

# Conferees Make Progress On Parts Of Education Budget

*June 23, 2009*

House and Senate education budget negotiators reported on Monday that they have reached agreement on many parts of the two-year spending plan for public schools, community colleges and universities. The agreements, which are tentative until approved by the House and Senate Budget conference Committee Co-Chairs, still leave the negotiators with the task of trimming an additional \$102 million for the 2009-10 year and \$151 million for 2010-11.

Positive improvements made to date for public schools include the following:

- **No LEA Discretionary/Flexibility Reduction** (Had been \$9,432,140 recurring for 2009-10 in Senate proposal)
- **Career-Technical Education** funding is fully restored (Had been a cut of \$12.7 million recurring for 2009-10 in House proposal).
- **Classroom Materials & Supplies** funding is fully restored (Had been cut by \$2 million recurring in House proposal)
- **Non-Instructional Support Personnel** will have a cut of \$10 million (House plan had called for a cut of \$20,156,347 recurring for 2009-10)
- **Small County Supplemental Funding** is cut by \$2 million recurring (Had been a cut of \$4,518,919 recurring in the House proposal for 2009-10)
- **Transportation** funding will be cut by \$15 million (Had been \$29,348,420 recurring cut under House proposal for 2009-10)

The negotiated changes added \$44,680,955 in funding for public schools for 2009-10 over the funding proposed by the House.

Community colleges gained \$8,045,958 for 2009-10 from the negotiated agreements, and universities gained \$74,850,089.

Still left for education budget negotiators to decide are the position cuts for the Department of Public Instruction, tuition increases for universities and the issue of whether the state should continue the in-state tuition rate for non-resident student athletes and others.

Since these budget talks are still ongoing and even the agreements already reached are subject to change, it is imperative that school administrators stay in contact with your own House and Senate members, especially those who are budget conferees, and ask them to protect public school classrooms and jobs as they put together the final education budget for the next two years.

Contact information for budget conferees, charts and other information highlighting education budgets approved by the House and Senate, talking points about budget priorities for public schools, and other information is at <http://www.ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=199>.