of school aid.” (Buffalo News, March 25, 2010)

Hamburg Officials Announced Elimination of 13 Full Time Positions

“More than 200 residents, including dozens of teachers and emergency medical services workers, packed the Hamburg High School auditorium Tuesday night to vent their concern over teacher layoffs announced last week. Though the annual budget hearing is typically a quiet event, anger erupted over the elimination of 13 full-time equivalent positions and four part-time positions. School officials pointed to a $2.7 million state aid shortfall as the primary reason for the layoffs. One resident asked if the district could hold off until the state budget is made final. ‘If more aid does come, it'll be too late,’ Crawford said. ‘We're required by law to adopt a budget by April 23. We held off as long as we could — until April 22. If additional aid comes, it will go to the fund balance. We're hoping we can get everyone back in the next year or two,’ he added.” (The Buffalo News, May 5, 2010)

325 New York School Districts Plan for 4.1 Percent Reduction in Teacher Work Force

“Larger class sizes, fewer extracurricular activities and electives — such as music, art and Advanced Placement courses — not as many field trips, and less academic help for needy
students. And massive layoffs. Those are some of the consequences the state School Boards Association and Council of School Superintendents foresee if the state budget includes a $1.4 billion education cut, as Gov. David Paterson has proposed. The average reduction for a school district would be 6.7 percent. Superintendents and boards of education will focus on what comprises more than 70 percent of their budgets — salaries and benefits. A recent survey of 325 school districts found that schools are planning for an average 4.1 percent reduction in the teacher work force, or layoffs to about 6,300 teachers outside New York City, the Council of School Superintendents and School Boards Association said.” (Poughkeepsie Journal, April 4, 2010)

**New York Districts Consider Major Layoffs**

“The Wappingers Central School District Board of Education is considering cutting 32.5 full-time teaching positions and four staff jobs, and the Arlington Central School District is faced with potentially eliminating 55 positions. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said 8,500 teachers would be let go, for a statewide total of 14,800. The New York State United Teachers union is projecting that between 15,000 and 20,000 school employees would lose their jobs under the governor’s education proposal, which the Senate is also recommending. Last year, public schools eliminated about 5,000 education positions through a mixture of retirements, leaving open empty positions and layoffs.” (Poughkeepsie Journal, April 4, 2010)

**Glen Falls City School District, Teachers Reach Impasse, More Layoffs Proposed**

“The Glens Falls City School District (New York) and the teachers union failed to reach agreement on a one-year pay freeze, a development school board members said will require cutting more positions to reduce the increase to the tax levy. At a meeting Monday to discuss the 2010-11 budget, board President Devin Spencer said the unions for teachers, support staff, building and grounds workers and secretaries refused pay freezes. The teachers are the largest union at the district and would have saved the district $520,000 if they’d taken the one-year freeze in pay, a request the board made to all unions. As a result of the impasse, school officials said they will cut another eight to nine positions to save $517,000. The cuts will raise the total positions lost to around 24. The district faces a $2.1 million reduction in state funds, which prompted school officials to cut spending.” (The Post-Star, April 19, 2010)

**Mohawk Central School District to Eliminate Nine Teaching Positions**

“Under a revised spending plan, the Mohawk Central School District will eliminate several staffing positions and reduce some services and activities but with far less of an impact on its taxpayers. Nine staffing positions will be eliminated under this plan, saving approximately $600,000. Four of the positions will be from retirements, effective June 30, that will not be filled. Those positions are a high school social studies teacher, an elementary school librarian, an elementary school reading teacher and an elementary school classroom teacher. The same will happen with a special education teacher’s resignation. Four other teaching positions will be eliminated through layoffs. Business Manager Chuck Mower also said they have reduced some
BOCES services, which would include special education and physical therapy services. He also said they have reduced some sports and extracurricular activities. Mower said they are not sure how these cuts will be made.” (Evening Telegram, April 6, 2010)

**Facing Layoffs, Utica Teachers to Discuss Contract With District**

“With the Utica Board of Education [New York] set to adopt next year's school budget in a matter of days, representatives from the Utica Teachers Association and the school district say they will meet to discuss proposals to save a dozen teaching jobs. Superintendent James Willis said he and several board members will meet with representatives from the union today to discuss various cost-saving proposals that include possible union concessions. Last week, Willis and Business Official Maureen Albanese presented a $132 million budget to the school board that would cut 12 teachers, two teacher assistants and three administrators. That budget is based on the governor's state budget proposal that would cut $1.4 billion from education. The Utica teachers have another year on the contract that was signed in September 2008. The contract calls for a 1.3 percent raise next year for the approximately 800 teachers in the district.” (Utica Observer-Dispatch, April 7, 2010)

**UFT President Mulgrew: Charter Schools Can Play Important Role in Public Education**

In an editorial, Michal Mulgrew, the President of the United Federation of Teachers, writes: “Charter schools can play an important role in public education. The UFT remains deeply committed to Albert Shanker's original vision of charter schools as free of politics and special agendas, as laboratories for new approaches to teaching and learning. Unfortunately, many charter schools fall far short of these goals. Legislation has been proposed that would raise the current cap on charter schools and also strengthen the charter school industry through a serious of common-sense reforms. However, charter school operators and managers have spent a lot of time and money trying to convince New Yorkers that the rules shouldn't apply to them; that operating their charter schools fairly and with openness is somehow a hindrance to their business models - perhaps because some of these charter managers come from Wall Street, and believe they deserve their own rules. But accounts of troubling practices at charter schools keep growing. Securing stable and sustainable funding for charter schools is also in everyone's best interest. Charters face a funding freeze and district schools are facing drastic budget cuts and layoffs. But as we fight to secure state funding for district and charter schools, we have gotten no help from special interests like the Charter School Association, who prefer misguided rhetoric to actual collaboration and hard work. New Yorkers are tired of hearing about for-profit charter operators extorting huge management fees from the schools they operate, lining their pockets with money that should instead be going to programs and services for children. (The Huffington Post, April 22, 2010)
Fort Bend ISD in Houston Will Cut 470 Positions Including 195 Certified Teachers

“Fort Bend ISD is beginning to cut jobs as part of their effort to address a projected budget deficit of about $20 million. Out of a total of 9,500 full-time positions in FBISD, it was determined that 470 positions must be eliminated as part of the overall budget reduction plan, according to a statement from the school district. Of the 470, the district has identified 195 certified teaching positions along with 80 certified non-teaching professional positions, and 195 non-certified positions for reduction (which includes all other positions). One hundred of the identified teaching positions relate to special education. Although the district's special education population has declined by more than 900 students in the last 10 years, the number of teachers in the program has increased by 176, according to district officials. The reduction in special education staffing is necessary to more appropriately align staff with the district's current student population… The reduction in force process began last week with letters being sent from the Human Resources Department to 85 certified regular education teachers and campus/district administrators, notifying them that their positions were being eliminated.” (Houston’s ABC affiliate KRTK, April 6, 2010)

**NOTE: Many of the Teaching Positions were Reassigned to Fill Positions at Other Campuses**

“Of the 195 teaching positions identified, many were reassigned to fill positions available at the new campuses and at other campuses where there are vacancies, allowing the district to limit the number of employees whose positions are being eliminated. Officials say the district's goal is to be able to offer the opportunity to as many teachers as possible to return to work in the district.” (Houston’s ABC affiliate KRTK, April 6, 2010)

Houston Independent School District to Cut 406 Positions

“Both the local AFL-CIO chapter and the Houston Federation of Teachers are urging a huge turnout at Thursday night's Houston Independent School District board meeting to protest planned layoffs of teachers and other district employees in an attempt to stop what one union leader calls "this insane idea" of Superintendent Terry Grier. Richard Shaw of the Harris County AFL-CIO Council sent out an e-mail in which he predicts that ‘the more senior and higher paid will be chosen for layoffs first. New teachers with no seniority and who will be placed at the bottom of the salary scale will be hired to replace them.’ Grier told [this blog] that there will be 406 fewer positions when the administration is done. Of those positions, 82 are teachers (some may not be in the classroom, but are teacher-certified), 154 administrative, 107 are ‘classified’ (secretarial and teacher aides) and 53 hourly employees. The district is facing a shortfall -- the estimated amounts have varied but seem to have settled at around the $25 million mark starting in fall 2010 -- and is taking measures to trim the gap now.” (Houston Press Blog, April 7, 2010)

**Dallas Morning News Editorial: Keep Caps On Classroom Size in Austin**
“Lawmakers in Austin are kicking around the idea of lifting the class-size cap for primary grades. The class-size limit of 22 for kindergarten through fourth grade was part of the foundation of historic education reforms that Ross Perot helped push through the Capitol in 1984. It's no coincidence that lawmakers are questioning the wisdom of the cap at the same time they are scouring for ways to close a mammoth budget shortfall next year. Class-size limits, along with testing programs for student performance, have placed the state in the vanguard nationally of education reforms. Administrators already have a safety valve for dealing with class limits if they can't find qualified instructors, don't have the classroom space or have surprise enrollees at the end of the year. The state grants waivers to districts in these cases, and about 2 percent of K-4 students are now in exempted classrooms.” (The Dallas Morning News, May 13, 2010)

**GEORGIA**

DeKalb County Budget Includes 427 Layoffs, Seven Teacher Furlough Days and At Least Four School Closings

“The DeKalb County school board will vote on a budget for next year that balances the current projected deficit with at least 427 layoffs, seven teacher furlough days and at least four school closings -- but no tax hike. On Friday, the board’s four-member budget committee adopted a tentative budget that reflects $115.8 million in cuts. The $735.2 million budget will go to the board April 12 for approval. ‘What we’re trying to do is survive so the system can move forward in the best shape possible,’ budget chairman H. Paul Womack said Friday. Womack, along with board members Don McChesney and Jay Cunningham, voted in support of the budget. Board member Eugene Walker voted against the proposal, saying he would only support a budget with a tax hike. ‘If you don’t have a millage increase, clearly that budget will be balanced on the backs of our programs and our employees,’ Walker said. At 22.98 mills, DeKalb already has the third-highest school tax rate in the metro area.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

*District Human Resources Officer Said DeKalb Pays Employees More than the Majority of Districts in Georgia*

“The committee's budget includes laying off 200 paraprofessionals, 150 central office employees, 59 media clerks and 18 technology specialists. In addition to layoffs, the budget committee voted to cut another 61 paraprofessionals, 10 assistant principals and 10 counselors through attrition. Even with the layoffs, DeKalb still has many more paraprofessionals than the state pays for, Cunningham said. The state funds for 500 paraprofessionals and after the cuts, DeKalb will have about 1,100. DeKalb also pays its employees more than the majority of districts in Georgia, according to Chief Human Resources Officer Jamie Wilson. ‘We have followed a path during a time of luxury and substantial funding that we have been able to do a lot of things that other counties have not been able to do,’ Womack said. The committee also voted to furlough teachers seven days, which is about a 3.9 percent pay cut. Administrators, secretaries and other employees will face 10 to 15 furlough days. The committee also voted to raise class sizes
by two students and cut the board’s contribution to employees’ tax-sheltered annuity. That’s just the first round of cuts.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

Planning Task Force Will Meet March 30th to Narrow List of School Recommended for Closure from 14 to 4

“Last week, some board members were reluctant to close schools at the end of the year, saying they felt the choice was being rushed. On Friday, the committee's approved budget included at least four school closures, which are slated to save $2.35 million. The Citizens’ Planning Task Force, which is charged with recommending schools for closure, will meet Tuesday to narrow that list from 14 to four.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

Planning Task Force Spent Past Two Months Narrowing List of Schools for Possible Closure from 83 to 10; Vote for Closures on April 12 and Final Approval on May 10

“On Thursday, the Citizens Planning Task Force is slated to recommend four elementary schools to close at the end of the school year. A meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the William Bradley Bryant Technology Center on Lawrenceville Highway in Decatur. That 20-member task force has spent the past two months narrowing the list from 83 to 10 schools for possible closure. The school board will vote on the closures April 12 and issue a final approval on May 10, board Chairman Tom Bowen said.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 1, 2010)

Some Members of the Task Force Argued that Schools Proposed for Closure are in Poor African-American Neighborhoods but School Officials Said That is Where Enrollment Has Dropped Due to Record Foreclosure Rates

“But parents aren’t the only ones divided. Even members of the task force bickered on Tuesday, some upset that the schools proposed for closure are all in south DeKalb -- and primarily in poor African-American neighborhoods. School officials say enrollment has dropped in the south end of the county, which is plagued with record foreclosure rates. In the north end, particularly in rapidly growing Dunwoody, schools are overcrowded, officials said. Board members said the closures are needed to help offset an anticipated $115 million shortfall in next fiscal year’s budget. The four school closures are expected to save about $2.35 million. State funding formulas favor schools with enrollments of at least 450 students, said Robert Moseley, the district’s deputy chief superintendent of operations. H. Paul Womack, chairman of the board’s budget committee, has said the district may need to close as many as a dozen schools over the next two years to save money. DeKalb is the state’s third largest school system, but has the most buildings.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 1, 2010)

Cobb County, GA Plan Could Force 6 Furlough Days for Teachers

“The Cobb County School Board could ask for six teacher furlough days and increased class sizes among its list of possible budget cuts for next school year. School Board Chairwoman Lynnda Crowder-Eagle has called a special meeting Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the school board office to discuss next year's budget. ‘We're facing a shortfall in the next fiscal year to the tune of
“$100 million-plus,’ said Doug Goodwin, a school district spokesman. ‘We've not determined what those changes and cuts will be.’ The district's 2011 fiscal year begins July 1.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 24, 2010)

**Columbia County Schools to Eliminate 25 Positions**

“The Columbia County school system will lose teachers next year, and staffers remaining in the system will lose five days' pay. School officials are facing a $6 million reduction in state funding next school year and have been looking for places to cut the system's approximately $165 million budget. By eliminating 25 positions, including 12 teaching positions, the system will save about $1.3 million, Deputy Superintendent Sandra Carraway said. Last year, the school system cut about 100 positions, mostly by raising class sizes. At the same time, the pupil population in the county grew by 500 and is expected to grow by another 500 next school year.” (The Columbia County News-Times, May 2, 2010)

**Houston County Schools Lay Off 50 Teachers**

“Houston County high schools and middle schools bore the brunt of this week's layoffs, losing 50 teachers. Superintendent David Carpenter says 28 high school teachers and 22 middle school teachers got the news Wednesday. There were no cuts at the elementary level. In the Fall, Houston class sizes will reach the state maximum in elementary and middle schools. That's one teacher for every 20 kindergarten students, plus a para-pro. For first, second and third grades, the ratio will be one teacher for every 21 students. For fourth and fifth grades, it's one teacher for every 28 students. In middle school, the ratio will be one teacher for every 28 students. In high schools, classes will have an average of two more students or one teacher for every 26 students.” (13WMAZ.com, May 13, 2010)

**NEW JERSEY**

**Ninety-Three Percent of New Jersey School Boards Consider Layoffs**

“No New Jersey's 600 school boards are submitting their doomsday budgets to meet today's filing deadline. Gov. Chris Christie is seeking to slash $800 million from education spending. Mike Yaple with the New Jersey School Board Association says some districts are turning to desperate measures. ‘Ninety-three percent of school boards are looking at layoffs, but then when asked how many were looking at laying off teachers it was about 85 percent. So, it looks like it’s going to be hitting classrooms as well as the support staff,’ Yaple says. ‘We saw two-thirds of school districts expect to cut sports and clubs. Thirty-two percent of school districts are looking at student activity fees.’ He adds that districts are also looking at an increase in property taxes. School districts must also let Christie know by today whether they intend to support a teacher salary freeze. The governor has offered to restore some state aid, if districts move toward a reopening of contract talks with the teachers union. (WNYC.org, April 5, 2010)
Christie Administration Said 20 Percent of School District Reported Staff Wage Freezes or Reduction in Budget Plans

“About a fifth of New Jersey school districts have reported staff wage freezes or reductions in their budget plans for the coming school year, the Christie administration announced Tuesday. The vast majority were made to administrators’ pay, with support staff coming in second. Teachers in 11 districts accepted wage freezes, while in five districts they have accepted wage reductions. Of 116 districts statewide freezing or reducing wages, 23 were in Burlington and Camden Counties, according to state data. Gloucester County data were not available Tuesday. Of the local districts, Florence in Burlington County and Woodstown-Pilesgrove in Salem County were the only ones mentioned for teachers' taking voluntary wage freezes. Moorestown did not budget for raises for any employees other than principals and supervisors under contract.” *(Philadelphia Inquirer, April 7, 2010)*

Gov. Christie Slammed Teachers Unions for Failing to Respond to Challenge to Freeze Wages for Social Security and Medicare Payroll-Tax Aid; NJEA Said Christie was Asking Teachers to Sacrifice but Not the Affluent

“Last week, Gov. Christie reiterated his call for school district employees to freeze their wages to help spare jobs and programs. Districts that did, he said, would get some additional aid from Social Security and Medicare payroll-tax savings. On Tuesday, Christie slammed teachers and their unions as failing to respond to his challenge. ‘Unfortunately, these figures illustrate the obvious: that the teachers' unions overwhelmingly believe everyone else should share in the sacrifice, but they alone should be held harmless in the middle of this fiscal crisis,’ Christie said in a statement. The New Jersey Education Association, which represents the majority of the state's teachers, shot back that Christie was calling on teachers to sacrifice, but not the affluent. ‘People are frustrated and angry that the governor seems fixated on extracting concessions from school employees when he is insisting on a significant tax cut for the wealthy,' said union spokesman Steve Baker.” *(Philadelphia Inquirer, April 7, 2010)*

**Districts with Staff that Agree to Freeze Salaries Would Get Additional Aid of 7.65 Percent of Resulting Wage Savings**

“Every district in the state is slated for aid cuts in the coming year, and many face dramatic staff and program reductions. The cuts stem from an $819 million reduction in education aid to help close an $11 billion state budget gap. Districts in which staff agree to wage freezes are in line to get additional aid amounting to 7.65 percent of the resulting wage savings on salaries up to $106,000, said state Education Department spokeswoman Kathryn Forsyth. On higher salaries, the savings are less. The additional aid applies to freezes on any salaries, not only teachers.'” *(Philadelphia Inquirer, April 7, 2010)*
Bill to Allow State Employees Retiring Before August 1 to Retain Free Lifetime Medical Benefits Could Spark NJ Teacher Retirements and Avert Planned Layoffs

“Proposed legislation could generate a wave of retirements among public employees in New Jersey, particularly among teachers. The Christie administration is preparing a bill that would require state employees and new retirees to begin paying a portion of their benefits beginning August 1. Education Commissioner Bret Schundler says state employees who retire before that date would retain free lifetime medical benefits. Schundler says teacher retirements could help avert planned layoffs. The Legislature passed bills earlier this year that eventually will require new state employees to contribute 1.5 percent of their salary toward benefits. The amounts of new employees pensions would be based on their last five years of service rather than the last three. Schundler says the new proposal would require a greater contribution to health care and extend the five-year rule to existing employees.” (CBS 3, April 15, 2010)

After Up to 500 Students Walked Out of a High School to Protest Cuts, Christie Traded Barbs With NJEA

“The New Jersey student-walkout saga heated up yesterday with hundreds of kids streaming out of a Paterson high school and the governor's office trading barbs with the state teachers' union over who's behind the protests. ‘We have received anecdotal information from parents and others of some administrators and teachers, if not organizing, encouraging students to protest, looking the other way as they headed for the exits or later lauding their actions,’ said Michael Drewniak, press secretary for Gov. Chris Christie, in a statement. A spokesman for the teachers' union fired back, saying the organization had nothing to do with the walkouts. The governor's ‘obsession with attacking the union leads him to tell public lies about what happened and that's very irresponsible, but becoming all too typical,’ said Steve Wollmer, a spokesman for the New Jersey Education Association. On Tuesday, thousands of students in the state walked out of class, spurred by the Facebook page of an 18-year-old college student Michelle Lauto. In Paterson on Thursday, police stepped in after up to 500 students left Eastside High School around 10 a.m. and ‘began clogging up the streets,’ said Detective Lt. Ron Humphrey of the Paterson Police Department. After some students became unruly, he said, 17 of them were arrested for disorderly conduct.” (The Wall Street Journal, April 30, 2010)

NJEA President: Chris Christie is a Liar

“In an editorial, NJEA President Barbara Keshishian writes, New Jersey’s teachers and school employees have come to an alarming, yet obvious conclusion. Our governor — and there is no delicate way to put it — is a liar. The final straw came the day after 15,000 New Jersey students walked out to protest the governor’s budget cuts. Despite news reports proving the walkout was organized by students on Facebook, and despite NJEA statements urging students to stay in school and conduct protests during non-school hours, Chris Christie told a whopper. Without offering any evidence, he said: ‘There were many factions across New Jersey led by the teachers union who were encouraging this.’ This was nothing new to pundits and political observers who have watched the governor’s obsession with punishing NJEA metastasize into an unprecedented
attack on public education. From the day he took office, Christie has attacked public education, NJEA, our members and even our students in a series of often incredible assaults.” (NJ.com, May 2, 2010)

**New Jersey Teachers are Outraged at Christie’s Misinformation Campaign**

“While NJEA and its members find that patently unfair — and often absurd — we are outraged at the misinformation campaign the governor has conducted along the way. During the campaign, candidate Christie, in ‘An Open Letter to the Teachers of N.J.,” said: “I will make education funding a top priority.’ He has cut education by nearly $1.5 billion, plunging districts into chaos. He told teachers ‘your pension will be protected when I am governor.’ He then refused to put any state funding into the already-underfunded pension system, signed legislation cutting pensions for future retirees, and is now preparing legislation to cut pensions and benefits for current employees who retire after its passage. He said that if teachers would accept a pay freeze next year, it would pay for the $1 billion in cuts he was proposing. In April, the state’s independent Office of Legislative Services reported that if every teacher in New Jersey took a pay freeze, school districts would still be $849 million in the hole. Christie told parents to vote ‘no’ on school budgets if teachers did not accept a salary freeze. Then he accused teachers of telling parents how to vote.” (NJ.com, May 2, 2010)

**Christie: Voters Should Reject Budget Proposals In Districts Where Teachers Have Not Agreed to Pay Freeze**

“Polls for New Jersey's school elections will open Tuesday. Voters will have a say on budgets in most districts. Most of them are calling for both tax increases and teacher layoffs after Gov. Chris Christie cut the state's subsidies to local districts. Furthermore, Christie has said that voters should reject the proposals in districts where teachers have not agreed to pay freezes for the coming year. That suggestion has escalated an already bitter battle between the governor and the New Jersey Education Association, the state's main teachers union.” (Asbury Park Press, April 19, 2010)

**New Jersey Teachers Feel Demonized By Demands for Wage Freeze**

“Accustomed to being held in high regard for their dedication in a demanding profession, [teachers in New Jersey] say they feel demonized. Their commitment to children has been questioned, they say, and they have been portrayed as greedy in the midst of a state budget crisis. On top of that, thousands of teachers may lose their jobs. To help fill a nearly $11 billion budget hole, Christie introduced a budget last month with almost $820 million less in formula aid to schools than was budgeted last year. Districts already were reeling from the withholding in February of $475 million in aid that zapped surplus funds counted for use next year. On March 17, the news got worse: Under the proposed budget, every district in the state would lose aid. About 10 percent of the districts would receive no formula aid at all. Christie has repeatedly called on school staff - especially teachers - to take a wage freeze next school year and pay 1.5 percent of their salary toward health benefits to help spare colleagues' jobs and lessen program cuts. So far, teachers locals in 23 of the state's roughly 600 districts - including Florence,
Mantua, and Southampton - have tentatively accepted wage concessions.” *(Philadelphia Inquirer, April 18, 2010)*

**Market for New Teachers in New Jersey Could Collapse After Teacher Layoffs**

“John Webb, who directs Princeton University’s prestigious Program in Teacher Preparation, said New Jersey faces ‘the very real danger’ the market for new teachers could ‘collapse’ in the face of teacher layoffs caused by budget cuts. Districts letting teachers go won’t hire new teachers, he said. Joseph DePierro, dean of Seton Hall’s College of Education and Human Services, said newly trained teachers face a ‘major catastrophe’ finding jobs this year. It’s as bad, he says, as the 1970s when many teachers were laid off because of declining enrollments. In New Jersey, where a public shouting match between Gov. Chris Christie and the state’s largest teachers union is viewed by some as an attack on teachers generally. Christie has repeatedly said his target is the New Jersey Education Association, or NJEA, not teachers, but that’s often viewed as a distinction without a difference.” *(NJ.com, April 19, 2010)*

**Schools in New Jersey Plan Heavy Cuts After Voters Reject Most Budgets**

“School officials across New Jersey said on Wednesday that they would most likely have to lay off hundreds of teachers, increase class sizes, eliminate sports teams and Advanced Placement classes, cut kindergarten hours and take other radical steps to reduce spending after 58 percent of districts’ budgets were rejected by voters on Tuesday, the most in at least 35 years. Residents went to the polls in record numbers for the normally low-profile school-budget elections, and rejected 316 of the 541 budgets on the ballot. The election results sent school officials hurrying to prepare contingency plans to present to their town councils, or local municipal boards, which now must review the budgets and decide by May 19 whether to demand more cuts. Mr. Christie exhorted New Jerseyans to use the budget votes to take a stand against school spending, particularly in districts where unions refused to freeze wages. The results suggest that people listened: Statewide, voter turnout rose to 26.7 percent from 15 percent last year. Budgets also failed in 6 of the 19 districts where there had been wage freezes or concessions by teachers.” *(New York Times, April 22, 2010)*

**West Orange District Must Consider Heavy Steps After Budget Was Rejected**

“In West Orange, the district’s budget — $118 million, including a 7.3 percent tax revenue increase — was rejected for the first time in a decade. Anthony Cavanna, the superintendent, said he had already planned to lay off 84 employees, including 39 teachers, reduce bus service, cut back on music and art instruction, offer fewer vocational education courses, and trim extracurricular activities. Now he is considering heavier steps, like cutting kindergarten to a half day, ending Spanish classes and guidance counselors in the elementary schools, reducing library and nursing staffs, and dropping middle school and freshman sports teams.” *(New York Times, April 22, 2010)*
Local Union President Makes Concessions Worth $1 Million, But Still Faces 80 Layoffs

“Governor Chris Christie visited Montclair High School to discuss school budget cuts with students. The governor traveled to Montclair High School Wednesday with a message: Our public schools will weather this storm just fine if teachers everywhere make concessions on salaries as they did in Montclair. It was [the local union president’s] idea to offer concessions worth nearly $1 million by freezing top salaries. But even still, because of the sharp drop in state aid, the district is facing at least 80 layoffs. He says Christie is villainizing teachers and cutting into the muscle and bone of his district’s budget. At the same time, he’s giving up $900 million so the state’s wealthiest families can enjoy lower tax rates this year. That’s more than enough to fully restore the school cuts.” (The Star-Ledger, April 4, 2010)

Students Staged a Walkout of Cliffside High School to Protest Plan to Cut 25 Teachers; District Considering Layoffs of 45 Staff

“Cliffside Park High School students who staged a walkout Friday predicted that the district’s plan to cut up to 25 teachers would lead to larger class sizes and a drop in educational quality. Cliffside Park High School students walked out in the middle of classes Friday morning, gathering on the field in protest of teacher layoffs. The 45-minute protest by hundreds of students included some stinging criticism of Governor Christie’s plan to slash state education aid as part of his attempt to balance the upcoming state budget. “Right now, he’s creating a fence around our future,” said 17-year-old senior Barbara Hernandez of Fairview, who called the aid cuts misguided. Cliffside Park school officials are considering layoffs of 45 staff, including about 20 support staff and custodians, to close a $1.8 million budget gap. The student protesters organized on Facebook and through text messages after news of the layoffs started trickling out in recent days.” (The Record, March 26, 2010)

Superintendent Said District was Also Considering Cutting Pre-K and Kindergarten to Half-Day and Ninth-Grade Sports

“Superintendent Michael J. Romagnino said he wasn’t happy that the students left the building, though he was aware they were going to march. He didn’t see the protest as being against the administration. ‘I think it was against the cuts,’ Romagnino said. ‘Most people, including students, understand that if you have to cut $1.8 million out of the budget, the only way you can make that up is by cutting programs and staff.’ Romagnino said the district, which has about 2,700 students, is also considering cutting pre-kindergarten and kindergarten to a half-day and ninth-grade sports, among other measures. The district will hold a budget meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and a group has handed out fliers urging parents to show up in support of the teachers. Parents Rafael Concepcion and Lilly Cancar, who is a 1985 graduate of the high school, watched the protest from just off school property. The couple’s two children attend elementary school in Fairview but will go to the high school in a few years.” (The Record, March 26, 2010)

“The governor’s 10 percent cut in overall school spending – about $820 million – was distributed so that no district saw more than 5 percent of its total annual budget vanish. While Christie had told school districts to prepare for a 15 percent cut in state aid, many districts ended up seeing 100 percent of aid wiped out. Though Christie's budget proposal is not final and must be approved by the Democrat-controlled legislature by the end of June, school districts are using his aid figures as a guide when creating budgets that go up for a vote on April 20.” (Star-Ledger, March 26, 2010)

Christie Said Teacher Could Avoid Layoffs if They Take Pay Freezes and Pay 1.5 Percent of Salary Toward Health Care

“Christie said teachers could avoid layoffs if they reopen their contracts, take pay freezes and pay 1.5 percent of their salary toward their health care. He said students should ask their teachers why they are unwilling to do that. ‘They should ask their teachers, if they want to teach free thinking, why they’re in the throes of the dicta from their union, rather than resorting to common sense,’ he said. ‘This is where they abuse their position of trust. Those are our children in that classroom. To be inundated with that type of propaganda – self-serving, self-interested, greedy propaganda – is reprehensible. And they know it.’” (Star-Ledger, March 26, 2010)

Edison School District To Lay Off 92 Teachers Even if Budget is Passed

“Edison School District’s $204.8 million school budget for next year calls for increasing the local property tax levy by 8.6 percent. Even with such an increase — which required a waiver to the state’s 4 percent cap — Edison plans to lay off 92 teachers, cancel summer school, cut kindergarten to a half day and eliminate middle school athletic teams. But first voters have to approve the budget, which is on the ballot Tuesday, as are budgets in most of New Jersey’s 600 school districts. Many school officials are expecting the toughest elections in years, as districts seek not only to raise property taxes but also to slash popular programs to offset the unusually large reductions in school aid proposed by Gov. Christopher J. Christie, who is trying to close an $11 billion state deficit. With Mr. Christie reducing state school aid to $10.3 billion from $11.1 billion, Edison is one of about 200 districts that want to increase their property tax levy over the 4 percent cap for next year, compared with 98 districts that did so last year.” (New York Times, April 19, 2010)

Teaneck School District Set to Cut 21 Staff, Buy Fewer Textbooks and Supplies

“Teaneck, with 4,000 students and a $94.9 million budget, is proposing an increase of 10.2 percent to the tax levy, which works out, on average, to an extra $475 a year per homeowner. The district also plans to reduce its staff by 21 positions, buy fewer textbooks and supplies and

**Camden School Board Approved Budget That Could Eliminate 94 Teachers**

“Struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, the Camden school board last night approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools… The $337 million plan, which district officials intend to submit to the executive county superintendent today, would close the William F. Powell Elementary School and the South Camden Alternative School.” *(Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 23, 2010)

**In March, Woodbridge Superintendent Called for 280 Layoffs Including 25 Teaching Positions Due to 33 Percent Drop in State Aid; Requested Salary Freeze from Teachers and Union Members**

“If Woodbridge teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut under a budget expected to be sent to voters next month, officials said. It’s the only idea being publicly discussed that would free up enough money to stop some of the harshest spending cuts district administrators are asking the board of education to approve on Wednesday. The $182 million spending plan, proposed by superintendent John Crowe, calls for 280 layoffs -- including all custodial and food service staff - - takes most of the district's surplus and still raises taxes by 4 percent. It would slash educational programs, extracurriculars, 25 teacher positions and a long list of other posts and services. Most of the $12 million in cuts were made to compensate for a 33 percent drop in state aid.” *(Star-Ledger*, March 28, 2010)

**Pay Freeze Concession Would Save $2.6 Million Allowing Woodbridge District to Avoid Laying Off 150 People**

“If Woodbridge teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut under a budget expected to be sent to voters next month, officials said… A pay freeze concession from teachers in the Woodbridge Township Education Association, which represents some 2,000 educators, support staff and other workers, would allow the district to avoid privatizing custodial and cafeteria services, according to business administrator Dennis DeMarino, who compiled the proposed budget for the state's sixth-largest district. ‘And keep in mind that most of the teachers -- 90 percent of the teachers -- will still get a raise,’ DeMarino said last week, speaking after a budget discussion where staff and community members repeatedly asked the union to open its contract. ‘The only ones who don't are the ones at the top of the guide who have been here the longest.’ After adding custodians and cafeteria workers back into the budget, there would still be $880,000 in additional
savings, he said. That could preserve dozens of other positions or stop some of the many other cuts being planned.” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**Union Officials Gave No Indication if Freeze is Being Considered**

“Union officials won't give any indication of whether a freeze is being considered. President Brian Geoffroy declined to comment on the topic and wouldn't say if the union would hold a vote to decide whether to allow discussions with the board of education. Geoffroy, pressured by speakers to address the topic during a public hearing, said a freeze would require the entire contract be opened. Any changes would have to be approved by the full membership. ‘We continue to take the information from all the members,’ he said. ‘That's how we are dealing with this process.’ To John Dutcher, a custodial supervisor at Fords Middle School, it seems unfair that he and his colleagues would be laid off as teachers get a pay hike. He and other supervisors have taken $10,000 salary cuts in the past, he said. ‘But in the entire time I've been here, not once has the teachers' contract taken anything but a raise in 20 years,’ he said.” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**Board of Education President Called for Union to Come Back to the Table**

“Board of education president Brian Molnar said he's been hearing from some teachers who feel it's time to open the contract and talk about a freeze. He said he understands Geoffroy's position and a need to answer to members but wants to see them come back to the table. ‘There's a lot of rhetoric going on in Trenton, between one side or the other, and you just don't hope it trickles down to Main Street,’ he said. ‘We want to work with everybody. We want to keep everybody employed. And we just all have to work together.’” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**In April, Woodbridge School District Decided to Lay Off 120 Teachers, Reduce Bus Service and Security Officers**

“Woodbridge, which is keeping its increase at exactly 4 percent, put together what district officials call a budget of compromise to absorb an expected $8.8 million reduction in state aid next year. The $182.5 million proposal calls for laying off 120 teachers, reducing bus service, cutting freshman athletic teams and elementary school clubs and eliminating security officers at the middle schools and high schools. ‘It’s going to be hard work to pass it,’ said John Crowe, superintendent of the district, which has 13,500 students. ‘People have been hurt by these cuts and I think they are angry.’” (The New York Times, April 19, 2010)

**New Jersey School Board Association Said 188 Districts Statewide are Discussing Reopening Contracts, 250 in Negotiations**

“Frank Belluscio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, said a statewide survey has shown that 188 districts, out of 313 respondents, are discussing reopening contracts. More than 250 districts are in ongoing negotiations. ‘Of course is takes two to tango,’ he said, ‘and you need the union to agree.’” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)
500 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Teachers Will Get Layoff Notices

“About 500 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools teachers will get preliminary layoff notices Wednesday, hours after the school board voted 6-3 Tuesday night to approve a 2010-11 budget that braces for big cuts. The plan includes five alternative scenarios eliminating up to $78 million in county and state money, with options that include laying off hundreds of employees. The board had earlier cleared Gorman to cut about 600 teachers, but Chief Operating Officer Hugh Hattabaugh said before Tuesday's meeting that the numbers ‘look a little better than we anticipated.’ He said 170 teachers will lose their jobs because of low job ratings and/or lack of proper licenses. Another 20 in that category would have gotten layoff notices but have already resigned, he said. Also getting preliminary notices are 240 teachers who are working on short-term contracts and 99 whose skills don't match any available jobs. The 99 could still be placed if jobs open up. Layoffs are not final until a board vote, scheduled for June. The number of teacher jobs eliminated by retirements has not been tallied, Hattabaugh said. Cutting teachers will mean bigger classes, with high schools losing some of their specialized offerings that draw low enrollment.” (The Charlotte Observer, May 12, 2010)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Could Lay Off 1,000 Employees

“Davidson IB Middle students will not have the hours of their school day pushed back 90 minutes in September, but they will face curtailed bus service. And all students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will likely see larger class sizes due to teacher layoffs. ‘We made some tough decisions, but the reductions we made are necessary – with the exception of the teacher cuts, and I’m not done looking for places to save money (to keep teachers),’ said Rhonda Lennon. The school district receives 28 percent of its funding from the county and 56 percent from the state – and is expecting sharp cuts from both. The new budget request has scenarios to deal with reductions, which are expected to be handed down this summer. According to a press release about the vote, ‘If all the scenarios are put into operation, CMS would make cuts of more than $78 million and reduce its work force by more than 1,000 employees.’ About half of those employees will probably be teachers.” (Davidson News, May 12, 2010)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Anticipated Cutting 600 Teachers

“The cash shortage facing Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools next year means layoffs are unavoidable. Hundreds of jobs could be cut – including around 600 teachers. ‘It’s not just a numbers thing for us,’ said School Board Chair Eric Davis. ‘It’s very personal and human and we think about these friends and colleagues in our schools everyday when we’re weighing these decisions.’ Davis says it’s a tough time for everyone in CMS right now, and a time to reach out to those who could be directly impacted by the proposed budget cuts. ‘As parents and school board members and other citizens, letting our teachers and teaching assistants know that we appreciate them,’ he said.” (WCCB Fox Charlotte, April 21, 2010)
“We are doing things and considering options I never thought I’d have to consider,” said Peter C. Gorman, superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools in North Carolina, who expects to cut 600 of the district’s 9,400 teachers this year, after laying off 120 last year. ‘This may be our new economic reality.’” (New York Times, April 20, 2010)

On Argument that Federal Funds Could Help CMS Retain Teachers, CMS Superintendent Said “We Already Know Our Federal Money”

“State leaders are hoping teacher job losses may not be as worse as first thought. North Carolina House Speaker Joe Hackney said there should be enough federal money to help Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools and other districts retain teachers. Hackney said it's just a matter of districts maximizing federal dollars in order to save jobs. ‘I do think we can come out of this without losing massive numbers of teaching jobs in North Carolina,’ Hackney said. However, CMS Superintendent Peter Gorman said that federal money won't be enough this year. ‘We already know our federal money, and we're not going to have that federal piece come to save us, so we don't share that optimism this year,’ Gorman said. Gorman's current plan calls for more than 700 teachers and teacher's assistants to be laid off.” (WSOCTV.com, April 23, 2010)

Charlotte Superintendent Plan Includes Steps Toward Laying Off About 600 Teachers

“Employees of CMS administrative offices began getting layoff notices Monday, school board Chair Eric Davis said. The board has authorized Superintendent Peter Gorman to cut about 46 central-office jobs, but Gorman has not yet given details about his proposed restructuring. Davis said he expects those details today, along with an update on steps toward laying off about 600 teachers. It's the school board's last public budget meeting before Gorman presents a formal plan April 13, with up to $80 million in cuts from current spending expected. Davis said the board will try to signal Gorman on which cost-cutting options to pursue and which should be scrapped. Strong differences of opinion remain. For instance, board member Richard McElrath said Monday he'll only support a plan that eliminates all layoffs by cutting pay up to 10 percent. ‘If there was ever a time for shared sacrifice, this is a time for shared sacrifice,’ he said. ‘Until they do that, I'm not listening to anything else.’” (Charlotte Observer, March 30, 2010)

Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board Sought Furloughs for Teachers to Avoid Layoffs

“Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) officials are seeking furloughs, which are unpaid vacations, to avoid teacher layoffs. They are seeking the furloughs for the end of the 2010-11 school year, after state exams, which would essentially end the school year early. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board would have to be granted furlough authority by state legislature in order for the furloughs to take place.” (The Examiner, April 6, 2010)

CMS Budget Could Include Cuts That Could Total $80 Million
“The proposed 2010-11 school year budget will be $333 million. Gorman will present the budget to county commissioners April 13. The budget will also include cuts that could total $80 million if the $333 million is not approved. Among the cuts are teacher lay-offs, middle school sports, CMS-TV and school closings. Even if furlough authority is granted in time for this school year, a combination of other cuts will likely take place. So far, furloughs have proven to be the most popular budget cutting suggestion.” (The Examiner, April 6, 2010)

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

South Carolina Superintendent Expects Nearly 4,000 Education Workers to Lose Their Jobs Including 2,500 Teachers

“The head of South Carolina's public schools says he expects nearly 4,000 education workers to lose their jobs by the upcoming school year. State schools Superintendent Jim Rex said today he thinks 3,800 education employees will lose their jobs, including about 2,500 teachers. Rex's numbers are based on a survey of the state's 85 school districts. Local school boards are currently writing their budgets for the coming school year. District officials are basing their plans on the state budget, which the Senate approved last week. South Carolina has about 50,000 teachers. There are 1,400 fewer teachers this school year compared with last year. Job losses are expected to be even worse in the coming school year and class sizes are projected to rise.” (Associated Press, May 3, 2010)

State Superintendent Rex Said Teacher Job Cuts Could Cause a Slip in Academic Performance

“The proposed teaching job cuts, which come on top of the up to 4,000 that have been lost over the past two years, could cause a slip in academic performance, the state superintendent of education said. ‘At some point, that’s got to show up on test scores and graduation rates,’ said Jim Rex, who also is running for the Democratic nomination for governor. ‘You can’t just keep cutting resources and expect to get the same results.’ He said it also may put the state at a disadvantage in recruiting new industry and called for more public pressure on lawmakers before the state’s budget is finalized. ‘If you haven’t made your voice heard and you are as alarmed about this as I am and as I think others should be, please make your voice heard in the weeks or months ahead,’ Rex said. South Carolina public schools are planning to eliminate up to 2,500 teaching positions unless lawmakers find a way to soften the budget cuts now proposed in Columbia, the state superintendent of education said. Rex blamed lawmakers for not taking the action he urged to revamped the state’s educational funding system. ‘Let’s start looking at the people we are electing and re-electing to office,’ he said.” (Greenville News, May 4, 2010)
Majority Whip Clyburn Said, “We Are Seeing Significant Headlines as I Left Home this Morning — I Saw a Big Headline That We’re About to Lay Off 4,000 Teachers in South Carolina”

“Following an economic forum, held in the Speaker’s Office this morning, Members of Congress and economic experts emphasized the need to provide support to state and local governments to save jobs… Majority Whip James Clyburn said, ‘My take-away from this meeting today is that it is very, very important for us to do what is necessary in the interim to continue to stabilize governments. We are seeing significant headlines as I left home this morning — I saw a big headline that we’re about to lay off 4,000 teachers in South Carolina. And that is an ominous thing to think about as we try to get our young people educated and we’re going forward.’ (The American Chronicle, May 11, 2010)

Greenville County Schools Will Eliminate 226.5 Teaching Positions, Mostly Through Attrition

“Greenville County Schools is expecting a $28 million-$30 million hit, which the administration is proposing be absorbed in part by eliminating 226.5 teaching positions — a reduction that officials believe can be done through attrition. ‘Everyone who has a contract will have a teaching position next year,’ district spokesman Oby Lyles said. All others, including administrators and district office personnel, face the possibility of a pink slip, he said. Doing away with the teaching jobs would raise the average class size in the district by two students and would save $12.3 million, Lyles said.” (Greenville News, May 4, 2010)

In Lexington, School Officials Expect 46 Employees Will be Laid Off

Lexington 1 officials took a first step Monday to eliminate 70 jobs — mostly teachers — and to raise business taxes a bit to counter declining state school aid. School Board members are concerned the cuts will harm schools rated as among South Carolina’s best but say there is no other choice. ‘It makes me sick to my stomach,’ board member Bert Dooley of Lexington said. ‘I don’t like any of this; we’re dumbing down.’ The job cuts will be accomplished through a mix of layoffs and not filling vacancies. School officials expect as many as 46 employees will be laid off. Business taxes will go up nearly $51 on each $100,000 in property — the maximum increase allowed by a state tax cap. Other key features in the $166.7 million spending plan taking shape for the year starting July 1 include:

- No pay raises and unpaid time off of up to two days for most of the 3,300 employees.
- An increase in average classroom size of two or three pupils.
- No more classes in foreign language for second-graders and in band for fifth-graders.
- A shutdown of Lexington Intermediate School a year early. Its future is unsettled.
- An increase from $50 to $75 in the fee that students pay to play sports.” (The State, May 11, 2010)
Hartford Courant Headline: 2,000 Connecticut Teachers Face Layoffs Before Next School Year

“About 2,000 teaching jobs statewide are set to be eliminated in June as school boards resort to layoffs to cut expenses during difficult budget deliberations. ‘This is absolutely the worst I've seen in my tenure,’ said John Yurchik, executive director of the Connecticut Education Association, the largest statewide teachers' union. ‘Even teachers who have lived through earlier rounds of layoffs have not seen anything quite like this.’ With their principal funding sources — state and local taxes — hammered by the recession, school boards have given pink slips to hundreds of teachers as they look to reduce payroll, close schools, eliminate language instruction and, in some cases, consider switching to a four-day school week to make ends meet, superintendents said. Eliminating so many teaching jobs will almost certainly result in program cuts and slightly larger class sizes in many school systems next year. Connecticut is following a national trend as an estimated 100,000 to 300,000 teaching positions are being considered for elimination.” (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

2,000 Connecticut Teachers Could Lose Jobs By June

“Around 2,000 teachers statewide [Connecticut] could get the ax as soon as June as school boards across the state try to figure out how to cut costs in a tough economic climate, according to the Hartford Courant. The Connecticut Education Association calls this the worst climate in years. Of course, with teaching jobs eliminated, there will be larger class sizes in many school systems. Teachers have to be notified of a possible layoff by April 1, but many times, schools do not let go as many teachers as originally planned. In Connecticut, towns such as Naugatuck and Wallingford have been particularly hard hit. Many districts are attempting to minimize the layoffs by cutting in other areas. Some have rebid custodian contracts, eliminated late buses, cut sports programs and even proposed cutting the length of the mandated 180-day school year, according to the Courant. The Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents has even toyed with the idea of shortening the school week to four days, but realizes this is a long shot to save money. And this is only the calm before the storm, according to some administrators. Connecticut will lose $271 million of stimulus money in the 2011-2012 fiscal year, which will put even more pressure on struggling districts, according the Courant.” (NBC Connecticut, April 22, 2010)

Some Superintendents Supported Cutting 180-Day School Year or Transition to 4-Day Week to Save Teaching Jobs

“Most superintendents and school boards are trying to shield students and core subjects from the brunt of the cuts by reducing other areas. Some have rebid custodian contracts, eliminated late buses, cut sports programs and even proposed cutting the length of the mandated 180-day school year. ‘We're just really trying to think: How do we put teachers in classrooms?’ Pascarella said. ‘Can the state really afford 180 days during these economic times? We're just all concerned about the burden on municipalities.’ The Connecticut Association of Urban Superintendents has even floated the idea of scaling back to a four-day school week to save energy costs, although the group realizes that the idea is a long shot and has its shortcomings, especially in the eyes of
working parents. ‘The reality is that many parents count on school as a place for their kids to be,’ said New London Superintendent Nicholas A. Fischer, a member of the association. ‘This is not school systems trying to wreak havoc. We, as a state, are trying to come to grips with what people want. You can't keep saying 'no new taxes' and expect the quality of services to improve.’” (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

Superintendents Nervous About Lack of Stimulus Money in 2011-12 Fiscal Year

“While schools grapple with the budget crisis, they acknowledge that their real worry is the 2011-12 fiscal year. At that point, Connecticut will lose $271 million in stimulus money that the federal government has pumped into the state in each of the past two years. ‘They tell us that the next 18 months is just a little storm we're dealing with. Next year is going to be a tsunami,’ Pascarella said.” (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

Teacher Openings in Connecticut Shrank by 35 Percent From Fall 2008 to Fall 2009

“In another sign of the recession and tighter school budgets, the number of teacher openings in Connecticut shrank dramatically this year as school boards try to get by with fewer, a trend that has led to larger class sizes and fewer course offerings in some schools. The number of teacher openings dropped by nearly 35 percent from fall 2008, when there were 4,533, to fall 2009, when there were 2,957, according to a new state Department of Education report released today. ‘The economy is hard and it has hit school districts hard,’ said Tom Murphy, the department's spokesman. ‘Districts knew last year that this was going to be a difficult year, so they have peeled back.’” (Hartford Courant, April 7, 2010)

Hartford Schools Preparing to Lay Off As Many As 92 Employees Including 49 Teachers

“The State Board of Education refused on Wednesday to step into the middle of a dispute over layoff rules between Hartford teachers and the city school board, and instead urged both sides to work out their differences. At issue is Hartford Superintendent Steven Adamowski's proposal to change the way the district handles teacher seniority during layoffs. Now, a teacher targeted for layoff at one school can ‘bump’ a teacher with less seniority at any school. Under Adamowski's plan, a teacher or administrator targeted for layoff could bump only a person with less experience within the same school. The idea is to promote stability and prevent Hartford's 19 specialty schools and theme academies from losing large numbers of specially trained teachers. Hartford schools, facing a $15 million budget gap, are preparing to lay off as many as 92 employees, including 49 teachers, spokesman David Medina said.” (The Hartford Courant, April 8, 2010)

Norwich Gave Layoff Notices to 71 Certified Staff Members

“In Connecticut, one of the hardest-hit communities is Norwich, which has given layoff notices to 71 certified staff members. One of them is Dave Plotkin, who teaches eighth-grade science at
Teachers' Memorial Middle School in Norwich. Plotkin, who has been teaching for four years, said he wasn't surprised to get a layoff notice, but remains optimistic, partly because his science specialty remains in demand. "We have stayed upbeat about it," he said. "It's always in the back of your mind, but you don't let it affect the way you teach." Norwich Superintendent Abby I. Dolliver said that she hopes to reduce the number of layoffs before school opens next fall, but that budget constraints have already forced her to propose closing two schools and cutting middle school language instruction and sports to meet her zero-increase budget. "It's heartbreaking," Dolliver said. "It's just going to look different next year." (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

In Norwich, a Quarter of the District's Teachers have been Notified that their Jobs are in Jeopardy

"In Norwich, as in other cash-strapped public school districts, spring is the mean season. Trying to balance its budget, the district has decided to cut out middle school sports, foreign language classes and an instrumental music program. It will end some after-school bus routes. Officials are considering closing an elementary school. And nearly a quarter of the district's teachers have been notified that their jobs are on the line."

Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010

Wallingford is Cutting 40 Positions Including 15 Elementary School Teachers

"Wallingford is cutting 40 positions, including 15 elementary school teachers, which will add two or three more students per class." (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

Wallingford Recommended 80 Layoffs, Bristol Plans to Eliminate 20 Jobs

"In Wallingford, for example, officials have recommended 80 layoffs, more than 10 percent of the workforce. In Stamford, officials are talking about closing a middle school. In Bristol, the district plans to close an elementary school and eliminate more than 20 jobs. In Waterford, where health insurance costs rose by 26 percent, the district decided to cut back on supplies, ask employees to take furlough days and eliminate programs such as elementary school Spanish classes, said Michael DeRay, the district's business manager." (Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010)

Wallingford, Connecticut Faces 83 Layoffs and Elementary School Restructuring Plan

"Faced with the possibility of 83 teachers and noncertified staff being laid off at the start of the next fiscal year in July, nearly 150 residents packed [Wallingford, Connecticut] Town Hall Wednesday night for the first of a series of hearings on the municipal budget. Mayor William Dickinson Jr. cut $2.5 million from the $88.9 million budget that the Board of Education sent to the mayor in February. The calculation of 83 layoffs is based
on the budget that the school board sent to Dickinson, so if the Town Council fails to
overturn the mayor’s budget, even more staff might have to be laid off. ‘We have
increased demand being placed on our students ... and yet we are cutting teachers and
paraprofessionals,’ said Beth Raccio, who has one child in the school system and heads
the district parent-teacher council. School board members have said the cuts Dickinson
has proposed will likely force them to resurrect a sweeping restructuring plan for the
elementary schools. It calls for the elimination of 12.5 teaching positions at a savings of
$750,000, and 72 noncertified positions at a savings of $1.04 million.” (New Haven
Register, April 15, 2010)

Danbury Will Cut 30 Teaching Jobs

“Danbury will cut 30 teaching jobs on top of many other budget cuts. ‘We're reducing and
reducing. We're at a tipping point in many ways,’ said Danbury Superintendent Sal Pascarella.
‘Everybody's thinking creatively. It's not what anybody wants to do. It's not like a business
where you can shorten your hours.”’ (Hartford Courant, April 22, 2010)

Unions Making Concessions are on a District by District Basis with
Some Accepting Furloughs

“Elsewhere, districts have asked employee unions for concessions, with mixed results. In
Litchfield, for example, administrators and non-teaching staff agreed to furlough days but
teachers did not, said Superintendent of Schools Deborah Wheeler. In Colchester, ‘Every single
one of our labor unions and non-union staff has given up two days of pay,’ said Superintendent
Karen Loiselle, who herself agreed to forego a salary increase this year. The district also
eliminated freshman soccer and basketball, high school indoor track and middle school junior
varsity soccer and basketball. Phil Apruzzese, president of the Connecticut Education
Association, the state's largest teachers' union, said local unions have been reluctant to give
concessions under existing contracts but have taken only small increases or pay freezes in
negotiating new contracts. "We all know what we are facing in these economic times, and it's
dire," he said.” (Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010)

Arizona

Arizona Education Association: “Teachers by the Thousands are
Receiving Their Pink Slips”

“Due to Arizona's budget shortfall, many teachers and students don't know what type of
classroom they'll be walking into this fall. For months we've been hearing about increasing class
sizes and the possibility of widespread layoffs, all because of our state's miserable financial
situation. After 32 years of teaching our kids, Suzi Figueroa may soon be a casualty. In
education, they call layoffs reductions in force, or RIFs. She may keep her job if the 1-percent
sales tax passes in May. If not, she's likely out. ‘It started last week and this week. Teachers by
the thousands are receiving their pink slips,’ says Andrew Morrill with the Arizona Education
Association. Districts everywhere are having to keep cutting back to prepare for the worst, says Morrill. Districts typically draw up worst case scenario budgets, so some teachers may be asked back.” (MyFoxPhoenix.com, April 14, 2010)

130 Educators in Gilbert Public Schools Face Layoffs

“More than 100 Gilbert Public Schools teachers will soon be sent layoff notices and those remaining will face a serious salary reduction. On Tuesday night, the district's governing board voted to approve the cuts. A total of 130 educators, 60 kindergarten teachers along with 70 other teachers, mostly at the high school level, will be notified of the layoffs by May 1. The cuts are a result of a district deficit that could reach $14 million. At Tuesday night's meeting, Thad Stump, president of the governing board, pointed out that most of the teachers receiving layoff notices could be called back to teach if Arizona voters approve Proposition 100, a temporary one-cent sales tax increase. If the teacher layoffs are in place next year, the average classroom size will increase, on average, by four students, spokesperson Dianne Bowers said.” (ABC15.com, April 28, 2010)

Washoe Educators Agree to Concessions, Increasing Pressure on Clark County Counterparts

“The Washoe Education Association and other school district employee groups have agreed to salary freezes and furloughs of two professional days in the upcoming school year, saving the district $11 million and possibly avoiding layoffs. The Clark County School District and its employees have yet to agree to wage concessions, and the Clark County Education Association is expected to declare an impasse on several sticking points and will ask for binding arbitration. The School Board in Washoe on Wednesday approved a tentative operating budget with a $30 million shortfall, which would require cutting more than 1,000 positions to balance. The district has notified 90 school-site administrators that their positions could be eliminated. Those cuts, along with about 20 central office administrative jobs, would save the district $11 million. Increasing class sizes in grades 1-3 would reduce teacher ranks by 540 positions and save another $30 million.” (Las Vegas Sun, April 9, 2010)

Amphitheater School District to Eliminate More Than 210 Positions

“The Amphitheater (Arizona) School District governing board approved $14.5 million in budget cuts and finalized the elimination of more than 210 positions. The board's 5-0 vote to slash the 2010-2011 budget represented a worst-case scenario for the district if a 1-cent state sales tax increase is not approved by Arizona voters next month. Even if that increase passes, board members said, nearly $7.9 million and more than 95 positions will still be cut because of reductions in state funding. The board also approved three furlough days for most employees and a 2 percent across-the-board pay decrease, cuts that save the district $2.7 million. Amphi's cuts will mean the average class size will increase by two to seven students, depending on whether the sales-tax increase passes.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

Sunnyside Unified School District to Lay Off Nearly 400 Employees
The Sunnyside Unified School District (Arizona) voted to lay off nearly 400 employees for the coming school year at its regular board meeting Tuesday night. Those who will receive notices that their contracts will not be renewed are 320 teachers who have been with the district three years or less, eight middle-school assistant principals and at least 10 first-year nonteaching professionals. The layoffs and cuts in programs are to meet a $9.5 million budget deficit. Employees will take five furlough days, resulting in a $2 million savings, and bonuses for administrators will be eliminated. This will save $114,000.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

Tucson Unified School District Gave Notice to 195 Certified Staff Members

“More than five dozen Tucson Unified School District (Arizona) administrators received pink slips Tuesday night as a result of budget constraints and declining enrollment. The reduction of 64 administrators was approved by the governing board 5-0. However, Nancy Woll, the district's chief human resources officer, expected most to be recalled. The cuts are part of a planning process, which predicts a deficit of $17.3 million next year, or $41.8 million should voters reject Prop. 100. About 195 certified staff members have been given notice that they may no longer have a position at their current schools. Those employees have been placed in a transfer pool to compete for 111 vacancies. If employees are unable to secure a position by mid-May, they will be laid off. The district has given notice of possible salary cuts next year. No dollar amounts were discussed, but while talking about budget cut options last week, a 1-percent salary reduction across the district was mentioned. The board approved mergers that would result in three schools being closed next year. Roberts Elementary School will close to merge with Naylor Middle School. Van Horne Elementary School will close to merge with Bloom Elementary School. Reynolds Elementary School will close and will split its students between Ford and Erickson Elementary schools. Weeks ago the board approved a plan for Wrightstown Elementary School to close and make a move to Henry Elementary School, which will create a savings of at least $150,000 for the district.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

Marana School District Cuts 64 Certified Staff

“About 20 Marana School District (Arizona) teachers scheduled to be laid off will keep their jobs after the district's governing board voted Tuesday night against cutting additional teacher positions. The board will decide whether to cut support staff at its April 22 meeting, said district spokeswoman Tamara Crawley. Last week, the board cut 64 certified staff members, six administrators, one program facilitator and one coordinator for the 2010-11 school year. Certified staff includes teachers, counselors, librarians and instructional coaches. District officials said then that funding cuts for next school year could be as high as $10.3 million. Cuts could drop to $5.6 million if Arizona voters in May approve Proposition 100, a 1-cent-per-dollar state sales-tax increase.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

Catalina Foothills Will Lay Off 22 Teachers and Charge for Kindergarten

“Catalina Foothills (Arizona) district's projected shortfall next year is about $1 million, or $3 million if Proposition 100 fails. Twenty-two teachers will be laid off at the end of this school
year, but some may be rehired for next year. The district won't subsidize all-day kindergarten. Instead, it will offer a fee-based, half-day program to parents who want the full-day option for their children. The district has said it will charge $4,000 a year for a child to participate in a full-day program. An employee salary freeze stays in place.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

**Flowing Wells Unified District to Cut 28 Teachers and Counselors**

“The Flowing Wells Unified School (Arizona) District governing board approved cutting 28 teachers and counselors for the next school year. The reduction, approved Tuesday night, will save the district about $2 million, said Superintendent Nic Clement. The district could be looking at more cuts if voters do not approve the 1-cent state sales tax hike on May 18, Clement said. If voters reject the temporary sales tax, the district will have to cut about 30 support staff positions. All district employees also would have to take nine furlough days if the tax measure fails, he said.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

**Tempe School District Plans Rest on May Sales Tax Vote; Governing Board Already Approved Reduction in Force Notice in the Event the Measure Does Not Pass; Deficit Now Stands at $11.8 Million**

“Class sizes in Tempe's Kyrene School District could increase and teachers might be laid off if Arizona voters don't approve a 1 percent sales tax next month, school officials said. Whether the district will face a $6 million deficit next fiscal year or almost double that amount hinges on whether voters approve the tax. If voters fail to approve Proposition 100, district administrators must cut $11.8 million from their 2010-11 budget. That would lead to measures such as increasing class sizes, pay reductions and program changes. On Tuesday, the governing board approved a reduction in force notice in the event the measure does not pass. On April 13, the board will receive a list of who would be affected... Because 90 percent of Kyrene's budget is salaries, an $11.8 million deficit would mean cutting positions, mostly teachers, resulting in what Lescher called increased class sizes by ‘significant numbers.’” (Arizona Republic, April 7, 2010)

**Paradise Valley School District in Phoenix Would Lay Off 57 Teachers, Including Those on Hardship or Maternity Leave, if Sales Tax Increase Does Not Pass**

“If Phoenix voters do not pass a 1 percent sales tax next month, the Paradise Valley Unified School District will have to lay off more than 70 staff members. Because the district would have to cut $13 million from its 2010-11 budget, the district could lay off 57 teachers along with 16 administrators and support staff. ‘The decision on who is on the list is based on seniority, so the last hired are the first out,’ said Judi Willis, district spokeswoman. ‘People on leave of absence for whatever reasons - hardship, maternity leave - would also be on that list.’ The 2.6 percent salary reduction that all district employees took this current school year would continue if the tax does not pass. The Arizona Legislature has already reduced Paradise Valley's budget for the upcoming school year by $7 million, meaning that the total cut to the district's budget would be $20 million if the sales tax is not approved. Letters to employees who may be laid off have been
mailed. Superintendent Jim Lee was presenting the list of those names along with other recommendations to the governing board Thursday.” *(Arizona Republic, April 7, 2010)*

### Flagstaff Unified School District Sent 450 RIF Letters to Employees Especially Those in Art, Music or Phys Ed or in the District for Three or Fewer Years

“The DeMiguel Elementary teacher is one of about 450 employees in Flagstaff Unified School District expected to receive a letter next week advising her that she is not guaranteed a job next year. Her husband, Keith, who has taught shop classes in FUSD for more than 20 years, is also likely to get a layoff notice. About half of the teacher-certified employees in the district will receive such a conditional note… The school board voted 4-1 on Tuesday to move ahead on a list 454 positions deep. The following groups will get pre-emptive reduction in force (RIF) or non-renewal of contract notes:

- Teachers who specialize in art, music, physical education, languages, career and technical education, disciplinary and academic intervention classrooms; and librarians and counselors. Specialty teachers who hold certifications in other areas were culled from the list.
- Teachers and administrators with contracts originally drafted as one year or less (these employees get annual "layoff" notices as a matter of course).
- Teachers with three or fewer years in the district.

Administrators caution that they don't expect all of those employees to be let go -- officials built a sweeping list to maintain flexibility. A final district budget can't be set until after the May 18 vote on a statewide sales tax and other legislative decisions. But anybody who does not receive a notice by the district's layoff deadline of April 15 must be offered a contract for next year.” *(Arizona Daily Sun, April 8, 2010)*

### NEW MEXICO

### Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Predicts Layoffs Next Year Due to Budget Shortfall

“Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Winston Brooks made it clear at Monday night's board meeting that the school district's $43 million shortfall could easily become $100 million by this time next year, and if that happens, teachers' jobs will be cut. Superintendent Brooks says with 85 percent of APS's budget going towards employee salaries and benefits, it's clear where the cuts would occur. For now… Brooks's proposal includes two furlough days for himself and all other non-school employees; layoffs for double dippers who have been back on the job for less than three years; cuts in overtime, stipends, school budgets, and also eliminating a school day. There are also items listed for consideration including cutting the number of educational assistants by 15 percent, eliminating athletics, secondary fine arts and ROTC and reducing the number of assistant principals.” *(KOB.com, April 4, 2010)*
**NEVADA**

**Clark County Schools to Eliminate More Than 540 Positions**

“In addition to a $145 million deficit in the Clark County School District’s budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, early projections show cuts of even greater magnitude in the offing. Still under consideration for fiscal 2011: 2 percent pay cuts districtwide. The news comes on top of the district’s current financial plight: It has cut more than $250 million in programs, services and positions since 2008 to not overspend its $2.1 billion operating budget, and is chiseling away at another $145 million for the 2011 fiscal year that begins July 1. Because of the growing budget deficit spawned by the recession’s effect on tax revenue, the amount of money per student distributed by the state to Clark County may plummet 20 percent or more, wiping out gains in per-student funding going back to 2003. Superintendent Walt Rulffes said reducing employee compensation by about 2 percent across the board would cover the $28 million gap and save the equivalent of 400 teaching jobs. The district expects to eliminate more than 540 positions by increasing class sizes in grades 1-3.” *(The Las Vegas Sun, April 22, 2010)*

**Labor Groups Unveil Agreements to Freeze Teacher Salaries and Take Furlough Days**

“The five employee labor groups from Washoe County (Nevada) schools and district officials Friday unveiled agreements that will save jobs and trim nearly $11 million from the projected $33 million budget shortfall. In what was hailed as an unprecedented collaboration, the employees agreed to freeze their salaries and take two furlough days. Leaders of the employee unions generally agreed that salary concessions and the furlough days were better than losing jobs.” No instructional time will be lost to furloughs, but teachers will lose two paid professional development days, Buhrmann said. On those days, teachers usually meet to discuss curriculum and best practices, as well as learn about new technology, he said.” *(Reno Gazette Journal, April 2, 2010)*

**UTAH**

**Jordan School District to Cut 190 Support Positions to Avoid Teacher Layoffs**

“Jordan School District has announced their proposed budget recommendations for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. To offset a 30 million dollar deficit, the district announced 190 employees will lose their jobs. These positions include administrative positions, secretarial and maintenance workers. Those affected by the cuts will be out of a job by June 30th. The school board says while it was a difficult decision, they felt that class sizes and keeping teachers in the classroom should be their top priorities. Overall though, board members say cutting positions, no matter what kind, will affect the district as a whole. ‘The reality is, when you eliminate a lot of support positions, you are going to impact students. We need the public to be patient and realize we just...”
made 17 million dollars without raising taxes, raising class size, or cutting teachers,’ says Jordan District spokesperson Melinda Colton. Teachers are happy to keep their jobs, but they say ultimately it will mean more work for them and a lower quality of education for their students.” (ABC4.com, May 12, 2010)

MARYLAND

Prince George’s County School Board Approved Budget that Cuts 800 Positions, Fairfax County School Board Approved Salary Freeze and Cut Over 200 Positions

“As public schools nationwide face larger class sizes and cuts in programs, Sen. Tom Harkin, the Senate's leading Democrat on education issues proposed a $23 billion bailout Wednesday to help avert layoffs of tens of thousands of teachers and other school personnel in the coming academic year. Educators nationwide are warning that their finances have been stretched to the breaking point. The Prince George's County school board has approved a budget that slashes 800 positions. The Fairfax County school board has approved a salary freeze and cut of more than 200 positions.” (The Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

Prince George’s County School Board Proposed Eliminating Up to 800 Jobs Including 355 Classroom Positions

“The Prince George's County police union is gearing up again to fight proposed furloughs next fiscal year, saying they have suffered enough from unpaid leave required the past two years and criticizing county spending decisions… Education funding is likely to be a major issue. The county is dipping below state mandates for school spending this year, and the county school board has proposed eliminating up to 800 jobs under their current budget, including about 355 classroom positions.” (Business Gazette, March 25, 2010)

Fairfax County Anticipates Their Budget Will Cut Over 200 Positions, Freezing Pay and Charging Fees for Activities; District Eliminated 1200 Positions in the Past Two Years

According to an op-ed by Kathy Smith, chairman of the Fairfax County School Board, the school system’s budget will include layoffs. “Over the course of developing next year's budget for Fairfax County Public Schools, the school board heard hundreds of public comments, received countless e-mails and talked with many deeply committed parents and community members… Over the past two years, we have eliminated more than 1,200 positions. No employee received a salary increase this year. We have increased class size by one student and reduced teaching positions… Even with a level transfer, the school board's advertised budget still includes reduced services and programs for the coming school year. These cuts include a reduction of more than 200 positions, with nearly half from central office support; a salary freeze for all employees;
reducing custodial support; closing Pimmit Hills Alternative High School; eliminating summer school except for some special education students and credit recovery to ensure graduation; eliminating the extended school day and modified elementary school calendar; and a 15 percent reduction in supplies and textbooks. In addition to these reductions, fees will be instituted for Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and PSAT tests, and for Virginia High School League sports participation.” (Fairfax Times Op-Ed, April 6, 2010)

**Baltimore County Not Expecting Drastic Changes in Working Conditions in Schools**

“There are more than 100,000 schoolteachers could be out of work nationwide by the summer, but it appears that Maryland will be spared from the full effect of the budget crisis. Teacher layoffs are possible in Maryland, but nothing like the numbers seen from other states, 11 News education reporter Tim Tooten said. Baltimore County said it is hoping to hire as many as 700 new teachers for next year. They'll start signing contracts as early as next week. ‘When you count the resignations, retirements and leaves, there is a slow growth in population. There is not a significant change but, mainly, they are replacing some of the current people,’ said schools spokesman Dr. Don Peccia. Even though there's some internal belt-tightening, for the most part, Baltimore County schoolteachers said they are convinced they've been spared from the worst. ‘Currently, we don't anticipate class size changes, but the budget may impact some supplies and materials. We still think that will be minimal. Our county executive has said it's going to be a maintenance budget, so we are not expecting drastic changes within the working conditions within the schools,’ said Cheryl Bost, president of the Teachers Association of Baltimore County.” (WBAL TV, April 22, 2010)

**Ohio**

**Cleveland Plans to Lay Off 545 Teachers (800 Staff Members Total) Will Impede District “Innovation” Schools Plan**

“Earlier this week, facing a $53 million dollar budget deficit, the City of Cleveland's Public School district announced it would be losing nearly 10% of its entire staff, resulting in 800 layoffs and the loss of 545 teachers. Losing more than 800 staff will be devastating to a high need district (in which 100% of students are identified as being economically disadvantaged) and which is already identified as being on "academic watch" for meeting only 3 of 30 educational standards in 2008-2009. These impending layoffs would also severely impede the district’s plan to use special "innovation" schools to promote academic achievement in the district.” (The Huffington Post, April 29, 2010)

**Cleveland School District to Lay Off 773 Employees Including 545 Teachers, Close 16 School Buildings**
“The Cleveland Metropolitan School District's board, faced with a $52.8 million deficit, voted 6-2 to approve the layoffs of 773 employees Tuesday night. The layoffs will include 545 teachers, 117 classified employees, 67 high school administrators, and 44 K-8 administrators. These layoffs follow the board's decision last month to approve the closing of 16 school buildings as part of the CMSD Transformation Plan. Layoffs will be determined according to seniority, contract status and areas of certification/licensure. This decision comes as the final phase of the effort by school CEO Dr. Eugene Sanders to close the $52.8 million deficit. Last month, Sanders told NewsChannel5 that they've been able to erase about $32 million, but that another $20 million still needed to be cut. District officials had already announced a 4.62 percent wage reduction that impacted all 308 at-will and non-union employees, totaling nearly $1.1 million in savings.” (NewsNet5.com, April 21, 2010)

Columbus City Schools to Lay Off 113 Teachers

“Many teachers will no longer be in their classrooms when Central Ohio students return to school after summer vacation. Columbus City Schools gave layoff notices to 164 employees last Friday, and 113 of those employees are teachers. CCS isn't the only district looking at layoffs, either. Several suburban school districts are facing cuts and layoffs because of declining tax revenues and enrollment. South-Western City Schools plans to layoff 16 teachers and 33 classified staff. Canal Winchester Local Schools plans to lay off one employee.” (NBC4I.com, April 30, 2010)

Faced With $5.1 Million Deficit, Bedford School Board Failed to OK Teacher Cuts

“A resolution to send layoff notices to 49 Bedford Public School teachers failed by one vote last night at a special school board meeting. School officials said the plan to give pink slips to tenured and nontenured classroom teachers is part of the plan to cut costs and help offset a projected $5.1 million budget deficit for next school year. School officials said that the number of teaching positions that ultimately would be eliminated is contingent on state cuts and how many teachers could be lured into an early severance plan. The plan is being offered to those with at least 20 years with the district. Last year, the school district, facing a similar funding scenario, laid off 47 teachers and other staff but eventually recalled everyone except three teachers. Superintendent Ted Magrum said at the meeting that he hoped that many of the layoffs wouldn't be needed and the district could begin recalling teachers as soon as possible.” (The Toledo Blade, May 11, 2010)

Future Educators Hopeful Despite Teacher Layoffs

“Nearly half of the 2,000 students at Notre Dame College are planning to be teachers. Despite news of massive teacher layoffs nationwide, they find reason to be hopeful. ‘It's a bump in the road and we'll get over it, and one day I'll be in the classroom,’ Anshawn Ivery says confidently. While the Cleveland Municipal School District was announcing the layoff of 545 teachers, other school systems across the country were facing similar situations. It is estimated that, by the end of the current school year, 300,000 teachers nationwide will have lost their jobs. ‘It's kind of depressing,’ says Nikki Koplow, who will be getting her education degree from Notre Dame
College next month. ‘We'll be coming out of here and not have a job, but hopefully, in time.’ John Galovic, who chairs the Education Department at Notre Dame College, says he has seen these cycles of economic downturn and teacher layoffs during his 40-year career. ‘I would not discourage young people from going into education,’ Galovic stated. ‘We need our young people. That’s who we need as our teachers. And I know it can be discouraging to get your degree and not find a job right away, but eventually, they'll all find jobs.’” (WKYC.com, April 23, 2010)

**FLORIDA**

**Broward County to Consider 800 to 1,000 Teacher Layoffs**

“The Broward County School Board is meeting to try and figure out how the budget ax will fall on public school employees. When all is said and done, in a few weeks, hundreds are expected to lose their jobs. Already this Friday, 461 administrative and non-instructional staff were laid off to help fill a $130 million dollar hole. Still, the worst remains to come. Soon, teacher layoffs will be on the table. A workshop has been scheduled for Thursday to consider these layoffs, which could lead to anywhere between 800 and 1,000 pink slips over the next two to three weeks. Broward County Schools Superintendent James Notter said there is little he can do, given the budget he has received. ‘There's clearly an underfunding from Tallahassee. It's well-documented,’ he said. ‘Do I feel like my hands are tied? I would tell you, I feel more like my hands are tied, my feet are tied, and there's an anvil on each one.’” (WSVN.com, April 27, 2010)

**Pasco County Makes Cuts For The 9th Time in 3 Years**

“Pasco County Superintendent Heather Fiorentino calls this an agonizing time for the school system. To make up for the budget shortfall officials are looking at increasing the costs teachers pay for health benefits. Another proposal would have them teach all six periods each day. ‘And if we went to six out of six we would be eliminating some teachers throughout the districts. There's no way that we can avoid having layoffs this current year,’ said Fiorentino. School officials say it would be one thing if this was the first major cutback they've had to deal with. But this would be the ninth in the last three years. ‘Unfortunately all the easy cuts have been made. So now we are at the point we are going to have to make the worst cuts possible. They are going to effect our staff and they are going to effect our students,’ said Fiorentino. Those working on the numbers still have to wait for the state education budget to receive final to know just how bad the situation is.” (ABC Action News, May 6, 2010)

**Each School In Pasco County to Lose 1 Teacher**

“Several positions in the Pasco County school system will be cut, even though the plan to have teachers work a 6-period day is off the table. ‘In the state of Florida, we have a balanced budget amendment and unlike people in Washington we can't print money and so we work within the budget numbers that we have and do the very best we can to provide for our students and employees,’ said school board chairman Allen Altman. Under the latest proposal, each school
could lose one full-time teacher or two assistants. ‘It's a variety of positions, but we will have to layoff I believe it was $4.3 million worth of positions,’ said Superintendent Heather Fiorentino. Along with layoffs and furloughs, school employees will be paying $30 more a month for health insurance.” (ABC Action News, May 11, 2010)

NEBRASKA

OPS to Eliminate 147 Teaching and Administrative Positions Due to Budget Crunch

“Omaha Public Schools teachers and administrators have received official word that they could lose their jobs next school year. The school district has mailed 225 certified letters to people who may not have their contracts renewed for next fall. OPS announced in March that it planned to eliminate 147 teaching and administrative positions due to a budget crunch. That number has not changed, said Janice Garnett, assistant superintendent for human resources. The district has 3,929 full-time teaching positions. It plans to eliminate 44 of those positions through attrition. District officials have said they are cutting the positions to make up for $28 million in federal stimulus funding that ends in a year. In all, 47 full-time administrator positions will be cut. That group will include some high school deans, assistant principals and central office staff. Another nearly 50 people — sharing 56 part-time positions — also will lose their positions. In a typical year, the district hires 500 teachers. For this school year, it hired half that many. OPS announced last month that it plans to cut two of its 369 full-time office personnel positions and 75 of its 1,078 full-time teacher aid positions to save money.” (Omaha World-Herald, April 8, 2010)

56 Part-Time Teachers Let Go From Omaha Public Schools

“Omaha Public School teachers are learning what the future holds. Letters were mailed Monday letting teachers know who will be and who won't be asked to renew their contracts for 2010-11. Part-time teachers seem to be taking the biggest hit with 56 being let go. OPS officials say some part-timers were offered the opportunity to step into full-time jobs, but those opportunities were limited because of the number of teachers who decided to stay in the classroom. OPS says there are fewer retirements this year than expected.” (WOWT.com, April 5, 2010)

MICHIGAN

On April 20th, 2,000 Detroit Teachers Received Layoff Notices

“In Detroit, over 2,000 teachers received layoff notices yesterday. Robert C. Bobb, a state-appointed emergency financial manager for the Detroit school district is also slated to close more than 40 schools in the city before the end of the school term. However, that plan was thwarted when the school board sued Bobb, stating he had no right to do so without consulting them, and on Friday a judge issued a temporary suspension of the school closings. Michigan’s attorney
general plans to appeal. Detroit’s beleaguered schools, more than 160,000 students just 10 years ago, have lost roughly half that number to charters and suburban districts that outperform it. By virtually every measure its students fare worse than their counterparts across the country.” (Politic365.com, April 21, 2010)

40 Percent of Detroit Teachers Sent Layoff Notices, Including Tenured Teachers

“About 40 percent of the teachers in the Detroit Public Schools were sent layoff notices, a school official confirmed Monday. Some of the 2,000 teachers in DPS’ ranks of approximately 5,000 reported receiving the pink slips on Friday. The layoffs come about a month after Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for DPS, proposed closing 41 school buildings in June and another 13 by 2012 due to declining enrollment. If the layoffs proceed, many of the teachers could be recalled before fall depending on several factors such as retirements, resignations and seniority, said DPS spokesman Steve Wasko. The layoffs included tenured teachers with more than 15 years experience. About 225 central office administrators were also sent layoff notices this month.” (Detroit Free Press, April 19, 2010)

Bobb Announced Plans to Bring Teach For America Back to Detroit Just Weeks After 2,000 DPS Teachers Were Sent Layoff Notices

“Speaking at the University of Michigan this evening, Detroit Public Schools emergency financial manager Robert Bobb announced that he intends to bring the well-known program Teach for America back to the city in the fall. In recent years, U-M graduates have left Ann Arbor and gone to cities across the nation, but not to nearby Detroit, after budget cuts and teacher layoffs pushed the program out of DPS several years ago. ‘I look forward to signing a contract next week with Teach for America,’ Bobb said. Bobb’s announcement about bringing new teachers to DPS comes weeks after about 2,000 DPS teachers were sent layoff notices because the district faces a deficit over $300 million and declining enrollment. Keith Johnson, Detroit Federation of Teachers president, said Bobb’s announcement was premature. ‘No TFA is coming into DPS when I’ve got teachers facing layoff,’ he said. ‘We have to discuss a whole laundry list of things before it can even be considered for implementation.’” (The Free Press, May 1, 2010)

Flint School District to Lay Off 261 Teachers at End of Year

“The cash-strapped Flint school district will lay off 261 teachers at the end of the year. The Flint Community Schools Board of Education approved the layoffs Wednesday night. Karen Pugh, the district’s executive director of human resources and legal affairs, says the layoffs are necessary because district revenues are $15 million to $20 million below projected expenditures for the 2010-11 school year. The Flint Journal says state law and union contract require layoffs to be based on seniority and levels of certification and endorsements. Diane White-Stengel, a teacher and head union representative from the Genesee Area Skill Center, said the district's list is inaccurate and mistakenly includes or excludes wrong names.” (The Detroit Free Press, April 15, 2010)
Flint School Board Announced Plans to Cut 27 More Teachers

“Flint Community school board members announced plans Wednesday to pink slip 15 administrators and an additional 27 teachers. Of the administrators who will be laid off, six are school principals. It was just one week ago when the district laid off more than 250 educators. School officials said the layoffs are necessary because district revenues are $15 million to $20 million below projected expenditures for the 2010-11 school year. Some of the laid-off teachers are expected to be rehired.” (WNEM, April 22, 2010)

Boyne City Cuts Courses to Avoid Layoffs

“The Boyne City School Board hopes it will be able to pass a budget without laying off any teachers. At Monday night’s school board meeting, the board announced it will be moving money from the fund balance to help offset a budget shortfall for the 2010-11 school year. The district hopes they will be able to avoid letting teachers go, and instead save money by possibly cutting advanced placement and other specialized courses such as health and art, and combining other courses. The board also rejected an offer from the teacher’s union to offer retirement incentives, saying the upfront costs were too great.” (Petoskey News, May 11, 2010)

Lawmakers Fail to Agree on Michigan Retirement Plan That Will Influence Layoffs

“The hastened retirement of thousands of Michigan teachers and other school employees hung in the balance Thursday, but lawmakers again failed to agree on legislation to allow it. That pushed a possible agreement on a retirement incentive plan to next week at the earliest, leaving school districts and teachers wondering how -- or if -- they would cope with a summer surge of retirements and new hires. And it left unresolved a $415-million shortfall next year in the state School Aid Fund that largely pays for public schools. The retirement plan could save school districts more than $680 million next year, and $3.1 billion over 10 years. Democrats, spurred by teachers unions, demanded more pension sweeteners and a new trust fund, with a written guarantee, that would cover the costs of health care for future school retirees. Republicans called the guarantee an entitlement that no private-sector employees have, and one which could leave future taxpayers on the hook for billions of dollars. Most school district union contracts require layoff notices by the end of April. The number of layoffs would be influenced by the number of teachers that districts lose to retirement.” (The Detroit Free Press, May 7, 2010)

Editorial: State Must Provide Older Teachers With Incentive To Retire Now

“State House and Senate lawmakers left Lansing last week at a stalemate on a bill to encourage older teachers to retire. This is a delay with serious consequences, and it may be too late to fix the damage. In the meantime, many school districts have chosen to take action right away. They have issued layoff notices to dozens of teachers in Jackson County and to thousands statewide. Some education groups are suggesting that any resolution from today onward will be too late to
generate any real savings. While disappointed, we are not so sure. Many school districts have continued to wait rather than issue layoff notices. A quick agreement between the House and Senate — think, today or Wednesday — might still clear the way for good numbers of the 39,000 retirement-eligible school employees to leave. The real holdup involves the fine print. Republicans say there should not be a guarantee.” (MLive.com, May 11, 2010)

**Thousands of Michigan Teachers Getting Layoff Notices, But Plenty of Questions Remain For School Districts**

“No matter where you live in Michigan, chances are your local school district is considering a budget this year that will lead to fewer teachers in the classroom next year. The number of cuts and their effect may be different in each district. In Grand Rapids, administrators are proposing a plan that would lead to 96 fewer teachers next year. Most of the cuts would come through voluntary retirements. Many districts, such as Flint, have just started issuing layoff notices every year to every teacher. That's because districts are required to give the layoff notice in the spring, but they don't fully know their budget situation until late in the summer, when the governor signs the budget bill. So last year in Flint, more than 200 teachers received a layoff notice, but only about 20 of those layoffs stuck, according to the Flint Journal. Doug Pratt of the Michigan Education Association says he expects more of that this year.” (Michigan Radio, May 10, 2010)

**Frankenmuth School Board Laid Off 6 Teachers**

“Frankenmuth School District Board of Education members voted Monday night to lay off six teachers as part of $869,000 in cuts approved by the board. But administrators and teachers in the audience indicated the board would cut the Spanish program from kindergarten through fourth grade, along with middle-school choir, among other reductions. The layoffs amount to a reduction of 4.5 teaching positions, as several of the six teachers to be laid off are part-time employees, according to Superintendent Mary Anne Ackerman. A buyout offer, accepted by five employees including Rittmueller Middle School Principal Martin Mattlin, will save another $243,000. School leaders will replace Mattlin, but don’t plan to replace four other workers who took the buyout.” (MLive.com, May 10, 2010)

**Ypsilanti School Board Approved 19 Teacher Layoffs**

“The Ypsilanti School Board approved the jobs of 19 teachers for layoffs during a meeting which ended just minutes before midnight on Monday, April 26. After hearing 26 people comment on issues including layoffs and other tumultuous issues facing the district, the Board of Education voted 4-3 to approve the cuts.” (The Ypsilanti Courier, April 28, 2010)

**East Jackson School Board to Lay Off 15 Teachers**

The East Jackson School Board voted unanimously Monday to increasing to 15 the number of teachers who will be laid off after this school year. Less than two months after laying off nine teachers, the board voted to designate six more teachers for layoffs. Superintendent Paul Reeves said laying off six additional teachers will save the district $534,000. The names of the teachers
will not be released until the May 10 board meeting. Earlier this month, the board voted not to renew middle school Principal Dale Bannister’s contract. “This is the worst year on record as far as anyone can remember as far as funding for schools,” Reeves said. (Mlive.com, April 26, 2010)

**Gibraltar to Lay Off Up to 50 Teachers**

“In an effort to trim about $4 million from the 2010-11 fiscal year budget, the [Gibraltar] Board of Education agreed to lay off up to 50 teachers. The decision was made during a special meeting Wednesday night. An activity fee also will be introduced next school year. Students will have to pay a $25 fee at Shumate Middle School and a $50 fee at Carlson High School. It will cost students who drive to school a little more to park next year, as well. Parking fees will be increased.” (The News Herald, May 1, 2010)

**South Reford To Lay Off 8 Teachers and Counselor to Cut Costs**

“The South Redford Board of Education recently approved pink slips to eight teachers and a counselor. The layoffs were part of an effort to cut costs by $1 million next year. ‘It is unfortunate that the South Redford Board of Education has been put into such a position of uncertainty regarding state funding of public education that they are forced to make cuts and layoffs that will increase class size and eliminate programs,’ said William Triiolet, president of the South Redford Education Association. The district still faces a projected operating deficit of $1.8 million for next year unless something changes to improve the bottom line. Departing Supt. Linda Hicks has asked the teachers union to reopen its contract for concession talks. School board President Laurie Hicks has said the district is looking for 5-percent wage reductions.” (HometownLife.com, May 2, 2010)

**Dozens of Teachers Could Be Laid Off in Jackson County**

“Dozens — and perhaps more than 100 — teachers in districts in and around Jackson County could be laid off next school year as a result of budget problems. It would mean bigger class sizes in many schools. It would mean a reduction in the all-day kindergarten program at Jackson Public Schools. And for some teachers with low seniority, it would mean losing their jobs and facing uncertain prospects. Jackson’s all-day kindergarten program will see the elimination of 12 teaching positions under a proposal approved last month by the school board. Kindergartners would still go to school all day, but they would spend only half their day on core academic learning. The Jackson School Board approved laying off 51 employees and reducing to part-time 30 other employees to address a projected $8.3 million deficit for the 2010-11 school year. It's possible the district will be able to restore some of the cuts if state per-student funding is higher than expected or if the Legislature approves incentives for teachers to retire early, Evans said.” (MLive.com, May 2, 2010)

**Other School Districts Face Teacher Layoffs**

“In addition to Jackson, other area school districts that have approved a number of teacher layoffs include East Jackson, Northwest, Albion and Chelsea. East Jackson
Community Schools has approved laying off 15 teachers. The Northwest School Board voted last week to eliminate 15 teaching positions, but the district has not yet issued pink slips. The Albion School Board approved a resolution allowing it to issue layoff notices to nine full-time teachers. The Chelsea School Board has voted to lay off 19 staff members next year as part of a $2.8 million deficit reduction plan. That means elementary class sizes will increase from 21 to 22 students and middle school class sizes will rise from 27 to 28, said Superintendent David Killips.” (MLive.com, May 2, 2010)

**VIRGINIA**

**Scott County to Eliminate 13 Teaching Positions**

“The Scott County school system was forced to eliminate 13 non-tenured teaching positions Tuesday night to deal with a $4.45 million budget gap going into the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Despite taking various measures to avoid making the layoffs, the Scott County School Board had no choice but to hire back fewer non-tenured staff for next year after an early retirement incentive plan failed to draw enough eligible employees. The layoffs are the first the school system has had to make because of budget shortfalls. Superintendent Jim Scott said the early retirements and an injection of $3.2 million in stimulus funds over a two-year period did, however, keep the layoffs from being worse. In addition to the retirement packages, Scott said the school system has taken a number of other steps to ‘trim the fat’ from its budget. Those measures included forgoing teacher raises for the second year in a row, eliminating three bus routes, and reducing coaching supplements. ‘It’s not just the teachers’ salaries (that are being cut). There will probably be bigger class sizes, less money for materials — everything is going to be a little bit less,’ said school board member Kathy McClelland.” (TimesNews.net, May 5, 2010)

**Montgomery County School Board Balanced Budget Without Layoffs**

“No one will be laid off next school year under a $88.6 million operating budget approved by the Montgomery County School Board. The board approved the spending plan for the 2010-11 fiscal year 5-1 at its meeting Tuesday night. As of three weeks ago, school system leaders thought they might have to lay off the equivalent of 22 people to help make up for a $9 million loss in state revenue. But an additional $1 million from the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, created by raising the real estate tax from 71 cents to 74 cents, saved the equivalent of 10 jobs. The rest were spared through school board action and cost-savings steps including a one-time early-retirement offer, federal stimulus funds and cuts to supply and equipment budgets.” (The Roanoke Times, May 6, 2010)

**TENNESSEE**
Superintendent Worried About Next Year’s Layoffs After Losing Stimulus Dollars

“The Scott County School Board extended the deadline last week for eligible teachers to take an early retirement incentive package in an effort to counteract deep budget cuts and keep layoffs of non-tenured staff to a minimum. If no more teachers take the package, Superintendent Jim Scott said layoffs would be unavoidable. “In my opinion right now, we could be talking about 12 to 15 non-tenured teachers,” Scott said. “But for every person that takes the early retirement package between now and the deadline, it could be one less.” Scott said the school system has learned it stands to lose almost $2.8 million in funding for the coming fiscal year as a result of $790 million in education cuts the preliminary state budget contained when it was released earlier this month. While the school system should be able to get by this year, Scott said it will only get worse going into 2011-2012. ‘We’re getting about $1.6 million in stimulus money this year, and unless things change and the government comes back with more funds, we won’t be getting any more stimulus next year.’” (Times News, April 4, 2010)

Alabama

Alabama Superintendent of Schools Found that Without Additional Aid, 2,800 Jobs Would Likely be Cut in Alabama Including 1,600 Teachers

“During the [April 14th Senate Appropriations Committee] hearing, the state superintendent of schools in Mr. Shelby’s home state, Joseph B. Morton, urged lawmakers to support Sen. Harkin’s bill. He said he surveyed his districts and found that, without the additional aid, there are likely to be more than 2,800 job cuts in Alabama next year, including nearly 1,600 teachers. ‘We know that we need a jobs bill,’ he said.” (Education Week, April 14, 2010)

Huntsville School Board To Lay Off Nearly 200 Employees, Most Teachers

“The axe will soon fall on nearly 200 Huntsville City (Alabama) School employees, and most of them will be teachers. The school board unanimously voted for a measure that would eliminate 190 positions in the district, with 147 of those slots teaching posts. Assistant principals, counselors and support staff employees will also get pink slips at the end of the school year, a decision board members call difficult, but inevitable. Officials say the moves are just one part of making up for a $20 million budget shortfall due to declining revenues. Younger teachers who have not gained tenure will be on the chopping block first, but officials hope some of them will be brought back.” (WHNT News, April 1, 2010)

Washington
Local Washington Districts Expect $1.9 Million Revenue Loss Which Could Lead to Teacher Layoffs

“Longview and Kelso [Washington] school officials say more teacher layoffs and program cuts can be expected this spring to make up an expected $1.9 million revenue loss for both districts next school year. School boards for both districts are scheduled to start budget cut discussions Monday night — though neither district will know their actual cuts until the Legislature finalizes the state budget. Longview Schools Superintendent Suzanne Cusick said Friday she is ‘cautiously optimistic’ the district will only need to cut $1.9 million. Longview schools cut $5.1 million in spending this school year, and Kelso cut about $3 million, making the next round of cuts even more difficult, said Kelso schools Finance Director Jim Biwer. Cusick and Biwer declined to discuss the number of projected teacher and support staff cuts until Monday's board meetings. Even though the state budget still is in flux, school districts are beginning budget discussions now because they're contractually required to notify teachers of layoffs by May 15. (The Daily News, April 8, 2010)

Seattle School Districts Anticipating Sending 30 to 50 Pink Slips to Teachers, Fewer Than Last Year, by Using Millions in Savings

“The number of teacher layoffs in Seattle looks like it will be much lower this year than last. Last May, the district sent layoff notices to 172 teachers, counselors, librarians and other certificated staff members. With the help of federal stimulus dollars, all but a few dozen were rehired by fall. This year, the district is estimating it may send just 30-50 pinks slips to teachers, counselors, librarians and other certificated employees. A final decision is due early next month. The school district says it is trying to protect the classroom. It has put a freeze on hiring and has eliminated the equivalent of 85 full-time jobs in its central office. The district is also planning to use about $4.4 million of savings, and to raise about $1 million in new revenue. It's working to determine how to cut an additional $6 million.” (Seattle Times, April 21, 2010)

Officials in Local Districts Dread Expected Loss of Federal Stimulus Money

“It’s early in the budget season for South Sound school districts, but most already anticipate state funding cuts that will have an impact on the 2010-11 school year. The Sumner School District has issued layoff notices to 15 teachers – the first time in at least three decades that the Sumner-Bonney Lake area district has taken such a measure. The Fife School Board has authorized up to 15 teacher and five support staff layoffs, but district administrators say they won’t know until this week how many are necessary. Revenue losses at the state level resulted in more than $153 million in cuts to K-12 education. Local districts were hit hardest by cuts to funds that helped provide extra teachers and services. Federal Way Public Schools also are avoiding teacher RIF notices this year. But the 1,300-strong teaching staff is down by 25 to 30 people due to resignations and retirements, said Superintendent Tom Murphy. Some assistant principals were reassigned to teaching posts, and about 40 teachers were moved to new assignments.” (The News Tribune, May 6, 2010)
**Bainbridge School District to Cut 9.5 Teachers**

“The Bainbridge Island School District's board of directors approved the reduction of 9.5 full-time-equivalent teaching positions Thursday. "I know it’s going to affect some of the same people that got affected by this last year, but we’re going to be as conservative as possible," said Mary Curtis, school board vice president. The $403,000 reduction in certificated staffing is a result of a $1 million budget gap for the 2010-2011 school year. The district recommended addressing the shortfall with $450,000 in additional revenue and $550,000 in budget cuts. The reductions are also a worst-case scenario, Supt. Faith Chapel said. Several pending decisions, such as leaves of absence, resignations or retirements, will also affect the final amount of cuts. Last year, the district faced a $2.1 million budget deficit and cut 15.7 FTE teaching positions. As a result, 17 educators were informed that their positions were either eliminated or their hours reduced.” (Bainbridge Island Review, May 1, 2010)

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**OKLAHOMA**

**Oklahoma City Officials Warn Of Massive Teacher Layoffs, Districts Plan to Eliminate High Schools**

“Education officials in Oklahoma City predicted massive teacher layoffs, larger class sizes and more belt-tightening for public schools next school year if lawmakers slash the common education budget by 10 percent. Lawmakers who have been working on a budget with about $1.2 billion less than they spent last year asked state agencies to brief them on how they would deal with a 10 percent cut. Oklahoma Department of Education Chief of Staff Lealon Taylor told a House budget committee that a $244 million cut in the common education budget added up to about 5,000 teacher salaries, although he acknowledged fewer teachers would likely be laid off as districts sought other ways to save money. James White, assistant state superintendent of finance, testified that some of the state's more than 530 school districts already have consolidated, and several more are considering it. In southeast Oklahoma, voters in Goodland School District have agreed to merge with the neighboring Grant School District, and White said at least three other districts are considering consolidation. He said two districts -- Braman and White Oak -- plan to eliminate their high schools, forcing students to attend high schools in nearby communities.” (Business Week, April 20, 2010)

**Education Budget Cuts of 10 Percent Likely Mean Teacher Layoffs; Norman Public Schools Could Cut 40 First-Year Teachers**

“School superintendents from across the state said they will have no choice but to lay off teachers if the proposed 10 percent budget cuts take place. ‘It will be mostly targeted at our zero-step teachers any reductions that we have to make,’ said Joe Siano, Norman Public Schools Superintendent. Siano said Norman Public Schools could cut as many as 40 first-year teachers as part of a 10 percent budget cuts proposed by the state legislature. Siano is anticipating a $3.5 million reduction, $1.2 million of which will come from salary cuts. As many as 180 people in the school system could lose their jobs, Siano said. Putnam City Public Schools officials said
their belt tightening is already underway. The operations budget stands at $120 million, but this year, the state cut nearly $3 million in aid. The proposed 10 percent cut would amount to about $5.7 million, which would also translate into layoffs. Six school district leaders took their concerns to the State School Board Meeting Thursday morning, which lead the board to adopt a resolution asking that Gov. Brad Henry's recommended revenue enhancements be signed into law to minimize the short and long term damage to the state education system.” (NewsOn6.Com, April 22, 2010)

**Talk of Teacher Layoffs May Help November Petition to Require Future Legislatures to Fund common Schools at Least at the Per-Pupil Average of Neighboring States**

“When it came their time to make the case for education funding, Oklahoma state Department of Education officials predicted massive teacher layoffs and larger class sizes next year if common education is cut by 10 percent. A 10 percent cut -- as some are suggesting -- would mean $244 million less for common education. An education administrator said as many as 5,000 teaching positions could be cut through attrition and layoffs. Personnel costs make up about 85 percent of a district's budget. The discussion before a House budget committee comes as State Question 744 proponents are gearing up for their campaign. The November measure -- called HOPE -- would amend the Constitution and require future legislatures to fund common schools at least at the per-pupil average of neighboring states. It has the backing of the Oklahoma Education Association. We're for increased funding but don't like the prospect of restricting the choices of future legislators based solely on what other states decide. The anticipated funding shortfall in the next fiscal year will help SQ 744 proponents make their case.” (The Norman Transcript EDITORIAL, April 21, 2010)

**Ardmore School District to Cut 27 Jobs**

Ardmore School District will “be cutting about 27 jobs. Superintendent Dr. Ruth Ann Dr. Carr says 20 of them are teachers. They will also be increasing class room size and the school year will now start September 1st. The school days will be 20 minutes longer, saving the district more than $200,000 in utilities and operational costs. With all the cuts that were made, turns out, this may not be the end of the budget crisis either. Dr. Carr says, “We were told that we may get an additional cut in May because of the 1017 funds. I hope that's not the case. We won't know until May 18th, after the 18th, but they told us that it was a real possibility.”” (Kten.com, April 29, 2010)

**WISCONSIN**

**Sheboygan District to Lay Off 36 Teachers**

“The Sheboygan Area School District will cut 36 teachers and 21 other employees to make up a $4.1 million budget deficit for the 2010-2011 school year, the Sheboygan School Board decided late Tuesday. In a meeting that stretched to 11 p.m., the board made cuts to five of 10 employee
groups after failing to reach an agreement on concessions, district officials said. Teachers were the hardest hit, as the board cut the equivalent of 12 full-time positions in addition to eight positions eliminated earlier this year due to declining enrollment. Sixteen upcoming retirement vacancies will also go unfilled. The district is also cutting 11 educational assistants, six secretaries, three administrators and one electrician. ‘We tried to work with some of our groups and just couldn’t reach any agreement on concessions,’ said board President David Gallianetti. ‘In order for them to reach the targets they were given, we had to do layoffs to reach those.’” (Sheboygan Free Press, April 28, 2010)

**Sheboygan School Districts Asked Teachers to Take Salary and Benefit Cuts to Prevent Layoffs**

“The Sheboygan (Wisconsin) School district needs to shed about $4.1 million from its 2010-11 budget, a year after having to cut $8 million and a year before it will likely have to cut another $8 million. With teachers representing about 68 percent of the district budget, School Board members have been looking for about $2.78 million in concessions from teachers. The district's halfway there, however, since eight positions were eliminated earlier this year due to declining enrollment and 17 teachers announced they would retire at the end of this school year. That leaves the district looking for $922,695 in concessions from teachers, according to an e-mail that School Board President David Gallianetti sent to all district teachers on Monday. The district asked teachers to consider a number of options to avoid layoffs. Those options included asking teachers to accept a salary freeze, saving more than $1.723 million; accept one day of unpaid furlough, for a savings of $268,078; contribute 1 to 1.5 percent towards their retirement, saving $509,679 to $764,519; increasing their health insurance deductible, their prescription co-pay and pay 10 percent of their insurance premium for a total savings of $498,548. Those proposals were rejected by the union leadership, however, saying the rank and file wouldn't support those options, according to Gallianetti's e-mail.” (Sheboygan Press, April 15, 2010)

**Madison County Hoped to Avoid Layoffs Through Attrition of 40 Teaching Positions, But That Hasn’t Happened In Tough Economy**

“Avoiding teacher layoffs and tax hikes is about all that can be asked of the county School Board in these perilous economic times that's left members staring into an $8 million budget hole next year. The news isn't getting any better, as state revenue collections in April continued a 20-month decline, it was reported this week. The School Board is scheduled to hold a special meeting Monday as they wait for more concrete budgetary estimates from the state, but the situation is extremely fluid. School officials have vowed to do everything possible to avoid laying off teachers, but they do expect some teaching assistants to lose their jobs. The deep global recession continues to affect state revenue, and it may take years for collections to fully return to pre-recessionary levels, officials have said. Officials had hoped that attrition would help them avoid layoffs, but more teachers are working longer. The district hoped they could trim 40 teaching positions and 24 assistants through attrition, but that hasn't happened. As many as 100 teachers normally leave the district each year, but due to the slumping economy and a reduction in teaching positions statewide, more and more are staying put.” (Madison County Journal, May 5, 2010)
Appleton Post Crescent Editorial: Education Bill Would Save Jobs For Teachers

“The financial crunch that can be heard across the country not only means larger classrooms, but also the loss of enrichment programs that generations before took for granted. It means cutting key program designed to help needy and at-risk students. Some school districts predict their classrooms could balloon anywhere from 40 to 50 students. A proposed federal stimulus measure could staunch the bleeding. We urge lawmakers to approve it. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, proposed a $23 billion stimulus package that would go to states to avert teacher layoffs. If approved, it would keep teachers in classrooms over the next two fiscal years. This stimulus measure undoubtedly won't be popular with lawmakers who already lament the growing federal deficit. These same congressmen seem to have little trouble, however, funding ongoing wars and propping up struggling banks. Our education system is certainly as valuable as our financial institutions, our auto industry and our wars.” (Appleton Post Crescent, May 2, 2010)

Kansas

Blue Valley District Teachers Won’t Be Getting Raise Next Year

“Most Blue Valley School District teachers won’t be getting a raise when school starts in August. The Johnson County district’s school board unanimously approved today a temporary contract with the Blue Valley chapter of the National Education Association that didn’t include any salary increase for most of the 1,678 teachers who make up the bargaining unit. The board also voted not to give raises to administrators. The action came on the heels of a board decision earlier this month to trim $6 million from next year’s school budget, which will mean some increase in class sizes. Bill Land, president of the Blue Valley NEA, said more than 80 percent of the teachers in the bargaining unit approved the agreement. He said that approval didn’t indicate they were happy with the provisions but understand the economic realities facing the district.” (Kansas City Star, April 26, 2010)

Louisiana

Louisiana to Receive $191 Million from U.S. Dept. of Ed. to Prevent Teacher Layoffs and Other Education Cuts and Improve Schools in Poor Districts

“Louisiana will get more than $191 million more from the federal stimulus package. The money is for education, said U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The state recently reported that federal dollars funded 7,000 education jobs between October and December 2009. “With this application, Louisiana provided us with basic information on what is working in their classrooms,” said Duncan in a news release. ‘This data is a critical tool in helping us work together—with students, parents, teachers, administrators, community leaders, and elected
officials at every level—to improve education for Louisiana’s students.’ The funds are to prevent teacher layoffs and other education cuts, to provide special support to students with disabilities, and to improve schools in poor districts, among other goals. Stringent reporting requirements are attached to the money.” (The Epoch Times, May 12, 2010)

**Louisiana Local School Systems Face Hundreds of Layoffs**

“The economic picture is grim for [Louisiana] local school systems, and the latest news is that the immediate future could include hundreds of layoffs. In Terrebonne Parish, the number of employees to be laid off could reach 150. In Lafourche and Assumption parishes, it will likely be 100 apiece. Each system has a version of the same problem: rising costs and shrinking revenue. In a year such as this when the state is looking to fill a budget hole, there is unlikely to be any help coming from Baton Rouge. And as local sales taxes sag, there is a real budget crisis, one that could well mean cuts to services. For schools, that means fewer employees. Although local school officials surely want to do the right thing and will be reluctant to negatively affect teachers’ ability to educate, some cuts seem certain.” (The Daily Comet, April 6, 2010)

**Terrebonne Public Schools to Lay Off 150 Workers to Cut Costs and Balance Budget**

“Terrebonne [Louisiana] public schools will lay off more than 150 workers to cut costs and balance next year's budget. The layoffs, which the School Board approved in a 7-2 vote Tuesday night, are necessary to help close a gap of more than $11 million in the 2010-11 budget, schools Superintendent Philip Martin said. The plan will allow Martin to use the board's Reduction in Force policy, commonly called RIF, to eliminate nearly all of the system's 160 part-time positions, along with about 150 full-time posts, when creating next year's budget. Martin noted that the system cut more than $6 million in expenses before it started the fiscal year July 1. A large portion came from eliminating or reclassifying 81 positions, including teachers and teachers' aides. Most of the cuts were made by leaving empty positions vacant. Martin said officials cut another $2 million in costs throughout the year. Much of the savings came from halting construction projects and leaving more vacant positions unfilled. The shortfall is caused by a multi-million-dollar decrease in local sales-tax revenue, along with cuts in state-provided money.” (Houma Today, April 7, 2010)

**Napoleonville, LA Laid Out Plan to Eliminate 97 Positions**

“Assumption Parish school system officials have laid out a reduction in force policy which could possibly eliminate 97 positions throughout the system. Board members viewed a proposed eliminations outline for the 2010-11 year at a special meeting Monday. The cuts include the potential loss of 38 classroom teachers, 31 paraprofessionals and four social workers, among many others. The board is set to vote on the matter April 7. Malissa Boudreaux, system director of business services, said the eliminations could save the school system an estimated $3.4 million, but would still leave a $2.2 million gap to fill. Officials say declines in sales tax and property tax collections caused the budget problem.” (WXVT News, March 30, 2010)
MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Association of Educators President: Many School Districts Have Cut 40 to 50 Jobs

“Knowing they will operate with millions less this fall, some Mississippi school districts have taken measures - from layoffs to furloughs - to keep their books in the black. House Education Committee Chairman Cecil Brown, a Jackson Democrat and key budget writer, said most of the state's 152 school districts will likely make cuts. The Legislature passed a budget last month that included a contingency plan if Mississippi receives $187 million in additional federal stimulus dollars. Most districts, however, are making budget plans that don't include the federal money. Brown said. ‘You're going to see a lot of non-renewals of teachers across the state. If we get the money, you'll see teachers hired late,’ Brown said. ‘I don't think you'll see anybody spending in advance.’ Kevin Gilbert, president of the Mississippi Association of Educators, said the money crunch is hurting students. He said he's heard some districts won't order new textbooks and the ratio of students to teachers will undoubtedly go up in most classrooms. ‘Unfortunately, many school districts have cut 40 to 50 jobs per district,’ Gilbert said. ‘The ultimate issue with these budget shortfalls is that our children will really pay what we fear is a heavy price.’”
(SunHerald.com, May 6, 2010)

Clinton Public School District To Eliminate 43 Positions

“The Clinton Public School District announced Thursday its employees, including teachers, will work fewer days over the next two years. Clinton Schools Superintendent Phil Burchfield said the changes could prevent more layoffs. The district announced in March that 43 positions would be eliminated in the coming school year. He said the furloughs could save the district $600,000 over two years.” (SunHerald.com, May 6, 2010)

DeSoto County School District to Lay Off 40 Teachers

“The DeSoto County School District - the largest in the state with 31,121 students - this week announced nearly $18 million in budget cuts through job eliminations, program alterations and salary cuts. The district will eliminate 58 teacher aides, 23 administrative positions and 40 teacher positions. The teaching positions will be lost through attrition and non-renewal of contracts, but some other jobs will be lost through layoffs, spokeswoman Katherine Nelson said Thursday. She said the district also will scale back the gifted program to the state-funded level. With the help of local funds, the program had been available through 8th grade. Now, it will only be funded through 6th grade.” (SunHerald.com, May 6, 2010)

INDIANA
Indiana Teachers Association Estimated Up to 5,000 Teachers Could Lose Jobs

“The Indiana State Teachers Association estimates that up to 5,000 teachers statewide could lose their jobs by next fall.” (Fox 59, April 15, 2010)

Indiana Teachers Association Expects 5,000-7,000 Layoffs Statewide

“Honorees at a Statehouse ceremony recognizing Indiana teachers Thursday included two who face losing their jobs following $300 million in state education spending cuts. The teachers were recognized for their dedication to students. Indiana State Teachers Association Vice President Teresa Meredith said the union is expecting between 5,000 and 7,000 layoffs statewide, including cases in which teachers retire and aren't replaced. ‘It just shows you how far the layoffs have gone, and how deep education cuts have been, to have folks who are honored in their profession, and to have the layoffs actually affect those very people who we want to see in the classrooms,’ Meredith said. Superintendent Tony Bennett said the prospect of outstanding teachers losing their jobs shows a need to reevaluate how schools deal with layoffs. He said a move toward layoffs based on performance rather than seniority was inevitable.” (The Star Press, May 6, 2010)

Fort Wayne District to Lay Off 284 Teachers To Restructure Low-Performing Schools

“Fort Wayne school administrators plan to lay off 284 teachers next month. District leaders say the move is needed as they relocate teachers from Elmhurst High School and Pleasant Center Elementary, deal with retirements, and restructure 11 low-performing schools. The ‘actual’ number of teachers who lose their jobs depends on what kinds of teachers the district needs. Officials say 193 teaching positions will be available this fall.” (Indiana’s News Center, April 22, 2010)

Fort Wayne Community Schools Finalized 311 Layoffs

“311 Fort Wayne Community School employees will be laid off. 91 of the layoffs will be permanent. 284 affected employees will be full-time teachers, the other 27 affected employees consists of part-time workers, specialists and coordinators. Administrators said the decision to layoff and then re-hire teachers, will allow them to properly staff the district's 11 LEAD schools. Meanwhile, laid off workers will be able to apply to work at LEAD schools. Union representatives said Monday's decision is devastating for FWCS teachers. Union representatives said that no concessions could have been made to prevent the layoffs. Meanwhile, Union representatives said they are doing everything they can to get all laid off teachers, including 91 slated to be permanently let go, back into the classroom.” (Indiana News Center, May 10, 2010)

Tippecanoe School District Will Lay Off 150 Teachers
“A Lafayette-area school district is telling 150 teachers they could be without a job next school year as it looks to make nearly $8 million in budget cuts. The Tippecanoe School Corp. board voted Wednesday night to take the action affecting about 20 percent of the district’s teachers. Officials say 75 other teachers will be shifted to new assignments. District Superintendent Scott Hanback says administrative and support staffers are taking 3 percent pay cuts and some programs have been eliminated. But he says those steps haven't been enough to cope with cuts in state funding and other revenues. The Indiana State Teachers Association estimates that up to 5,000 teachers statewide could lose their jobs by next fall.” (Fox 59, April 15, 2010)

Brandywine Community Schools to Lay Off 17 Teachers

“17 Brandywine Community Schools teachers will be out of jobs at the end of the school year. The board of education voted 5-1 at Monday night's board meeting to approve Superintendent John Jarpe's recommendation from last week. The action comes as the district grapples with an estimated $1.4 million deficit for the 2010-11 budget, which needs to be passed in June. ‘I wish we didn't have to do this,’ board President James Curran told a large crowd at Brandywine Middle/Senior High School. ‘... Unfortunately, our future is tied to the state. We went through this once before, and it's not enjoyable.’ As more becomes clear in the coming weeks regarding exactly how much state funding the district will receive, some of those teachers could be recalled. The cuts were based on seniority and consist of a 50-50 mix between elementary and middle/high school teachers. (The South Bend Tribune, April 27, 2010)

IOWA

74 Des Moines Teachers Laid Off After Revenue Shortfall

“The waiting is over for 74 Des Moines teachers who received official word Friday that they will not have jobs after the school year ends. Building principals handed out the layoff notices and had substitute teachers on hand in case affected teachers were unable to return to their classrooms, said Twyla Woods, the chief of staff for the Des Moines school district. School board members are expected to approve the layoffs at their May 4 meeting. The district will recall the affected teachers, based on seniority, if jobs open up later. The number of layoffs is less than the 173 teaching jobs officials cut from next school year's budget in an effort to offset an $11.1 million revenue shortfall. Early retirements and turnover helped reduce the number of teachers who had to be laid off, Woods said.” (Des Moines Register, April 24, 2010)

DELAWARE

Christina School Board to Lay Off 43 Teachers

“Facing severe budget constraints, the Christina School Board on Tuesday voted to lay off 43 teachers and nine paraprofessionals. The personnel cuts, along with other reductions, are designed to bridge a $8.1 million budget gap for fiscal year 2011 that was created by $6.4
million in proposed state budget reductions and $1.7 million in district employee cost increases, district spokeswoman Wendy Lapham said. Christina, the largest of the state’s 19 school districts, is holding an operating referendum on about $19 million on May 25 that could change the layoff scenario, which would take place next school year. Christina expects to trim about $3.9 million by making the personnel cuts. Another $4.25 million will be cut from the district’s budget through a reduction of expenses such as textbooks and substitutes, not putting money away for reserves, reduced maintenance expenses, and a reduction of student support services such as academic counseling and behavior intervention, Lapham said.” (DelawareOnline.com, May 6, 2010)

**Massachusetts**

**Boston Superintendent Proposed Cutting 80 Custodial Positions**

“In developing the $821.4 million proposed budget, Superintendent Carol R. Johnson said she tried to avoid making cuts that would directly affect classroom learning. Consequently, one area being hit hard is the custodial staff, which would lose more than 80 positions, much of it through layoffs. The custodian union will be joining teachers today to rally for preservation of their jobs. ‘Custodians are on the front line in our schools when it comes to health and safety problems,’ Michael Lafferty, the custodian union’s business representative, said in a prepared statement before the planned rally. ‘Failure to clean bathrooms and classrooms after even just one child has been sick can allow the rapid spread of illnesses throughout a school.’ The $821.4 million budget request is the same amount as the district is spending this year on the 56,000-student school system. But the rising costs of doing business, such as escalating health care premiums and contractually negotiated pay raises, are forcing the district to cut about $50 million in spending to meet Mayor Thomas M. Menino’s request for a so-called level-funded budget for next year.” (Boston Globe, March 24, 2010)

**Missouri**

**Missouri Lawmakers Attempt to Address School Funding Problems; How to Distribute Funds to Schools if State Lacks Funds to Meet Prescribed Funding Levels**

“Missouri lawmakers have scaled back what was once a wide-reaching education bill to address immediate funding questions for Missouri’s public schools. The bill includes a broader measure to modify the state’s school funding formula as the state works through an ongoing budget crisis. That formula, passed in 2005, did not spell out how to distribute funds to schools if the state lacks the money to meet prescribed funding levels. Under the legislation, all school districts would share equally in any cuts. Previous bills have cut disproportionately, pitting wealthier and poorer school districts against one another. Some lawmakers said the Legislature could — and should — do more to fund Missouri’s schools. Sen. Joan Bray, D-University City, said the Senate
was ‘spineless’ by simply offering cut after cut to education, with no moves to increase revenue. Bray pushed an amendment to the bill that would have taxed online sales and directed the money to the school formula, but her amendment was ruled out of order. ‘We think what she was trying to do there is precisely the missing link,’ said Otto Fajen, a Missouri National Education Association lobbyist.” (SLToday.com, May 12, 2010)

**PENNSYLVANIA**

**Central Bucks Schools to Cut At Least 15 Teachers**

“Central Bucks School District officials plan to cut at least 15 teaching positions and 14 support staff positions for the 2010-11 school year. The staff cuts are part of the district's ongoing attempts to balance its $284.5 million budget. District business manager Dave Matyas said district officials hope to save $2 million to $2.5 million by cutting staff. Some positions will be eliminated when staff members retire; other positions will be eliminated through layoffs. Matyas could not say this week how many employees will be laid off. Central Bucks has 1,355 teachers. State law prohibits the school district from laying off teachers for economic reasons; Matyas said it can only lay off teachers if enrollment drops.” (Bucks County Courier Times, April 30, 2010)

**Bethlehem School District to Eliminate 35 Teaching Positions**

“For the second year in a row, the Bethlehem Area School District might raise taxes and slash dozens of teaching jobs, administrative positions and academic programs to balance a budget. Under the proposed $207.2 million budget for the next school year, taxes would go up 6.17 percent, resulting in a $154 increase on a property assessed at $60,000, the district average. The millage rate would go up 2.6 mills to 44.2. In addition to the tax increase, the administration proposes saving $2.6 million by eliminating six administrators and 35 teaching positions, including 9.5 jobs at elementary schools. Teacher reductions also would eliminate reading, math and technology specialists across grade levels. If approved, the cuts would come a year after the district got off the state's academically troubled list by having enough students in all grades pass PSSA tests in reading and math.” (The Morning Call, April 28, 2010)

**Few Teacher Cuts Included in Philadelphia School District Budget but Concerns Exist Over 2011-12 Budget**

“For the second year in a row, the Bethlehem Area School District might raise taxes and slash dozens of teaching jobs, administrative positions and academic programs to balance a budget. Under the proposed $207.2 million budget for the next school year, taxes would go up 6.17 percent, resulting in a $154 increase on a property assessed at $60,000, the district average. The millage rate would go up 2.6 mills to 44.2. In addition to the tax increase, the administration proposes saving $2.6 million by eliminating six administrators and 35 teaching positions, including 9.5 jobs at elementary schools. Teacher reductions also would eliminate reading, math and technology specialists across grade levels. If approved, the cuts would come a year after the district got off the state's academically troubled list by having enough students in all grades pass PSSA tests in reading and math.” (The Morning Call, April 28, 2010)
Rendell proposed but that the legislature has not yet approved. Other states are feeling the pinch more, Masch said, because the Pennsylvania legislature funneled federal stimulus aid on top of state increases in education aid. Elsewhere, aid was often taken away and replaced with federal stimulus money. For the second year in a row, Masch presented a balanced budget - a departure from the previous few district spending plans. There's a 4.5 percent increase in spending over the current budget. No layoffs are expected. The budget calls for about 50 fewer teachers than the 11,000 this year, but the district would accommodate that by hiring fewer teachers than usual. About 100 noninstructional positions would be cut, but Masch said he did not believe those trims would require layoffs among the district's 23,900 employees. Districts nationwide are making plans to cut staff. Nine in 10 superintendents in a survey by the American Association of School Administrators said they planned to lay off staff, up from two in three last year.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 22, 2010)

**RHODE ISLAND**

**North Providence Mayor Proposed Requiring Teachers to Contribute 20 Percent of the Cost of Health-Insurance Rather Than Current 5 Percent**

“Town and school officials can eliminate a $10.5-million deficit without a tax hike, according to Mayor Charles A. Lombardi. Lombardi’s spending proposal calls for $81 million in spending during the budget year that begins July 1. The budget proposal includes a plan to raise about $10.5 million through a bond issue to eliminate the current deficit and then repay the borrowed money with annual payments of $2.3 million over a five-year period, Lombardi said… Lombardi says the schools can cut spending by another $900,000 if officials require all employees to pay 20 percent of the cost of their health-care insurance. Teachers now contribute 5 percent. That would bring school spending down to $40.3 million, although Lombardi’s budget package calls for $300,000 more… Lombardi said he intends to require the same level of health-care contributions from firefighters and police officers. Contracts for firefighters, police officers and teachers are under negotiation.” (Providence Journal, April 15, 2010)

**WASHINGTON D.C.**

**D.C. Schools Chancellor Announced Over 380 Job Cuts in October 2009 to Close $44 Million Gap in 2010 Budget**

The two sides have not met face to face since Sept. 21, and no bargaining sessions are scheduled. The last meeting came just days after Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee announced more than 380 job cuts to close what she described as a $43.9 million gap in the 2010 budget. Union leaders said the layoffs, which included 266 teachers and support staff members, came without warning despite long hours at the table through the spring and summer. They also said they do not believe Rhee's explanation for the reductions, especially after the hiring of 934 new teachers
for this school year. It strongly suggests that the budget crisis was contrived to weaken the union and force out older or outspoken instructors, they said. ‘There is no trust right now,’ said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the 1.4 million-member parent organization of the Washington Teachers’ Union. She described the Sept. 21 meeting, an evening session in Rhee's office that broke up after midnight, as a ‘rancorous, cantankerous and stressful’ discussion of the cuts. Rhee, who called allegations that she intentionally precipitated layoffs ‘absolutely, categorically false,’ did not dispute that bargaining had ground to a halt. But she said that has been the norm for the negotiations, which began in late 2007.” (Washington Post, October 21, 2009)

D.C. Schools Chancellor and Teachers’ Union Announced Agreement on Tentative Contract to Increase Teacher Salaries, Establish Voluntary Merit Pay System and Give Authorities Power to Remove Teachers Based on Effectiveness

“Capping two years of rancorous bargaining, the Washington schools chancellor and the city’s teachers’ union on Wednesday announced an agreement on a tentative contract that would increase teacher salaries, establish a voluntary merit pay system and give the authorities clearer powers to move teachers out of the system based on their effectiveness rather than seniority. The agreement has yet to be ratified by union members and the City Council. Throughout the negotiations, an intense media spotlight focused on a union famous for corruption in a city with many failing schools, and on the chancellor, Michelle Rhee, who appeared early in the talks on the cover of Time magazine, wielding a broom to dramatize her pledge to sweep away recalcitrant teachers and the tenure system. The tentative settlement includes some novel provisions, like partial financing by private foundations, but experts were divided about how profoundly they would change the district’s school system.” (New York Times, April 7, 2010)

Under Tentative Agreement, Teachers Would Receive 20 Percent Raises Over Five Years to be Paid Partially by Private Foundations

“Under the tentative settlement, teachers would receive 20 percent raises over five years, with a three-year, retroactive payout. In an unusual feature for a teachers’ contract, a portion of its cost would be paid by $64.5 million from four private foundations, including $25 million from the Walton Family Foundation, which has financed charter schools and other educational initiatives involving nonunion teachers. The agreement also includes provisions that would expand teacher training opportunities and others intended to improve student disciplinary conditions so that schools are safer, both of which were union goals. Under a new mutual consent provision that would curtail teachers’ rights to classroom positions based on seniority, no teacher could be placed at a school without the teacher’s and the principal’s agreement. When budget cuts or enrollment declines force school closings, teachers could apply for new jobs at other Washington schools under the mutual consent rule. Teachers whom no school agrees to hire would have three options: a $25,000 buyout, early retirement for those with 20 years of service, or one additional year of employment in an administrative position, before final dismissal.” (New York Times, April 7, 2010)
Mediator Facilitated Negotiation on Teacher Evaluation System in DC Contract Talks

“Kurt Schmoke wasn't looking to change hearts and minds when he entered contract talks between D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee and the Washington Teachers' Union in spring 2009. The negotiations, which had begun in late 2007, were on the verge of collapse. Both sides said this week that without the mediation of the Howard University law school dean and former three-term mayor of Baltimore, the tentative agreement announced Wednesday would not have come together. Schmoke's experience, as a lawyer and as a mayor who knew how school districts operated, appealed to both sides, who had been in talks since December 2007. One of Schmoke's principal tasks was dealing with union frustration that one critical issue was not even on the table. By District law, Rhee was not obligated to negotiate on the new teacher evaluation system introduced last fall that could lead to dismissal for teachers with low scores. It uses growth in student test scores to help assess the effectiveness of some educators, employing a methodology that the union says can be unreliable. Schmoke couldn't do anything about the law, but he helped craft ‘side letters’ to the contract that call for the appointment of a union-management working group that meets monthly to review teacher concerns about the system, called Impact. The agreement also calls for an independent evaluation of Impact.” (Washington Post, April 9, 2010)

D.C. Schools Chancellor Rhee Disclosed to D.C. Council That She Discovered a $34 Million Surplus Three Months After Laying Off 266 Educators

“Political fallout from D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee's disclosure that she discovered a $34 million surplus in the system's budget -- three months after laying off 266 educators -- intensified Wednesday… Rhee stunned council members at a Tuesday meeting by revealing that part of the five-year, 20 percent raise promised to teachers in the new proposed labor contract would be financed with $34 million in salary savings discovered in late February. The news infuriated union leaders, who took Rhee to court last year, unsuccessfully challenging the October budget crisis as a contrivance designed to winnow veteran educators from the payroll.” (Washington Post, April 15, 2010)

Rhee Said She Learned of Surplus Funds after a Senior Aide Evaluating the Collective-Bargaining Agreement Found that Teacher Salaries This Year Averaged $8,000 Less Than Expected

“Rhee said she was under no obligation to disclose the existence of the funds in the midst of labor negotiations, nor would she reinstate the 266 teachers. She said the layoffs were based on fiscal forecasts she received from D.C. Chief Financial Office Natwar M. Gandhi. An additional $20 million in ‘spending pressures’ were identified by Gandhi's deputy assigned to the school system at the time, Noah Wepman. Rhee said she learned of the surplus in late February, when a senior aide evaluating the potential costs of the collective-bargaining agreement, reported that teacher salaries and benefits in the current fiscal year, expected to average about $81,000, were
actually lower -- about $73,000. The lower-than-expected payroll generated a significant savings.” (Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

“In February and March, George Dines, who replaced Mr. Wepman as the chief financial officer’s deputy for schools, provided Ms. Rhee with information that the system was spending less than forecast on teacher salaries this year, generating what appears to be a $34 million surplus. Whether this should have been obvious to the CFO before the September layoffs would be a useful question for the council to ask and for Mr. Gandhi to answer. It is clearly not a question that is properly posed to Ms. Rhee. Mr. Gandhi, a consummate budget professional, may clear up some of the confusion when he delivers his much-anticipated analysis of the proposed contract.” (Washington Post editorial, April 15, 2010)

Rhee Said “We Got This Information Very Late in the Game... The Most Important Thing is for People to Look Forward”

“Rhee said she was under no obligation to disclose the existence of the funds in the midst of labor negotiations, nor would she reinstate the 266 teachers... ‘We got this information very late in the game,’ Rhee said. ‘The most important thing is for people to look forward.’” (Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

Rhee Said She Will Not Consider Rehiring Teachers, Council Member Introduced Emergency Legislation to Restore the Instructors to Their Jobs

“Rhee has said that she will not consider rehiring the teachers. But [council member Harry] Thomas said he has introduced the District Public Schools Reinstatement Act, designed to immediately restore their jobs if Gandhi's office certifies that funds are available. The bill is scheduled to be taken up on an emergency basis Tuesday and would require nine votes for passage on the 13-member council. Thomas said the legislation would not cover teachers who have disciplinary or misconduct issues on their records. Rhee has said five of the 266 laid-off instructors had been suspended for corporal punishment offenses. One was under investigation for sexual misconduct that resulted in the pregnancy of a special-needs high school student. ‘We're trying to bring back those who the chancellor said were good teachers caught in the’ layoffs, Thomas said. Thomas could face significant legal barriers to legislating the teachers' return. D.C. Attorney General Peter Nickles said Wednesday that personnel issues were a function of the executive branch. ‘This is executive function. You can quote me,’ he said in an e-mail. Thomas said the bill was being crafted as an attempt to reverse a procedural error, the miscalculation of school budget funds.” (Washington Post, April 15, 2010)

AFT President and Washington Teachers’ Union President Said Rhee’s Disclosure Renews Questions About the Legitimacy of October Layoffs
“Teachers union leaders angrily accused D.C. Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee of unethical behavior Tuesday by failing to disclose the discovery of a $34 million surplus in the school system budget in February, three months after laying off 266 teachers because of what she described as a budget shortfall… American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten and Washington Teachers’ Union President George Parker said Rhee's disclosure of the extra money -- at a Tuesday morning discussion with the D.C. Council about the contract -- renews questions about the legitimacy of the October layoffs, which sparked bitter protests and an unsuccessful union lawsuit. Teachers charged that Rhee contrived the budget crisis by hiring more than 900 teachers in the spring and summer of 2009, and then targeting older instructors for layoffs. A D.C. Superior Court judge rejected the union's claims.” (Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

AFT President and Washington Teachers’ Union President Demanded Rhee Reinstall the Laid-Off Educators or Face a Renewed Court Challenge to the Legality of the Job Reductions

“Weingarten and Parker demanded Tuesday that Rhee reinstate the laid-off educators or face a renewed court challenge to the legality of the job reductions. ‘This is a very serious situation,’ Weingarten said. ‘It’s serious for the kids who lost their teachers and for the teachers who lost their jobs. The moment she knew there was no budget crisis, she had an ethical obligation to disclose that.’ ‘The chancellor needs to make the teachers whole,’ Parker said. But both union leaders said they would urge their members, who will begin to review the proposed contract in informational sessions this week, to regard the layoffs as a separate issue that will be resolved in court.” (Washington Post, April 14, 2010)

Union President Said Rhee's Announcement of the Surplus “Changes Materially the Facts Upon Which [D.C. Superior Court Judge Judith Bartnoff] Made Her Decision.” And the Union Will Return to Court Within Two or Three Days

“Union President George Parker has also urged teachers to treat layoffs and the proposed contract separately. He spent much of the day meeting with lawyers and said the union would probably return to court within two or three days. He said Rhee's announcement of the surplus ‘changes materially the facts upon which [D.C. Superior Court Judge Judith Bartnoff] made her decision.’ But Saunders, who is challenging Parker for the union presidency, said the two matters were inextricably linked and urged teachers to reject the contract if it comes to a vote, pending fiscal approval by District Chief Financial Officer Natwar M. Gandhi. Saunders called the pact "blood money," underwritten by the illegal firings of fellow teachers. ‘This is money off the backs of teachers,’ Saunders said. ‘It is unconscionable for the union to be looking past this event.’ He called Parker fully culpable in the discharge of the teachers. Parker said Saunders would oppose any contract negotiated by himself and Rhee. ‘He's in opposition for political purposes,’ Parker said. ‘What we're asking is for the chancellor to stand up and do both,’ he added, meaning finance the raises and reinstate the laid-off teachers.” (Washington Post, April 14, 2010)
Washington Post Editorial Praised Unions for Separating Issue of Last Year’s Layoffs and the New Contracts to Keep Members Tempers Cool

“Last fall, Michelle Rhee, the tough-minded and creative schools chancellor in Washington, laid off 266 teachers, citing a budget crunch. She has since reported finding a budget surplus. The city’s teachers’ union, which challenged the layoffs unsuccessfully last fall, has now asked a judge to review them again. Some of Ms. Rhee’s critics have implausibly suggested that she might have withheld information to justify the layoffs. It would be terrible for the city’s children if the dispute reached a point where it upended the innovative union contract that Ms. Rhee and union leaders provisionally agreed to earlier this month. The contract calls for a salary increase of 20 percent over five years, for which the union has agreed to a teacher evaluation system that takes student performance into account and a differential pay scale that will boost compensation for the most effective teachers. One bright spot is that the union’s leadership has wisely separated the two issues — last year’s layoffs and the new contract. They need to keep tempers cool so their members make the right choice and ratify the agreement. And Ms. Rhee and the mayor need to quickly and fully disclose who messed up the math.” (New York Times EDITORIAL, April 19, 2010)

Washington Teachers’ Union Asks To Re-Open Lawsuit After Surplus Revelation

“In newly filed court documents, Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee says she was not aware of the now-discredited $34 million surplus in the DCPS budget last fall when she laid off 266 teachers. Rhee said her first inkling of the extra cash came from the school system's interim chief financial officer on Feb. 26. ‘I had no knowledge of this surplus when I authorized a reduction in force of DCPS personnel in September 2009,’ Rhee said in a two-page declaration made under penalty of perjury. The layoffs were formally executed on Oct. 2. Rhee triggered a political furor on April 13 when she told the D.C. Council that she'd located an extra $34 million to help pay for teacher raises, just a few months after paring educators from the payroll because of what she said was a budget crunch. Two days later, District CFO Natwar M. Gandhi said $30 million of the surplus didn't exist because of projected overspending in the central office operation. Rhee's declaration is one of several filings in advance Friday's D.C. Superior Court hearing on the Washington Teachers' Union lawsuit challenging the legitimacy of the layoffs. The union has argued that the layoffs were a sham designed to terminate older teachers Rhee wanted out of the system. In November, Judge Judith Bartnoff denied the union's bid for a preliminary injunction restoring the teachers to their jobs. The District has moved to have the case dismissed. But the union is asking Bartnoff to re-open the record in the suit in light of last week's revelations, and allow it to subpoena witnesses and documents to examine questions regarding the 2010 school budget.” (The Washington Post, April 22, 2010)
EDITORIAL: With Future Poor Economy, Charter Schools Will Get More Funding to Save Money; Inequalities in the Quality of Schools Will Increase

“23,000 teachers were given pink slips in CA and 17,000 in IL. Classroom sizes will surely increase next year. 2010-2011 has the potential to be financially worse. This is the last year for stimulus funds. If the economy fails to rebound, future cuts will be equally as deep. Proposals for privatization will be more successful. Charter schools will surely get a bigger piece of the pie to save money. New York State has opened the door for an expansion of Charter Schools. The Federal Government has proposed additional funding for Charter Schools. While public schools get less, charter schools get more. Parents and educators need to be active and demand better from our legislators. Cuts in special education are also on the chopping block. Urban schools will be greatly impacted. Inequalities regarding the quality of schools will surely be an issue. A new separation of schools that have adequate funding versus schools that do not will reappear its ugly head in American Education.” (Utica Parenting & Education Examiner, April 8, 2010)

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

DPS Financial Manager Plan Envisioned a Smaller District by Closing 45 More Schools in 2010; Total Closures Would be 140 Since 2005

“Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools, asked parents Monday night to get behind his academic plan, an ambitious road map to the future that envisions a smaller district with the closing of 45 more schools this year and sets dramatic targets for student achievement. ‘I ask you parents to walk that road with me tonight,’ Bobb said as he unveiled his plan to about 800 people at Renaissance High School. The number of school closures Bobb noted was five more than he had announced earlier. It would bring total school closures to 140 since 2005 -- more than half the district.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

“Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit's 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $219 million, an emergency financial manager said Wednesday. Three aging, traditional and underpopulated high schools would be among the 44 closures. Another six schools are to be closed in June 2011, followed by seven more a year later, emergency financial manager Robert Bobb said. Detroit already closed 29 schools before the start of classes last fall and shuttered 35 buildings about three years ago.” (Associated Press, March 17, 2010)
Predictions of Enrollment Loss of 30,000 Students Within 5 Years (a Third of the Population) Led to Closures

“The closures are forced by predictions of continued enrollment loss with no clear end in sight. The trend is attributed to a declining birthrate, exodus of families from the city and competition from other schools. In all, the district expects to lose more than 30,000 students within five years, or a third of its population.” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

District Planners Consulted with City to Mesh School Closures with Efforts to Retain Populations in Stable Areas for Those Targeted for Revitalization

“A massive closure plan by Detroit Public Schools calls for shutting Osborn, Kettering and Cooley high schools while preserving as many K-8 schools as possible on the city's outskirts to prevent more students from fleeing to the suburbs. The plan to be announced today will mean about 45 building closures this year and a savings of $31 million. In choosing which schools to close, district planners consulted with the city to try to mesh the plan with efforts to retain population in stable areas or those targeted for revitalization. ‘Most importantly, it's taking into consideration where the city of Detroit is going,’ Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb said… Focusing on schools near the city's borders is the result of studies showing that when a school closes on the border, about 21 percent of the students leave the district, compared to about 7 percent when a school closes in the heart of the city. ‘If you close a school on the border and parents can see the other school … it's just a matter of going across the street,’ Bobb said. ‘So we are protecting our borders.’” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

DPS Planning a Force Reduction of 2,100 Next Year

“Bobb wouldn't say how many jobs would be lost under the plan, but acknowledged the district would need fewer principals, teachers and staff. The job losses would be part of an expected work force reduction of 2,100 next year.” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

DPS Would Also Need $700 Million More in Bond Money for School Improvements

“Bobb also said that the district would need $700 million more in bond money for school improvements. He suggested a new Bates Academy, a facility for swimming and diving at Renaissance, a sports complex at Cass Tech and a new facility for special-needs students. The district already has $500.5 million in bond money voters approved in November… Bobb also said the district needs millions more in bond money than voters approved in November. He suggested using it for a new Bates Academy, a facility for swimming and diving at Renaissance High School, a sports complex at Cass Tech and a new facility for special-needs students.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)
**First Phase Funded by Voter-Approved Bond Sale, Second Phase Depends on Future Active Role of Citizens**

“The facilities plan will be implemented in two phases. The first is funded by a voter-approved bond sale of $500.5 million. The second calls for voter approval on a second $500 million bond sale ‘assuming citizens take an active role in a new bond measure in the future,’ Bobb said. It’s not known if Bobb will be around for the start of the plan’s second phase. He was appointed by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm last March to straighten out the district's finances. His contract ends in March 2011.” (Associated Press, March 17, 2010)

**Plan Would Include Accountability Commission to Set Up at Every Grade Level in Detroit**

“More than a vision for the future of Detroit Public Schools, the new academic plan unveiled Monday night is a new accountability tool for the public, Bobb told an invite-only crowd of 800 on Monday. The $540-million, five-year plan aims to pull up the graduation rate for seniors from 58% to 98% and to meet state and national averages on standardized tests, among other long-range efforts. ‘We will now have the assurance that someone is watching,’ he said, referring to an accountability commission that philanthropic leaders expect to set up to grade every school in Detroit, including DPS, charter and private schools. ‘Ours won't be a hollow plan like so many that have graced the desks within DPS over the years and collected dust on the shelves.’” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

**Final Number of Schools to be Closed was Larger Than Earlier Stated Plan**

“This plan, he said, will move forward because that's what Detroit parents and students deserve. In his address, Bobb indicated he would be closing 45 schools this year, not 40 as originally stated. He is expected to release the names Wednesday. The number drew a collective gasp from the crowd.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

**Some Questioned Whether the Plan Violates State Law Because Manager Did Not Collaborate With or Consult the School Board on the Plan**

“While many Detroiters appear to agree with the plan, others questioned whether it violates state law because Bobb did not collaborate with or consult the school board on the plan. Rep. Bert Johnson, D-Detroit, a cosponsor of state education reform laws passed in December, said that without input from the school board, Bobb's plan violates state law. ‘The ideas are great ideas and there's not a parent on the planet who doesn't want a 98% graduation rate,’ said Johnson, who has two sons who attend DPS. ‘To the extent that he's come up with a plan and gone outside of Public Act 172 and not formulated that plan with the school board I think that is going to prove problematic because the law is what it is. We've all got to follow the law.’ Board member Annie Carter said she and her colleagues on the board want to work with Bobb. ‘We've been asking to work with him,’ Carter said. Bryant said it will be crucial that Bobb has support in the community to carry out the plan. ‘He's just going to have to continue to bring it to the attention
of the parents, the grandparents. So many people have lost confidence in Detroit Public Schools.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

**Under Plan by DPS Financial Manager, 44 Schools Would be Closed in June, Other Schools Would be Consolidated or Renovated, and New Schools Would be Built by Bond Sales**

“The Detroit Public Schools' financial manager has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to get parental and community response to a plan that includes closing schools. Under the five-year master facilities plan announced by Robert Bobb last week, 44 schools would be closed in June. Other schools would be closed, consolidated or renovated, and new schools would be built with money from bond sales. Bobb said many schools in the 87,000-student district are under capacity and aging. His plan would put about 75 percent of Detroit students in new or renovated schools. Bobb said he expects to make a final decision next month about which schools will close. (Detroit News wire report, March 26, 2010)

**Many Districts Studying Potential Effects of Combining Schools, Redrawing School Boundaries, or Closing Schools**

“Districts across the tri-county area are facing deficits and cuts. Bloomfield Hills Public Schools has studied combining its two high schools, Andover and Lahser. The Farmington Public Schools Board of Education has approved redrawing school boundaries. And a citizens' group for Utica Community Schools recommends closing four elementary schools next school year. East Detroit Public Schools -- facing an $11-million deficit -- also is poised to close schools, and is looking for an interim superintendent after firing Bruce Kefgen, who is accused of failing to supervise the district's finances and address deficiencies.” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)

**Detroit Free Press Headline: Tensions Grow and Schools Plan More Cutbacks**

“Ever-shrinking revenue streams are pushing backs against the wall in several metro Detroit school districts, forcing school boards and administrators to consider drastic measures that could mean everything from closing or combining schools to privatizing services and laying off employees. The proposed moves are creating tension across the region. In several districts, unionized employees have held peaceful demonstrations to express their concerns as contract negotiations drag on and cutbacks are debated. Educators in the Grosse Pointe district picketed outside the school board's meeting last week. Ranae Beyerlein, president of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, said the district is considering laying off upward of 50 teachers. ‘We're trying to keep the cuts out of the classroom and away from the students,’ she said, adding that negotiations with the district have stalled.” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)

**Rochester District Teachers Worked Only Contractual Hours for a Day to Show Extra Time they Work**
“Rochester Community Schools also is facing a hefty deficit of $14.6 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year. District spokeswoman Debbi Hartman said all areas will be impacted. ‘You're not going to make anybody happy,’ she said. ‘There could be reductions in staff. There could be anything.’ Most of the Rochester district's teachers, whose contract expired in August, decided to work only their contractual hours on Wednesday. They met in the parking lots of their respective buildings, walked in together at the required time and left when they contractually were allowed to leave. Typically, the teachers stay after on their own time, said Cathy Perini Korreck, president of the Rochester Education Association. ‘We decided it would be a good exercise, visibly, to show what it looks like when you have employees that have sort of an on-the-clock mentality,’ she said. Unionized employees for Royal Oak Public Schools rallied Thursday outside a district budget workshop meeting, concerned the district would move to outsource services. Superintendent Thomas Moline said the district is considering privatizing custodial, maintenance and grounds services -- a move that could save about $900,000. The district still is in negotiations with the union. Moline said the cuts aren't something district officials want to do, but ‘our backs are up against a wall.’ Bruce Anderson, president of the Royal Oak Education Support Personnel Association, said there should be across-the-district wage cuts. ‘I'm a reasonable man,’ he said. ‘I'm willing to do what it takes to protect jobs.’” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)

Detroit Public Schools Announced Plans to Lay Off 225 Central Office Administrators (Curriculum Administrators and Teacher Supervisors) Effective June 30

“Oh 225 central office administrators in the financially troubled Detroit Public Schools will lose their jobs effective June 30, according to the district's Organization of School Administrators & Supervisors union. The union announced the cuts Tuesday, after members received notices last week. Cutting the positions -- essentially curriculum administrators and teacher supervisors -- also will eliminate the membership ranks of the union, which has worked without a contract since last summer. OSAS President Gwendolyn Gohagon said in a statement Tuesday that the notices of contract non-renewals gave no explanation. ‘By engaging in union-busting as a way to evade the collective bargaining process, Mr. Bobb is playing politics with our children's education,’ she said of the district's emergency financial manager, Robert Bobb. Steve Wasko, a spokesman for DPS, said today the process is identical to last year where all non union administrators received nonrenewal notices. He said they will have an opportunity to have a hearing with Robert Bobb, the district’s emergency financial manager. The number brought back will be dependent on program needs and budgetted funds, he said. The DPS budget deficit is expected to reach $335 million by June 30. Last June, DPS laid off more than 300 central office administrators, according to the 2009-10 operating budget.” (Detroit Free Press, April 14, 2010)

Judge Puts Temporary Halt to Detroit School Closings While Judge Considers a School Board Lawsuit Claiming Bobb Overstepped Authority by Making Decisions Without Meeting With the Board
“The emergency financial manager for Detroit's public schools is expected to follow a judge's order and meet with the district's Board of Education before moving forward with plans to close or consolidate 42 schools this year. Robert Bobb will consult with the school board, his spokesman said following a court hearing Wednesday. Bobb announced in March that the closed schools would be put up for sale or leased. They will remain open through end of this academic year. The closings are part of Bobb's five-year plan to restructure the district's facilities. But Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Wendy Baxter on Friday put a temporary halt to those plans while she considers a school board lawsuit that claims Bobb has overstepped his authority by making academic decisions without meeting with the board. Hearings on the lawsuit have been set for early June. Baxter left in place Wednesday an order she issued last week temporarily stopping Bobb from implementing his $540 million academic plan and requiring him to consult the school board on his $1 billion, five-year facilities plan that includes the school closings. Michigan Attorney General and Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Cox is expected to appeal Friday's ruling on Bobb's behalf.” (Business Week, April 21, 2010)

**Mike Cox Is Challenging Court Decision**

“Michigan Attorney General Mike Cox is challenging a court decision that at least temporarily blocks Detroit Public Schools emergency financial manager Robert Bobb from closing schools and making academic changes. Cox's office filed an emergency motion on Bobb's behalf on Tuesday in Wayne County Circuit Court. The motion seeks to stop court proceedings on the case until Cox's office can file an appeal with the Michigan Court of Appeals. Cox's office says a hearing on the emergency motion is scheduled for Wednesday in the Wayne County court.” (WNDU.com, April 20, 2010)

**40 Percent of Detroit Teachers Sent Layoff Notices, Including Tenured Teachers**

“About 40 percent of the teachers in the Detroit Public Schools were sent layoff notices, a school official confirmed Monday. Some of the 2,000 teachers in DPS’ ranks of approximately 5,000 reported receiving the pink slips on Friday. The layoffs come about a month after Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for DPS, proposed closing 41 school buildings in June and another 13 by 2012 due to declining enrollment. If the layoffs proceed, many of the teachers could be recalled before fall depending on several factors such as retirements, resignations and seniority, said DPS spokesman Steve Wasko. The layoffs included tenured teachers with more than 15 years experience. About 225 central office administrators were also sent layoff notices this month.” (Detroit Free Press, April 19, 2010)

**Kansas City, Missouri**

Kansas City School Board Voted to Close Half of the District’s Schools (29 of 61 Schools) on March 10
“The board voted 5-4 after parents and community leaders made final pleas to spare the schools even as the beleaguered district seeks to erase a projected $50 million budget shortfall. The approved plan calls for shuttering 29 of 61 schools a striking amount even as public school closures rise nationwide while the recession eats away at academic budgets.’ The urban core has suffered white flight post-the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. the Board of Education, blockbusting by the real estate industry, redlining by banks and other financial institutions, retail and grocery store abandonment,’ Kansas City Councilwoman Sharon Sanders Brooks said to applause from a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 people.’ And now the public education system is aiding and abetting in the economic demise of our school district,’ she said. ‘It is shameful and sinful.’” (Associated Press, March 11, 2010)

School Board’s Plan Includes 18 Elementary/Early Childhood Schools

The plan will close two high schools, four middle schools, three alternative schools, 18 elementary schools or early childhood learning centers, and two administrative/support facilities. (Kansas City School District Proposed Resolution, March 10, 2010)

Problems Stem From a Historically Dysfunctional School Board

“The sudden move suggests a depth of dysfunction here that is rarely associated with Kansas City, a lively heartland town with a reputation for order. But a closer look at the school board’s recent history reveals a chaotic, almost nonfunctioning body that put off making tough choices and even routine improvements for generations. Experts said that in the board’s years of inaction is a cautionary tale for school districts everywhere. ‘This is extraordinary,’ said Jack Jennings, president of the Center on Education Policy, a research group in Washington. ‘The school board was dysfunctional for years. There was very poor governance for a long period of time, and it was like a revolving door with superintendents.’” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Kansas City Has Not Heeded Suggestions from National Analysts

“In 2006, the Council of the Great City Schools, a Washington-based coalition of the nation’s largest school districts, produced an extensive analysis of what was going wrong in the Kansas City schools. It concluded that the board wasted too much time on administrative trivia, its instructional program lacked ‘cohesion and forward momentum’ and it had ‘no machinery’ for intervening when students fell behind. The council included advice in the report on how the schools could fix themselves, but little if any action appeared to have been taken as a result.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

18,000 Students Have Left for Other Schools in the Past Decade

“Students have been leaving the Kansas City public schools in droves. Close to 18,000 students exited to better suburban districts or charter schools in the last 10 years alone. The student enrollment is now 17,400 children, who are mostly black and impoverished.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)
Closure Plan Calls for the Elimination of 700 Jobs

“And achievement levels in the schools are abysmal: Fewer than a third of elementary students in the city schools read at or above grade level. And in most of the schools, fewer than a quarter of students are proficient at their grade levels. Faced with a $50 million deficit in its $300 million budget, the district decided to close the schools. The plan also calls for the elimination of 700 of 3,000 jobs, including teaching positions.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Covington Was the Latest of Several Superintendents Brought in to Fix the School System

“Education experts praised the new schools superintendent, John Covington, who was hired in April from the Pueblo, Colo., school district where he was also superintendent, for pushing for change. A former principal and teacher, Dr. Covington spent months researching and writing the Right-Sizing plan, and managed to win a 5-to-4 majority from the board. Previous superintendents had failed in similar efforts to downsize the district. ‘He put a mountain of information out there with statistics, and people finally understood what was happening, even if they didn’t like it,’ said Duane Kelly, who has been a school board member for 10 years and voted in favor of the closings. ‘It was time.’” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Support for Superintendent Has Become Central Issue in April 6 School Board Elections

“Candidate Crispin Rea accused appointed board member Cokethea Hill of being part of a slate of candidates who want to replace the school closing plan. Rea said the school system needs a board that will support the school chief and stay out of his way. Earlier this month, the school board, by a split vote of 5-4, approved superintendent John Covington's plan to close nearly half of the district's schools -- 26 schools and three centers. Hill said she voted against the closing plan because it was not detailed enough for her. She said she could not support that plan with more information. She also denied she was part of a ‘slate.’ Hill called her alliance with some other candidates as being ‘part of a team.” (KMBC News, March 29, 2010)

Some Board Members Have Called for Expansion, Not Reduction

“Linwood Tauheed objected to the process Covington used to form his plan. He said he favors "super-sizing" the district not "right-sizing it." He explained the best way to stem the declining enrollment is to bring more quality teachers to the classroom, attracting top students. He said the abstract way of declaring a teacher "qualified," by their academics is not working.” (KMBC News, March 29, 2010)

School Board Set Up Buyout Plan for Teachers

“On Wednesday, the Kansas City School Board decided to dedicate $4 million toward a retirement incentive program to encourage teachers to voluntarily leave their jobs, KMBC's
Martin Augustine reported. With the buyout plan for teachers, counselors and principals -- known as certified staff -- they must have at least 10 years of service and other requirements. If they accept it, they'll receive a one-time payment of $20,000, on top of the retirement benefits they've already earned. (KMBC News, March 24, 2010)

**MICHIGAN**

**Three Schools in Lincoln Park to Close**

“At least three Lincoln Park schools will close at the end of the academic year as the district grapples with a $9.4 million deficit. Board of Education members voted unanimously Tuesday night to close Crowley Center, LeBlanc School and Mixter Elementary School as of June 30. The special education and autism programs at LeBlanc are to be transferred to Lafayette and Paun elementary schools. The preschool classes operating out of Crowley are set to be moved into the individual elementary schools. Parents with children at Mixter will be able to select any elementary school in the district to enroll in for September classes. School Supt. Randall Kite warned parents that there ‘could be more school closings’ in the weeks ahead. ‘These actions will only be the beginning to solving the deficit,’ Kite said. ‘No one likes to make cuts or recommend them. However, that now is the situation we are currently faced with and one that must be dealt with.’” (The News Herald, April 24, 2010)

**Eastside Elementary School to Close**

“Parents of Eastside Elementary School students received letters Wednesday afternoon informing them of the district’s decision to close Eastside Elementary School, their students to attend one of the district’s other elementary schools next year. ‘In the end our decision is that closing Eastside helps maintain our educational program,’ Superintendent Doug Law said. Staff members at the school had been informed of the plan to close the building by Wednesday morning, Law said – a letter informing parents would be sent home with students. The kindergarten through fifth grade school is the district’s oldest building – a concern, Law said, when it comes to looking at the future. ‘Part of our concern is that we know in the next couple of years Eastside is going to require significant money to keep it a safe and viable building,’ Law said. ‘Money that this district is not going to have.’” (Niles Daily Star, April 29, 2010)

**Flint Community Schools to Close Two Elementary Schools**

“The Flint Community Schools Board of Education voted to shut down two elementary schools, create a leaner budget and add a sinking fund millage proposal to the August ballot. On Wednesday members announced it will shut down Wilkins and Williams Elementary Schools. Students of the two elementary schools to be closed will be sent to Brownell, Bryant, Potter and Washington Elementary Schools, according to reports. In the past month the district has laid off nearly 300 educators, although some are expected to be rehired. The cuts are expected to help curb a $3 million budget deficit the district is facing.” (WNEM.com, April 29, 2010)
**Virginia**

Bedford County, VA: Superintendent’s Budget Proposal Recommended Closing Two Schools

“Looking to cut $7 million in the next fiscal year, Bedford County Schools Superintendent Douglas Schuch recommended a budget proposal Thursday that would eliminate 124 full-time positions and close two elementary schools... Body Camp Elementary School and Thaxton Elementary School would be closed and the majority of surrounding preschool programs would be relocated to those buildings, Schuch said. Big Island Elementary School, which a school board member had previously mentioned as a possible closure site, is not included in proposed changes.” *(Lynchburg News Advance, February 11, 2010)*

**New Jersey**

Camden School Board Approved Two School Closings

“Struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, the Camden school board last night approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools... The $337 million plan, which district officials intend to submit to the executive county superintendent today, would close the William F. Powell Elementary School and the South Camden Alternative School.” *(Philadelphia Inquirer, March 23, 2010)*

**New York**

Troy, NY Discussing Closure of Elementary Schools to Save $2 Million

“The Board of Education at the Enlarged School District of Troy said they will likely formally announce on Wednesday which of the elementary schools would close in order to save upwards of $2 million on the proposed budget. ‘I feel the sooner, the better to give parents, teachers, and students time to absorb the information,’ said BOE president Tom Mayo. The administration insisted that a decision had not yet been made and that Superintendent Fadhilika Atiba-Weza would make a recommendation to the board shortly, which could be approved or rejected.” *(The Troy Record, March 30, 2010)*

**Georgia**
DeKalb County to Close Four Schools After Budget Shortfall

“Desperate parents and teachers gathered at a hearing in DeKalb County, hoping to spare four DeKalb County public schools from the chopping block. DeKalb County school officials have decided to close the doors on four schools in the district. The board is trying to make up for a $115 million shortfall. School officials say that closing the four schools in the district, will save the county $2 million. Four schools remain on the chopping block and those are Kelley Lake Elementary School, Knollwood Elementary School, Sky Haven Elementary School and Glen Haven Elementary Schools. Two other schools have been suggested as alternate schools for closure. Those are Gresham Park Elementary in lieu of Sky Haven and Peachtree Elementary in lieu of Glen Haven. ‘The reality is that we're going to end up closing some schools,’ said Jesse Cunningham of the DeKalb County School Board. The board should make a final vote on the decision May 1.” (MyFoxAtlanta.com, April 29, 2010)

MISSISSIPPI

Biloxi School Board Votes To Close Three Schools to Save Money

“Parents at three South Mississippi schools set to close next month say they're ready for a fight. This week the Biloxi School Board voted to close Beauvoir Elementary, Nichols Elementary and Michel Sixth Grade schools to save money. On Saturday, community members gathered to strategize on how to keep the closings from happening. Biloxi NAACP President James Crowell said, ‘We're going to work on this injunction to make sure that it's properly written. So when we file it, the judge will see that we have sufficient evidence to call for this injunction to delay the closure of these schools or to prevent it totally.’ Some of the parents at the meeting say they want to know exactly how the Biloxi district has been spending its money. They say they will ask the Mississippi State Auditor for an independent accountant.” (WLOX.com, April 25, 2010)

INDIANA

Elementary School to Close, High School to Replace at Least Half of Staff

“Lake Station Community Schools will close Central Elementary at the start of the 2011-2012 school year, according to district Superintendent Dan DeHaven. He explained the decision to shut down the school wasn't based on test scores. The school's boiler is aging, and district officials decided it would be too expensive to replace. The teachers will be farmed out to other schools in the district, but a final decision on Central Principal Juan Hernandez has yet to be made, DeHaven said. The school's inability to meet standards, especially in language arts, has drawn critical review from the state. Next year, Central will follow a school improvement plan, which is up for approval by the Education Department. Under the plan, two consultants will be hired to assist teachers in math and language arts classes and how to interpret student data to
make changes in lesson plans. The School City of Hammond plans to replace the principal at Hammond High and at least half of its staff. The reform first must be approved by state, and the district is requesting up to $2 million per year for the next three years to institute the plan.” (The Post-Tribune, April 23, 2010)

Adams County Considering Closing an Elementary School to Cut $880,000 from its Budget

“Declining revenue is taking its toll on an Adams County school district, threatening the future of an elementary school. In a school board meeting Tuesday evening, North Adams officials named Monmouth Elementary to their list of possible cuts as district leaders struggle to cut $880,000 from their budget. The closure could save the district $490,000. Monouth was targeted officials say, because the building could be sold to another entity like Ivy Tech Community College, which has reportedly entered a "dialogue" with North Adams leaders… In addition to a school closure, district leaders are considering charging students to play sports, consolidating bussing county wide and outsourcing custodial services. A final decision on the proposed cuts is expected on Tuesday April 13th.” (Indiana NewsCenter, April 6, 2010)

“‘It's sad for our community that in this economy it has to come to this. I don't think our children are mentally ready for this big step,’ said parent Kelly Vanlandingham. That big step Vanlandingham mentioned is the idea that some elementary students could be housed in the middle school next year, if the closure is approved. Under one proposal, pre-kindergarten through fourth grade would be housed in the remaining two elementary schools. Fifth graders would be sent to Bellmont Middle School. In a second scenario, one elementary would house pre-kindergarten through first grade, with the other taking second through fifth grades.” (Indiana NewsCenter, April 6, 2010)

Parents Proposed Budget Plan to Keep Elementary School Open

“I have been to most of the Del-Com school board meetings concerning the closing of DeSoto Elementary and building on to other elementaries and the middle school to accommodate moving our fifth-graders. I am shocked at how much money has been spent over the last couple of years. It seems that our corporation's expenditures should have been monitored much more carefully. Two parents who are not accountants combed through the budget and came up with a very achievable budget for the next school year and managed to keep DeSoto open with no teacher layoffs. There are justifiable cutbacks in each department. I hope the school board and Mr. Hall will take the time seriously look over what has been presented to them.” (The Star Press op-ed, May 3, 2010)

OKLAHOMA

Ardmore School District to Close Elementary Schools to Save Nearly $500,000
“Ardmore School District Superintendent Dr. Ruth Ann Carr used power point to go over a review in revenue from the last year. She says the Ardmore schools started this year, the fall of 2009, the 2010 fiscal school year, with a carry over of $3.1-million. They were then dealt numerous cuts from the state, which Dr. Carr says forced them to use $1.5-million of the carryover to prevent furloughs and layoffs, this year. The district says additional cuts have caused them to have to cut between $2.3 and $3.3 million. One of the many items on the list, closing Franklin Elementary in the fall. The district says it will save them nearly $500,000. Those students will be spread out to the other elementary's across the district.” (Kten.com, April 29, 2010)

**CALIFORNIA**

**Nevada City Schools Must Choose One School to Close**

“Committee members are charged with recommending to Nevada City School District's board whether Gold Run, NCE or both primary schools should close. The school district is facing a $1.4 million budget shortfall and declining enrollment. Committee members will present their findings at a May 10 board meeting. Both Gold Run School and Nevada City Elementary cost about the same per-pupil to operate, the 7/11 school closure committee concluded at a Thursday morning meeting. The schools have different square footage and enrollment, and programs are different, but the cost difference is so close, it's 'a wash,' committee members said.” (The Union, April 23, 2010)

**ARIZONA**

**Tucson Governing Board Votes to Close 5 Schools; Acting Superintendent Called it the Financially Responsible Thing to Do**

“Five more Tucson schools are headed for closure. The Tucson Unified School District Governing Board voted unanimously Tuesday to close Rogers, Fort Lowell, Duffy, Jefferson Park and Richey elementary schools. The 5-0 vote brings the number of schools that may be shut down in the fall to nine. Closing schools is never a popular decision and supporters from Jefferson Park and Richey elementary crowded outside district offices Tuesday chanting 'save our schools.' Acting TUSD Superintendent Maggie Shafer said closing schools is the financially responsible thing to do considering the budget crisis gripping the state. The school closures will likely save the district at least $2 million to offset a $28.6 million deficit.” (KSWT.com, April 28, 2010)

**Tucson Unified School District Approved Plan to Close Three Schools**

“More than five dozen Tucson Unified School District (Arizona) administrators received pink slips Tuesday night as a result of budget constraints and declining enrollment. The reduction of
64 administrators was approved by the governing board 5-0. However, Nancy Woll, the district's chief human resources officer, expected most to be recalled. The cuts are part of a planning process, which predicts a deficit of $17.3 million next year, or $41.8 million should voters reject Prop. 100. About 195 certified staff members have been given notice that they may no longer have a position at their current schools. Those employees have been placed in a transfer pool to compete for 111 vacancies. If employees are unable to secure a position by mid-May, they will be laid off. The district has given notice of possible salary cuts next year. No dollar amounts were discussed, but while talking about budget cut options last week, a 1-percent salary reduction across the district was mentioned. The board approved mergers that would result in three schools being closed next year. Roberts Elementary School will close to merge with Naylor Middle School. Van Horne Elementary School will close to merge with Bloom Elementary School. Reynolds Elementary School will close and will split its students between Ford and Erickson Elementary schools. Weeks ago the board approved a plan for Wrightstown Elementary School to close and make a move to Henry Elementary School, which will create a savings of at least $150,000 for the district.” (Arizona Daily Star, April 14, 2010)

WASHINGTON D.C.

Three Schools Closed in 2008 Will Not be Reopened in the Near Future Due to Reduced Revenue

“Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee's promises to rebuild three D.C. schools that closed in 2008 are likely to remain unfulfilled in the near future, a delay that city officials attribute to reduced revenue because of the economy and unanticipated expenditures on other projects. Rhee and Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) roiled neighborhoods across the city when they announced the closure of 23 schools that were underenrolled or in poor physical condition. In three cases, they softened the impact of the deeply unpopular decisions by promising to modernize or rebuild the schools while students were relocated. Since fall 2008, students at Bruce-Monroe Elementary (Ward 1) have attended Park View Elementary, children from Brookland Education Campus (Ward 5) are enrolled at Bunker Hill, and Turner Elementary students (Ward 8) have gone to Green Elementary. Parents in each community were told that new or vastly modernized buildings would be ready within three years. But the school system's $200 million-a-year capital program, which has delivered gleaming new facilities such as Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School (Ward 5) and the Wheatley Education Campus (Ward 5), faces a budget squeeze as tax revenue declines and deficits mount. ‘Our biggest issue is money,’ said Rhee, who is scheduled to appear Monday before the D.C. Council. ‘We don't have as much of it as we did before.’ Asked whether, in retrospect, she overpromised school communities, she said: ‘I promised based on what [the financial situation] looked like at the time. I didn't expect the capital budget to take a hammering.’” (Washington Post, March 22, 2010)

MASSACHUSETTS
No School Closings in Boston for Now but Superintendent Said “There Will be Schools That We Have to Close in the Future”

“As the Boston School Committee meets Wednesday evening to finalize budget cuts, officials say that school closures are off the table — at least for now. ‘At this time, we’re not recommending closing schools for the FY2011 budget,’ said Superintendent Carol Johnson. ‘However, we anticipate that in order to continue to balance our budget, there will be schools that we have to close in the future.’” (WBUR, March 24, 2010)