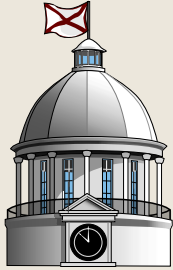


April 10, 2009



What the governor's education budget does

Despite many claims that the money given to the state from President Obama's recovery plan would be used to save all jobs, Governor Riley is asking the Legislature to guarantee programs in the state budget at the risk of costing 6,000 education employees their jobs.

Under Riley's budget, each school systems would have to apply to the State Department of Education to save jobs and the jobs would only be funded for two years by recovery money.

AEA opposes this plan to put programs over people.

Read more on page 2 about how much the governor's budget hurts employees just to guarantee programs.

The Capital Breaks

Legislative Alert

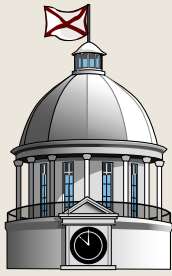
Governor's budget threatens 6,000 education jobs!

At risk

**The jobs of 6,000 teachers
and support professionals.**

**You must call your
state legislators now.**

**Tell legislators to vote to
guarantee education jobs
in the state budget.**



Legislative action of education interest

BILL TO ALLOW LPNS AS SCHOOL NURSES WITH RN SUPERVISION

(House Bill 47: Rep. Robert Bentley of Tuscaloosa)

AEA SUPPORTS HB 47

LAST ACTION: HB 47 received final passage in the Senate on April 9, and now goes to the governor for his signature or veto.

WHAT THE BILL DOES:

HB 47 will ease standards to allow LPNs to be hired in school systems as long as they are supervised by a registered nurse. The legislation is in response to a shortage of RNs available for school systems. The law will expand nursing care of students in many school systems.

AEA asks educators to take action today to prevent a disastrous loss of 6,000 teachers and support staff

In the face of mounting confusion over the jobs of thousands of teachers and support professionals, AEA is working on an alternative plan to quickly guarantee jobs left in doubt by Governor Riley's budget.

[AEA is asking everyone to call their legislators now. Tell them to guarantee the jobs of teachers and support professionals in a budget plan that AEA is offering. What you do today will determine the future of 6,000 Alabama citizens who teach and work in the state's public school system unless local systems use their funds in a certain way.](#)

Riley's budget, supported by State Superintendent Dr. Joe Morton, raises class sizes for k-6 by increasing divisors and jeopardizes the jobs of at least 1,160 teachers and more than 3,900 support professionals.

"Nobody wins in that plan. Students lose. School employees lose. Local schools lose. The Foundation Program loses," AEA's Dr. Paul Hubbert said. "AEA will come with a better plan for an education budget, and we call for every education employee, parents, and those who care for our public schools to call legislators to vote for people over programs."

Riley's budget also cuts other current expenditures for school systems and removes more than \$37 million from local transportation budgets, and puts a great number of jobs for teachers and support professionals at risk.

AEA has criticized information being released by the State Department of Education (SDE) that has caused general confusion among superintendents

and state legislators. SDE officials said recently there would be no layoffs because of the injection of over \$1 billion in aid over two years for education in the Obama stimulus package. Then officials reversed themselves and were quoted as saying "glitches" in the stimulus would lead to more than 1,000 less state-funded teaching positions. And the state superintendent confirmed that at least 3,900 support employees could be lost as well as more than 1,000 teachers unless local superintendents and boards choose to hire personnel with Title I money.

In fact, the Riley/Morton budget removes funding for teachers from the Foundation Program, forcing termination of teachers to support programs in the SDE. This method forces new federal funds to supplant state salaries that could have been paid with state money. This is a possible violation of federal regulations.

"The governor's budget is just too big of a gamble for the future of our personnel in our schools and the Foundation Program," said Hubbert. "What both the governor and Dr. Morton are asking is to put over 6,000 jobs on the line by moving them out of the Foundation Program and paying them with federal funds that supplant state funds. These jobs have normally been paid for from state not federal money that will disappear in two years along with the jobs."

["We are not going to let our schools take a step backward," said Hubbert. "Our students deserve better than returning to larger classes. We are not going to turn our back on our children, our teachers and support professionals, or our local school systems."](#)



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