

Call To Action To Minimize Devastating Budget Cuts!

From NCASA Legislative Link 5-28-09

As work continues on the N.C. House's state budget proposal, it is becoming increasingly urgent for all North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) members, other educators, parents and all individuals and groups who care about public education to join forces in urging lawmakers to head off the deep magnitude and devastating impact of proposed budget cuts for public schools.

NCASA is joining with the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), the North Carolina Parent Teachers Association (NCPTA) and the Public School Forum of North Carolina to hold a **press conference at 11 a.m. Monday June 1** at the NCPTA Office in Raleigh to decry the roughly \$1 billion in state budget cuts currently proposed for public schools for next school year.

"Now is the time for all our members to get actively involved in educating our state lawmakers about the dangerous path they are traveling in reversing recent progress in our public schools and threatening the future of the 1.4 million students we serve," said NCASA Executive Director Bill McNeal. "While we realize the state budget shortfall is real and severe, we must urge our elected leaders not to try addressing this crisis with cuts alone but instead to also find the courage to identify new revenue that can offset the negative impact on public schools and the children of this state."

All NCASA members are urged to review the current budget proposals and talking points regarding their impact at <http://ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=199> and then take the following steps:

- Contact all Co-Chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, all members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education and your own House members to discuss the impact the proposed budget cuts will have on your school district and/or school. (Committee contact information is at <http://www.ncasa.net/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=241> and contact information for individual House members is available at <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/members/memberList.pl?sChamber=House>.)
- Share information about the proposed budget cuts with all members of your own staff, parents in your school district, community leaders and others and ask them to help raise concerns about potentially deep cuts to public school funding.

"Member action now is critical as the House budget is taking its final shape over the next two weeks," McNeal said. "We must all work together to ensure that our state's young people continue to have the resources they need for a sound, basic education."