



SBE Review

June 24, 2008 Special Called Meeting

The State Board of Education met Tuesday, June 24, 2008 to discuss the potential budget short fall for public schools. The issues discussed covered the whole public school spectrum, not just salary issues.

There is not a final state budget and no one is sure when there will be a final budget. There are great differences between Governor Easley's proposed budget, the House and the Senate budgets and now, the conference committee's budget.

A few issues that warrant attention regarding possible worse case scenarios; include the following public school services:

1. A reduction in ADM adjustments for alternative school settings, and at-risk student services.
2. Planning allotments provided to schools earlier, are over stated and adjustments will be necessary.
3. ABC Bonuses: there is currently \$70 million allotted for the bonuses, meaning there is a \$37 million shortfall. In the past, the DPI has had reserves to cover the full amount of the bonus. This year, there are no reserves, and therefore, educators may not be paid the full bonus amount.
4. The seven LEAs to receive the new comprehensive support due to the number of low performing schools, and not making AYP, may not be funded.
5. There may be a shortage of fuel dollars to support transportation of students. The DPI is estimating a \$48 million shortfall.
6. The DPI may have to hold back on some of the initial allotments to schools for positions.
7. Salaries for educators will not be at the amount the Governor's budget proposed; the DPI is not sure what the final salary increase will be for teachers.
8. Other issues on the table that will be watched carefully are: child nutrition, NC Teacher Academy, mentoring programs and More At Four.

NCAE members, please stay in touch via the NCAE web page and/or the Cyber Lobbying tools. When GR sends out an all call for your assistance, exercise your citizenship skills and contact your representatives. Public schools are the foundation of our great state, and the state of NC has always moved forward in regards to public schools. Now is not the time to sit back and wait to see what happens.

This special edition of the NCAE SBE Review is not to alarm you, but to inform you, to provide you with the whole picture, so you are aware of the dire straits our public school budget in and the need to stay informed.