



Legislative and Agency Update

June 2009

Legislative and Governor's News

FY 2010 State Budget

On June 29, Governor Jon S. Corzine signed legislation adopting a \$29 billion budget for FY 2010 that is \$1.8 billion less than the first budget he signed four years ago. Despite the reduction in the FY 2010 budget, K-12 education funding was increased by \$276 million and represents 35% of the total budget. \$11,480.8 billion dollars is appropriated for school aid with an additional \$662.6 billion in school construction aid.

NJLA Report on Budget Reductions in FY 2010 Budget

The New Jersey Library Association reported that the state budget reduces funding for state and municipal library programs as follows:

- State Per Capita Aid -10% cut from \$7,973,000 to \$7,176,000
- Library Network Aid -10% cut from \$4,777,000 to \$4,299,000
- New Jersey Knowledge Initiative - 28% cut from \$2 million to \$1,449,000
- Virtual Library Aid - 10% cut from \$1,300,000 to \$1,170,000
- Total 12% cuts in library funding from FY09 to FY10
- NJ State Library Operational budget: \$4,872,000. NJ State Library employees will also take furlough days in FY10.

Legislation to Prohibit Subcontracting

A-4140 was introduced on June 22 and reviewed by the Assembly Education Committee on the same day. This bill prohibits a public school district or public college or university from entering into a subcontracting agreement which may affect the employment of employees in a collective bargaining unit during the term of a collective bargaining agreement covering those employees. The employer is permitted to enter into a subcontracting agreement for a period following the term of a current collective bargaining agreement under certain conditions following the expiration of the agreement.

The bill also makes certain actions of an employer regarding subcontracting, mandatory subjects of negotiations. Employees replaced or displaced because of subcontracting will be considered to be on a leave of absence and therefore retain seniority and recall rights.

Legislation to Allow Binding Arbitration in Employee Discipline Cases

A-4142 was also released from the Assembly Education Committee on June 22. This bill provides that the terms of a collectively negotiated agreement will supersede the terms of any individual contract between any public employer and any individual public employee whose position is within the bargaining unit covered by the collective agreement. For public school employees the bill:

- makes binding arbitration the terminal step for the review of disciplinary actions;
- provides that fines and suspensions levied under a contract or an arbitrator's award do not constitute a reduction in compensation for pension purposes; and
- extends binding arbitration and contractual grievance procedures to cover disputes over the withholding of increments.

The legislature has no committee meetings or sessions scheduled at this time.

Department of Education News

13 Non-operating School Districts Eliminated

Before the ink was dry on a new law to allow executive county superintendents to eliminate non-operating school districts and merge them into existing ones, Commissioner Lucille E. Davy announced that 13 of the 26 non-operating districts in the State have been eliminated effective July 1, 2009. The new law signed by the Governor on June 30 establishes procedures for merging the non-operating districts with neighboring receiving districts and provides for a 5-year transition plan to provide for representation on the receiving district's school board and school aid apportionment.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/news/2009/0701nonops.htm>

State Board of Education

Core Curriculum Content Standards

The State Board of Education adopted a resolution to approve revised Core Curriculum Content Standards in six areas: science, visual and performing arts, comprehensive health and physical education, technology, 21st century life and careers, and world languages. Local school districts must align their curricula to

the revised standards by September 2012. The Department of Education plans to propose revisions to the standards for social studies, mathematics, and language arts later this year. As the new standards are phased in, the state will transition from specific grade level exams in the content areas to end-of-course content exams. <http://www.nj.gov/education/aps/cccs/2009/>

New High School Graduation Requirements

After almost a full year of review, discussion, and public comment the Board adopted new, tougher high school graduation requirements in science, mathematics, and economics and financial literacy. The new high school graduation requirements include a total of 120 credits and the infusion of 21st century skills across all content areas. New course requirements will be phased in as follows:

- Three years of mathematics, including algebra I, effective with the 2008-09 ninth-grade class; geometry, beginning with the 2010-11 ninth grade class; and a third year of math that builds upon these two courses, beginning with incoming freshmen in 2012-13;
- Three years of lab science, including biology, effective with the 2008-09 ninth grade class; a choice among chemistry, physics or environmental science, beginning with incoming freshmen in 2010-11; and a third inquiry-based lab or technical science, beginning with incoming freshmen in 2012-13; and
- One half-year of economics and financial literacy, beginning with incoming freshmen in 2010-11.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap8.pdf>

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