



# Education Advocate Newsletter

January 2009

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- Support President Obama's Efforts to Repair Schools!

## HELP STOP CUTS TO EDUCATION! Email your legislators today

### STOP EDUCATION CUTS! EMAIL YOUR LEGISLATORS NOW!

The Governor's budget proposes over \$100 million to be cut from Maryland schools, including cutting \$31 million dollars from current funding to Baltimore City schools.

What \$31 million dollars means for City Schools:

- Increase in class size \* Fewer school staff: teachers, social workers, art, & after school programs are likely to be affected \* Less money to repair boilers and keep the heat on!

These cuts will affect Baltimore City more than some wealthier districts because of the larger number of at-risk students enrolled. Don't turn back the clock on the City Schools progress! The Bridge to Excellence or "Thornton" was passed to provide an adequate education to each child- tell your legislators not to change the Thornton law!

### ACTION 1: EMAIL YOUR LEGISLATORS

Please contact as many parents, advocates, students to ask them to email legislators to:

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! OPPOSE CUTS TO SCHOOLS!

### ACTION 2: LOBBY DAY FEB. 2

Join us in Annapolis on Monday, February 2nd to advocate for education funding. Please contact Frank Patinella or JaCina Stanton at 410.889.8550 for additional information. We will update you on additional lobby days throughout the legislative session.

## Support President Obama's Efforts to Repair Schools!

The condition of city school buildings is deplorable and inadequate, which negatively impacts student achievement and the retention of good teachers. Current city and state funding is grossly insufficient but President Obama's Economic Stimulus Plan could bring much needed funding to repair schools statewide, while creating many jobs. The plan is being developed as we speak, so TAKE ACTION NOW!

## Our Request for Obama's Economic Stimulus Plan

- \$20 billion minimum for school facilities; this could generate up to 250,000 jobs
- Allocated according to Title I; could bring \$90 million to city schools · Funds allocated directly to the largest and lowest-income districts; for high impact on jobs and stimulating the economy
- States must not supplant current funding to districts; all states must maintain current levels of school facility funding so that more Improvements can be done and for the creation of more jobs
- Flexibility and strict reporting to assess impact for future federal investments

We've made it easy for you! Take a quick moment to urge your federal legislators to support the repair of school facilities and get others to join us by sending this message and link to as many advocates, parents, and students! Contact Frank Patinella at 410.889.8550 x 123 for more information.

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