

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, October 23, 2009

Contact: Kacie Kefgen

517-881-1368

**More Cuts to Classrooms as Budget Outlook Worsens**  
*Education Advocates Warn of Long-term Harm to State*

Yesterday, Governor Granholm notified the state's school districts that they would experience an additional \$127 per pupil cut as a result of recent revenue projections. This latest slash in funding is on top of the \$165 per pupil cut that was made last week due to the underfunded K-12 budget passed by the Legislature. For 39 school districts, yesterday's reduction adds to the \$119 to \$324 per pupil cut in funding they have historically received.

In all, schools are being forced to operate with a cut up to a \$616 per pupil compared to last year, despite rising costs to districts. For a classroom of 30 students, this cut amounts to nearly 9,000 fewer dollars to purchase books, desks, and computers. It also means fewer dollars to buy science lab equipment, operate tutoring programs and maintain school buses. Many very young children have already been shut out of school completely with early childhood programs closing across the state. Without major structural reform of Michigan's revenue system, the situation is likely to only worsen for next year.

"No business can operate efficiently and effectively without stable, predictable income. A school district is no different. These cuts will affect the quality of programming available to students," explained Iris K. Salters, president of the Michigan Education Association.

Unlike other cuts, funding reductions to schools will have lasting impacts.

"If a road isn't repaved because of cuts, that might mean more trips to the repair shop for drivers, explained Douglas Law, president of the Middle Cities Education Association. "If K-12 students lose academic opportunities, they may never get them back. They won't get a do-over of those 13 years of education."

While individual children will surely pay the consequences of these cuts, everyone in the state is likely to suffer the long-term impact of Michigan's divestment in public education.

"State leaders must understand that these cuts damage the state's economic recovery efforts. What business will locate in this state if it cannot find well educated people to hire?" asked Bob Howe, executive director of the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association.

There are a number of steps that state leaders can take to address the short- and long-term budget crisis in public education. The state's children and parents will wait to see how the Legislature decides to address the problem. One of two outcomes is certain: leaders will put their money where their mouths are and make education a top priority or they will continue to play political football with our state's future on the line.

Michigan Association of School  
Administrators  
Michigan Association of Secondary School  
Principals

Michigan Education Association  
Michigan Elementary and Middle School  
Principals Association  
Middle Cities Education Association