TEACHER LAYOFFS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

Table of Contents

Key Findings ........................................................................................................................................... 5
Reductions in Force .................................................................................................................................. 10
  Federal Report Claimed Recovery Aid Prevented 250,000 RIFs ...................................................... 10
  California ............................................................................................................................................... 11
  Mercury News Headline: More Than 23,000 Layoff Notices Issued to Teachers Statewide ........11
  In California, Nearly 22,000 Teachers Have Received Layoff Notices ............................................. 11
  In the Past Two Years, K-12 Funding Has been Cut by $18 Billion in CA, in 2009 Over
  16,000 Teachers Lost Jobs ................................................................................................................... 11
  Mr. Diablo School District Sent 350 Layoff Notices ........................................................................... 12
  Oakland Notified 47 Tenured Teachers and Counselors of Possible Layoffs; 226 Teachers
  and 89 Administrators Could be Transferred to Other Positions ...................................................... 13
  Little Lake City School District Cut Spending by Over 10 Percent Over the Past Year and
  Issued RIF Notices to 30 Classroom Teachers in March 2010 ............................................................ 13
  Pasadena Star-News HEADLINE: Pink Slips Rain Down on 426 Pasadena Area Teachers
  as State Deadline Hits ............................................................................................................................ 13
  Over 300 Teachers in Whittier-Area School Districts Received Pink Slips ........................................ 14
  In Ventura County, 525 Teachers Were Handed Layoff Notices in March ...................................... 15
  15 Teachers in Hemet School District to Lose Jobs, Remaining Teachers Face 4.35 Percent
  Pay Cut .................................................................................................................................................. 15
Illinois .................................................................................................................................................... 16
  Layoffs of School Personnel in Illinois Could Top 20,000 .................................................................. 16
  State Superintendent Said 13,000 Teachers and Staff Could be Laid Off, if Funding is Cut
  the Figure Could Grow to 30,000 ........................................................................................................ 16
  Chicago Public Schools are Targeting 3,200 Teachers and 880 Others for Layoffs; Elgin
  Proposing 1,079 Layoffs ....................................................................................................................... 16
  Cuts Will Hike Class Sizes, Combining Grade Levels, Cut Athletics and Student Activities
  Including Arts, Gifted Programs, Pre-School ......................................................................................... 17
  180 Teachers Laid Off in Illinois Community Unit School District 300 Due to Budget
  Constraints ............................................................................................................................................ 18
  Peoria District 150 Laid Off 290 Employees in Late March and Could Lay Off Between 200
  and 400 Staff Members Before the Coming School Year ................................................................. 19
  Harlem District 122 Laid off 90 Teachers So Far This Year ............................................................... 19
  Plainfield School Board Voted to Lay Off 52 Teachers, 159 Positions Expected to be
  Eliminated ............................................................................................................................................. 19
  Oswego School Board Laid Off 61 First Year Teachers .................................................................... 19
  Triad School District Cut 41 Teachers and Staff; Over 60 Percent of Non-Tenured Teachers
  were Let Go ........................................................................................................................................... 20
  District 16 in Glendale Heights Sent Notices to 52 of its 147 Teachers ............................................. 20
  East St. Louis Will Lay Off Nearly 300 Employees Including 134 Teachers ................................... 20
  Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 Laid Off 11 Teachers and 8 Teacher Aides.......... 20
Mercer County School District Eliminating 21 Positions Including Four Teachers ..........21
Granite City Schools to Lose 26 Positions ........................................................................21
Dupo School District 196 Cut 19 Teachers and 15 Support Staff .......................................21
Highland Community Unit School District 5 Announced 40 Layoffs of Teachers and Staff ........21
Edwardsville Schools Cut 60 Jobs Including 25 Teachers ......................................................22
Triad Schools Cut 34 Non-Tenured Teachers ......................................................................22
Quincy School Board to Release 78 Staff Members Including 38 Teachers .........................22
Bethalto Cut 65 Positions, Edwardsville Cut 60 Positions (25 Teachers), Alton Cut 48 Positions (29 Teachers) .................................................................................................................................22
Community Unit School District 300 Planned Additional Classroom Cuts on Top of 121 Teachers Released in March .................................................................................................................................22
Chicago Heights School District 170 Sent Pink Slips to 87 Nontenured Teachers ..............23
New York ...................................................................................................................................23
Gov. Patterson and State Senate Support Closing Budget Gap by Cutting $1.4 Billion in State School Aid Out of Next Year’s Budget, State Assembly Plan Could Potentially Restore Half of Cuts .........................................................................................................................23
Some Assembly Democrats Called on Teacher to Put Off Automatic Raises This Year to Avoid Layoffs ..............................................................................................................................................23
New York State Lawmakers Say School Cuts Are Not as Harsh As Advertised ..................24
Schools Chancellor Said State Budget Cuts Could Force New York City to Lay Off 8,500 Teachers ..................................................................................................................................................25
Buffalo Superintendent Said District Would be Forced to Lay Off 680 Staff Members if Gov. Paterson’s Proposed State Aid Cuts are Enacted ....................................................................................................................25
325 New York School Districts Plan for 4.1 Percent Reduction in Teacher Work Force ...26
Mohawk Central School District to Eliminate Nine Teaching Positions ................................26
Facing Layoffs, Utica Teachers to Discuss Contract With District ........................................27
Texas .............................................................................................................................................27
Fort Bend ISD in Houston Will Cut 470 Positions Including 195 Certified Teachers ..........27
Georgia .......................................................................................................................................28
DeKalb County Budget Includes 427 Layoffs, Seven Teacher Furlough Days and At Least Four School Closings .......................................................................................................................................28
Cobb County, GA Plan Could Force 6 Furlough Days for Teachers ......................................30
New Jersey ..................................................................................................................................30
Ninety-Three Percent of New Jersey School Boards Consider Layoffs ..............................30
Christie Administration Said 20 Percent of School District Reported Staff Wage Freezes or Reduction in Budget Plans .........................................................................................................................30
Local Union President Makes Concessions Worth $1 Million, But Still Faces 80 Layoffs .31
Students Staged a Walkout of Cliffside High School to Protest Plan to Cut 25 Teachers; District Considering Layoffs of 45 Staff ..................................................................................................................31
Governor’s Response to Student Walkout Was to Blame Union for Inciting Students; Called the Students “Pawns” and “Victims” ......................................................................................................................32
Camden School Board Approved Budget That Could Eliminate 94 Teachers ..................32
Woodbridge Superintendent Calling for 280 Layoffs Including 25 Teaching Positions Due to 33 Percent Drop in State Aid; Requested Salary Freeze from Teachers and Union Members ..............................................................................................................33
Pay Freeze Concession Would Save $2.6 Million Allowing District to Avoid Laying Off 150 People .........................................................................................................................33
New Jersey School Board Association Said 188 Districts Statewide are Discussing Reopening Contracts, 250 in Negotiations .................................................................34
North Carolina ........................................................................................................34
Charlotte Superintendent Plan Includes Steps Toward Laying Off About 600 Teachers ....34
Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board is Seeking Furloughs for Teachers to Avoid Layoffs .........................................................................................................................35
Connecticut ................................................................................................................35
Teacher Openings in Connecticut Shrank by 35 Percent From Fall 2008 to Fall 2009 ......35
Hartford Schools Preparing to Lay Off As Many As 92 Employees Including 49 Teachers 35
In Norwich, a Quarter of the District’s Teachers have been Notified that their Jobs are in Jeopardy .......................................................................................................................36
Wallingford Recommended 80 Layoffs, Bristol Plans to Eliminate 20 Jobs ..................36
Unions Making Concessions are on a District by District Basis with Some Accepting Furloughs .........................................................................................................................36
Arizona ......................................................................................................................36
Tempe School District Plans Rest on May Sales Tax Vote; Governing Board Already Approved Reduction in Force Notice in the Event the Measure Does Not Pass; Deficit Now Stands at $11.8 Million ................................................................................................37
Paradise Valley School District in Phoenix Would Lay Off 57 Teachers, Including Those on Hardship or Maternity Leave, if Sales Tax Increase Does Not Pass ........................................37
Flagstaff Unified School District Sent 450 RIF Letters to Employees Especially Those in Art, Music or Phys Ed or in the District for Three or Fewer Years .......................................37
New Mexico .............................................................................................................38
Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Predicts Layoffs Next Year Due to Budget Shortfall .........................................................................................................................38
Nevada .......................................................................................................................38
Labor Groups Unveil Agreements to Freeze Teacher Salaries and Take Furlough Days ....38
Nebraska ....................................................................................................................39
OPS to Eliminate 147 Teaching and Administrative Positions Due to Budget Crunch ....39
56 Part-Time Teachers Let Go From Omaha Public Schools ........................................39
Tennessee ..................................................................................................................39
Alabama ....................................................................................................................40
Huntsville School Board To Lay Off Nearly 200 Employees, Most Teachers ..............40
Washington .............................................................................................................40
Coalition of Seattle Community Groups Push for Changes in Seattle Public School Contract, Nine Proposals Include Performance-Based Layoffs ..................................................40
Louisiana ..................................................................................................................40
Louisiana Local School Systems Face Hundreds of Layoffs ......................................41
Terrebonne Public Schools to Lay Off 150 Workers to Cut Costs and Balance Budget ...41
Napoleonville, LA Laid Out Plan to Eliminate 97 Positions .........................................41
Massachusetts ..........................................................
Boston Superintendent Proposed Cutting 80 Custodial Positions .................................................42
Washington D.C. .................................................................................................................................42
D.C. Schools Chancellor Announced Over 380 Job Cuts in October 2009 to Close $44 Million Gap in 2010 Budget .................................................................................................................................42
School Budget Cuts Directly Forcing School Closures/Consolidations ........................................43
Detroit ..................................................................................................................................................43
DPS Financial Manager Plan Envisioned a Smaller District by Closing 45 More Schools in 2010; Total Closures Would be 140 Since 2005.................................................................43
DPS Planning a Force Reduction of 2,100 Next Year ........................................................................44
DPS Would Also Need $700 Million More in Bond Money for School Improvements ......44
Some Questioned Whether the Plan Violates State Law Because Manager Did Not Collaborate With or Consult the School Board on the Plan .................................................................45
Many Districts Studying Potential Effects of Combining Schools, Redrawing School Boundaries, or Closing Schools ......................................................................................................................45
Detroit Free Press Headline: Tensions Grow and Schools Plan More Cutbacks ..................45
Kansas City ........................................................................................................................................46
Kansas City School Board Voted to Close Half of the District’s Schools (29 of 61 Schools) on March 10 ........................................................................................................................................47
School Board’s Plan Includes 18 Elementary/Early Childhood Schools ........................................47
Problems Stem From a Historically Dysfunctional School Board ......................................................47
Kansas City Has Not Heeded Suggestions from National Analysts .................................................47
Closure Plan Calls for the Elimination of 700 Jobs .........................................................................48
Covington Was the Latest of Several Superintendents Brought in to Fix the School System .................................................................................................................................48
Support for Superintendent Has Become Central Issue in April 6 School Board Elections .48
School Board Set Up Buyout Plan for Teachers .................................................................................49
Virginia ..............................................................................................................................................49
Bedford County, VA: Superintendent’s Budget Proposal Recommended Closing Two Schools .........................................................................................................................49
New Jersey ........................................................................................................................................49
Camden School Board Approved Two School Closings ...............................................................49
New York ..........................................................................................................................................49
Troy, NY Discussing Closure of Elementary Schools to Save $2 Million .................................49
Indiana .................................................................................................................................................50
Adams County Considering Closing an Elementary School to Cut $880,000 from its Budget .................................................................................................................................50
Massachusetts ...................................................................................................................................50
No School Closings in Boston for Now but Superintendent Said “There Will be Schools That We Have to Close in the Future” ........................................................................50
Washington D.C. ...............................................................................................................................51
Three Schools Closed in 2008 Will Not be Reopened in the Near Future Due to Reduced Revenue .................................................................................................................................51
KEY FINDINGS

Reductions in Force

- On March 15th, the California state Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O’Connell announced that Education budget cuts prompted school districts to send out more than 23,000 pink slips, notifying teachers and other certificated employees they may not have jobs next year. At the news conference, he said 21,905 pink slips had gone out from districts, which had to meet a state-mandated Monday deadline to notify staff they may not have jobs next year but by that afternoon, the number of notices had swelled to 23,225, according to figures from the California Teachers Association. Pink slips were sent by 464 school districts statewide, including more than 4,100 in the greater Bay Area, the union said. Final layoff notices will be mailed in May, after districts have a better idea about the state budget for the 2010-11 school year.

- In Illinois, state education funding woes have triggered a tsunami of pink slips to thousands upon thousands of teachers and support staff in school districts statewide, with about 9,800 announced layoffs of teachers so far. Another 1,600 retiring teachers won’t be replaced. Total planned layoffs stand at more than 17,000 school personnel. And that’s with just 75 percent of districts responding to a survey sent by a coalition of education groups. When all is said and done, school layoffs statewide could top 20,000, the coalition warns.
  - Due to huge funding shortfalls from the state, Chicago Public Schools (owed the most money from the state: $255 million) is targeting 3,200 teachers and 880 others for layoffs. Northwest suburban Elgin, the second-largest district (owed $12 million) is proposing 1,079 layoffs.

- In New York, as state lawmakers struggle to close a projected $9 billion budget gap by the end of the month, school aid is emerging as the main battleground. Gov. David A. Paterson has proposed cutting $1.4 billion in state school aid out of next year’s budget, cuts that Democrats in the State Senate endorsed but the Assembly will probably restore half of the cuts.
  - A recent survey of 325 school districts found that schools are planning for an average 4.1 percent reduction in the teacher work force, or layoffs to about 6,300 teachers outside New York City, the Council of School Superintendents and School Boards Association said.
  - Schools Chancellor Joel Klein warned New York City schools that layoffs of 8,500 teachers are part of a doomsday scenario city officials have begun considering in the face of massive cuts from Albany.
  - The Buffalo Public Schools will be forced to lay off 680 staff members — or nearly 10 percent of its work force — if Gov. David A. Paterson’s proposed state aid cuts are enacted, School Superintendent James A. Williams said.
• Fort Bend ISD in Houston, TX is beginning to cut jobs as part of their effort to address a projected budget deficit of about $20 million. Out of a total of 9,500 full-time positions in FBISD, it was determined that 470 positions must be eliminated as part of the overall budget reduction plan, according to a statement from the school district. Of the 470, the district has identified 195 certified teaching positions along with 80 certified non-teaching professional positions, and 195 non-certified positions for reduction (which includes all other positions).

• In Georgia, the DeKalb County school board will vote on a budget for next year that balances the current projected deficit with at least 427 layoffs, seven teacher furlough days and at least four school closings -- but no tax hike.

• Mike Yaple with the New Jersey School Board Association said some districts have turned to desperate measures. “Ninety-three percent of school boards are looking at layoffs, but then when asked how many were looking at laying off teachers it was about 85 percent. So, it looks like it’s going to be hitting classrooms as well as the support staff,” Yaple says. “We saw two-thirds of school districts expect to cut sports and clubs. Thirty-two percent of school districts are looking at student activity fees.”

  o Gov. Christie reiterated his call for school district employees to freeze their wages to help spare jobs and programs. Districts that did, he said, would get some additional aid from Social Security and Medicare payroll-tax savings. Christie slammed teachers and their unions as failing to respond to his challenge. “Unfortunately, these figures illustrate the obvious: that the teachers’ unions overwhelmingly believe everyone else should share in the sacrifice, but they alone should be held harmless in the middle of this fiscal crisis,” Christie said in a statement. The NJEA said the budget called for shared sacrifice not just of teachers. Districts in which staff agree to wage freezes are in line to get additional aid amounting to 7.65 percent of the resulting wage savings on salaries up to $106,000.

• In New Jersey, the governor’s 10 percent cut in overall school spending – about $820 million – was distributed so that no district saw more than 5 percent of its total annual budget vanish. While Christie had told school districts to prepare for a 15 percent cut in state aid, many districts ended up seeing 100 percent of aid wiped out. Though Christie's budget proposal is not final and must be approved by the Democrat-controlled legislature by the end of June, school districts are using his aid figures as a guide when creating budgets that go up for a vote on April 20.

  o At Cliffside High School, students protested a plan to cut 25 teachers but the governor’s response to the student walkout was to blame the union for inciting students and called the students “pawns” and “victims.”
o Camden, struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools.

o In Woodbridge, the superintendent’s plan called for 280 layoffs including 25 teacher positions - most of the $12 million in cuts were made to compensate for a 33 percent drop in state aid. The superintendent said that if teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut.

o Frank Belluscio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, said a statewide survey has shown that 188 districts, out of 313 respondents, are discussing reopening contracts. More than 250 districts are in ongoing negotiations.

- In Charlotte, NC, employees of CMS administrative offices began getting layoff notices as the board authorized Superintendent Peter Gorman to cut about 46 central-office jobs, but Gorman has not yet given details about his proposed restructuring or an update on steps toward laying off about 600 teachers. The superintendent’s formal plan April 13, is expected to include up to $80 million in cuts from current spending.

- In Arizona, many local school budgets are waiting for a May referendum on a 1 percent sales tax before being finalized. Tempe’s school governing board already approved a reduction in force in the event the measure does not pass since the tax increase could reduce its current $11.8 million gap to $6 million. Paradise Valley Unified School District said it would have to lay off 57 teachers and 16 additional support staff if the tax fails to pass. The Flagstaff Unified School District has already sent out 454 reduction in force letters.

- The Connecticut Department of Education reported that the number of teacher openings dropped by nearly 35 percent from fall 2008, when there were 4,533, to fall 2009, when there were 2,957.

  o Hartford schools, facing a $15 million budget gap, are preparing to lay off as many as 92 employees, including 49 teachers. In Norwich, nearly a quarter of the district's teachers have been notified that their jobs are on the line. Wallingford officials have recommended 80 layoffs, more than 10 percent of the workforce. Stamford officials are talking about closing a middle school. Bristol plans to close an elementary school and eliminate more than 20 jobs.

- The Omaha Public School District mailed 225 certified letters to people who may not have their contracts renewed for next fall and had planned to eliminate 147 teaching and administrative positions.
School Budget Cuts Directly Forcing School Closures/Consolidations

- Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools, unveiled his plan to turn around the school system in March 2010 including closing 45 more schools this year. Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit's 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $219 million.

  - The closures are forced by predictions of continued enrollment loss with no clear end in sight. The trend is attributed to a declining birthrate, exodus of families from the city and competition from other schools. In all, the district expects to lose more than 30,000 students within five years, or a third of its population.

  - Bobb wouldn't say how many jobs would be lost under the plan, but acknowledged the district would need fewer principals, teachers and staff. The job losses would be part of an expected work force reduction of 2,100 next year.

- In March 2010, the Kansas City School Board approved a plan to shutter 29 of 61 schools as part of a plan to erase a projected $50 million budget shortfall. The plan also calls for the elimination of 700 of 3,000 jobs, including teaching positions.

  - Experts said that in the school board’s years of inaction is a cautionary tale for school districts everywhere. Students have been leaving the Kansas City public schools in droves. Close to 18,000 students exited to better suburban districts or charter schools in the last 10 years alone. The student enrollment is now 17,400 children, who are mostly black and impoverished.
REDUCTIONS IN FORCE

Federal Report Claimed Recovery Aid Prevented 250,000 RIFs

“Federal economic recovery aid has created or saved 250,000 education jobs, the Obama administration announced Monday, although states and school systems continue to face enormous fiscal pressures. The report issued by the White House and the Education Department does not address how many education jobs have been cut this year because of the recession, nor does it project how many are in jeopardy in the coming year… Monday's report suggests that without $67 billion in federal aid provided through Sept. 30 under the economic stimulus law, state and local budgets for public schools and higher education would be hemorrhaging. The report previews more detailed education jobs data that will be announced Oct. 30. The largest share of the $67 billion, about $35 billion, went straight to states to shore up teetering budgets, mainly for education. Another $22 billion bolstered special education instruction and programs for disadvantaged students. The rest was spent on college student aid and other programs.”

(Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

Stimulus Funding Accounted for 9 Percent of K-12 Spending in California, Indiana, Alabama and Oregon in the 2008-09 Fiscal Year

“The report estimates that stimulus funding accounted for 9 percent of state K-12 education spending in California, Indiana, Alabama and Oregon in the 2008-09 fiscal year. The portion for Illinois was 23 percent. In the District, Virginia and Maryland, the report found, stimulus aid accounted for a smaller share of regular K-12 spending -- ranging as high as 2 percent. About $30 billion in education aid from the stimulus law remains unspent, including $5 billion earmarked for school reform. By "jobs saved," the report means potential reductions in force that had been averted through restoration of funds. The report emphasizes that figures are preliminary. Jobs saved or created, it says, "include teachers, principals and support staff in elementary and secondary schools, and educational, administrative and support personnel in institutions of higher education."

Daniel Domenech, executive director of the American Association of School Administrators, said the federal aid backfilled state and local funding cuts. "It was mostly saving jobs, as opposed to creating new jobs," Domenech said. But he said larger average class sizes across the country showed that many jobs were not saved.”

(Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

NCSL Reported that 27 States are Forecasting Shortfalls for FY 2011

“From coast to coast, officials are warning of education funding troubles ahead. The National Conference of State Legislatures reports that 27 states are forecasting shortfalls for fiscal 2011 that total at least $61 billion, with five more states predicting unspecified budget shortages. Widespread state cutbacks would threaten a major source of school revenue. ‘You could be looking easily at another 24 months before states come out from under water,’ said David Quam, director of federal relations for the National Governors Association. This month, D.C. school officials laid off more than 380 teachers and other
personnel, citing a budget shortage. Fairfax County school officials said they are considering major cuts to fill a $176 million budget hole.” (Washington Post, October 20, 2009)

## CALIFORNIA

**Mercury News Headline: More Than 23,000 Layoff Notices Issued to Teachers Statewide**

“Education budget cuts have prompted school districts across the state to send out more than 23,000 pink slips, notifying teachers and other certificated employees they may not have jobs next year. In a morning news conference, state Superintendent for Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said 21,905 pink slips had gone out from districts, which had to meet a state-mandated Monday deadline to notify staff they may not have jobs next year… By Monday afternoon, the number of notices had swelled to 23,225, according to figures from the California Teachers Association, which represents 325,000 teachers. Pink slips were sent by 464 school districts statewide, including more than 4,100 in the greater Bay Area, the union said. These do not include notices given to probationary teachers who will not be permanently hired, said spokesman Mike Myslinski. Of those who received the notices, however, it's unknown how many will ultimately lose their jobs. Final layoff notices will be mailed in May, after districts have a better idea about the state budget for the 2010-11 school year.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

**In California, Nearly 22,000 Teachers Have Received Layoff Notices**

“Around North County (California), teachers are getting laid off by the hundreds as public school districts struggle with multimillion-dollar deficits. Statewide, nearly 22,000 teachers have received notices that they could be laid off at the end of the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The state requires districts to notify teachers by March 15 that they could be laid off in the coming year. Final decisions must be made by May 15.” (San Diego Tribune, March 21, 2010)

Here is a roundup of tentative teacher layoffs in several districts around North County: In Cardiff School District, the district issued tentative layoff notices to three tenured teachers. Four temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Del Mar Union School District, the district issued 45 tentative layoff notices- 44 tenured teachers and one administrator. Nineteen temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Encinitas Union School District, the district issued 22 tentative layoff notices- 17 tenured teachers and five probationary teachers. Eight temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Escondido Elementary School District, the district issued tentative layoff notices to 77 tenured teachers. Thirty to 40 teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Oceanside Unified School District, the district issued 118 tentative layoff notices- 116 tenured teachers and two probationary teachers. Eighty-two temporary
teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Poway Unified School District, the district issued 130 tentative layoff notices - 97 tenured teachers, 27 probationary teachers, three counselors, one psychologist and two administrators. Sixty temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In San Marcos Unified School District, the district issued 40 tentative layoff notices - 29 tenured teachers and 11 probationary teachers. One hundred thirty-two temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. In Vista Unified School District, the district issued 20 tentative layoff notices - 13 tenured teachers and seven probationary teachers. Sixty-two temporary teachers on one-year contracts were released. More than 150 teaching positions in all were eliminated. Ninety-seven teachers signed up for an early-retirement incentive program, which helped lower the number of teachers who received tentative layoff notices.” (San Diego Tribune, March 21, 2010)

In the Past Two Years, K-12 Funding Has been Cut by $18 Billion in CA, in 2009 Over 16,000 Teachers Lost Jobs

“Last year, more than 16,000 teachers lost their jobs. In the past two years, about 10,000 classified school employees such as secretaries and custodians have been let go as public education funding for K-14 schools in California has been cut by about $18 billion, according to the state Department of Education.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

16,000 California Teachers Lost Jobs Due to Budget Cuts Last Year

“California public schools have lost about $17 billion from what they could have normally expected from the state over the past two years. About 16,000 teachers lost their jobs due to budget cuts last year, state officials said. In January, the governor proposed cutting an additional $2.4 billion. (Ventura County Star, April 6, 2010)

Mr. Diablo School District Sent 350 Layoff Notices

“The Concord-based Mt. Diablo school district sent out about 350 preliminary layoff notices to teachers, librarians and other certificated staff, said Gail Isserman, assistant superintendent for personnel services. This includes part-time people who work in about 200 full-time equivalent jobs. Some of the pink slips were issued to people whose jobs have not yet been eliminated by the board, but may be through negotiations or future cuts. These include music teachers and librarians, she said.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

Union President Said District Laid Off 200 Teachers Last Year After Sending Out 705 Preliminary Pink Slips

“Mike Noce, president of the Mt. Diablo teachers’ union, said the district laid off 200 teachers last year after sending out 705 preliminary pink slips. He plans to survey teachers in the next few weeks regarding possible concessions to their contract, which must be renegotiated now that the district has asked to bargain salaries, benefits, work hours and class sizes. ‘We're going to have to come up with new proposals,’ he said. ‘We have to negotiate a lot of things, and we have to get our members’ input. I don't know if
they're going to go along with eliminating retirement benefits, elementary prep time or raising class sizes.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

Oakland Notified 47 Tenured Teachers and Counselors of Possible Layoffs; 226 Teachers and 89 Administrators Could be Transferred to Other Positions

“In Oakland, about 47 tenured teachers and counselors received notices of possible layoffs this year — in most cases, because they did not get their mandated certifications to teach English learners, said spokesman Troy Flint. Oakland did not send out more notices in part because of the high rate of staff turnover, which is about 14 percent. Still, 226 Oakland teachers and 89 administrators might be transferred to other positions because at least a portion of their salaries comes from "categorical" funds — special-purpose state grant money that might not be available next year. Those teachers are guaranteed employment as long as they have tenure; otherwise they might lose their jobs. And 47 untenured and temporary teachers were told they won't be returning in the fall, decisions the school board may later rescind.” (Mercury News, March 16, 2010)

Little Lake City School District Cut Spending by Over 10 Percent Over the Past Year and Issued RIF Notices to 30 Classroom Teachers in March 2010

In March 2010, Philip Perez, superintendent of Little Lake City School District, wrote an op-ed about the difficulty of RIF’s in his California district. “The Little Lake City School District, like every other school district in the state, is battling to maintain instructional programs for our students. Over the last 12 months, we have been required to find ways to reduce our spending by more than 10 percent. Although the initial rounds of cuts were made in areas that did not directly affect students, it is no longer possible to cut around the classroom. This month, the school district issued Reduction in Force (RIF) notices to 30 classroom teachers whose positions will be eliminated in the coming school year. The majority of these positions are primary teaching positions, but the impact has been felt at all levels of the district due to the complex rules governing reductions of this type.” (Whittier Daily News op-ed, March 28, 2010)

Pasadena Star-News HEADLINE: Pink Slips Rain Down on 426 Pasadena Area Teachers as State Deadline Hits

“A total of 426 teachers in the Pasadena area received pink slips Monday as the state deadline for reduction in force notices arrived. Teachers in Pasadena, Alhambra, South Pasadena, San Marino, Monrovia and Duarte all received layoff notices. No teachers will be laid off in Arcadia. The number could be slightly higher, but Temple City school officials did not respond to repeated requests for information about potential layoffs there. Pasadena Unified led the way, sending layoff notices to 164 educators in an effort to save the district more than $15 million, officials said. The cuts come as the district is facing a $23 million budget deficit due to state cuts in education and declining enrollment. ‘We are saddened that we’ve had to issue layoff notices, and this process is painful for all concerned,’ said Shelly James, chief human resources officer
for Pasadena Unified. ‘We are reacting to the budget crisis imposed upon us by Sacramento. Our hearts go out to all the impacted employees.’ Officials at each district said layoffs would help balance their respective budgets in the face of a state fiscal crisis that has taken its toll on public education. Final notice for teachers who will not be brought back in the fall will be sent to teachers by May 15.” (Pasadena Star-News, March 15, 2010)

Other potential cuts will are looming in:
-- Monrovia Unified School District, which handed layoff notices to more than 67 teachers.
-- Duarte Unified School District put 37 teachers on notice.
-- South Pasadena Unified School District sent layoff notices to nearly 15 percent of its staff, exactly 41 teachers.
-- San Gabriel Unified School District sent 45 certificated staff members layoff notices. Included in the potential cuts are one assistant principal and a reduction two other assistant principals' hours, district officials said.

**Associated Superintendent Said Layoffs Were Driven By Elimination of Class Size Reduction and Slight Declining Enrollment**

“The layoffs are being driven by the elimination of class size reduction and slight declining enrollment in our K through 12 program,” said Debby Collins, associate superintendent for human resources at Monrovia Unified. The Monrovia district also ended class size reduction as the state budget forecast began to look grim in early 2010. The move could ultimately cost the district between 16 and 20 kindergarten through 12th grade teachers, Collins said. Duarte Unified School District hoped its planned cuts would balance the district budget, said Wendy Wright, Duarte Unified’s assistant superintendent for education services. "On Jan. 15, when the state came out with the new budget, we had to cut another $1 million from our budget," she said explaining the layoffs. In South Pasadena, as with Pasadena Unified, the planned layoffs could keep South Pasadena public schools fiscally afloat, Superintendent Joel Shapiro told the Star-News in early March. San Marino Unified School District’s planned cuts represent one-third of its certificated staff. Despite more than $1000 in annual parcel taxes on each property in the city, the district was faced with a $5 million deficit without the layoffs, according to district officials. As teachers open layoff notices and class sizes swell in many school district in the San Gabriel Valley, Alhambra Unified School District won't make cuts to elementary, middle and high school teaching staff, Superintendent Donna Perez told the Star-News March 12. The district made its cuts to the adult education program cutting 29 teachers and effectively eliminating the program, she said. Arcadia Unified School District was the lone district that avoided any teacher layoffs, according to district officials.” (Pasadena Star-News, March 15, 2010)

**Over 300 Teachers in Whittier-Area School Districts Received Pink Slips**
More than 300 temporary and tenured teachers at seven Whittier-area school districts received notice Monday they may be out of a job this fall. That's because $2.5 billion in state cuts to education proposed for the 2010-11 fiscal year forced the districts into making deep staffing cuts. The 20,000-student Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District sent out the largest number of teacher layoff notices. The Reduction In Force (RIF) notices went to 145 certificated employees. Districts had until Monday to notify certificated employees - teachers, counselors, nurses, administrators - they could be laid off for the 2010-11 school year. Final layoff notices must go out by May 15.

Other area districts also sent out notices, including:
- El Rancho Unified, which mailed out 65 layoff notices;
- Little Lake City: which notified 37 employees;
- Los Nietos SD sent notices to 27 employees;
- South Whittier SD notified 18 employees;
- Whittier City SD, which sent out about 46 layoff notices;
- and Whittier Union High School District, which informed eight employees of potential layoffs.”

(Whittier Daily News, March 15, 2010)

In Ventura County, 525 Teachers Were Handed Layoff Notices in March

“Facing another round of deep state funding cuts, California school districts issued pink slips to thousands of teachers this year — a situation that state officials warn could lead to a shortage of qualified teachers. Locally, 525 teachers were handed layoff notices in March, informing them they could be out of work at the end of the school year. ‘This is leading to fewer beginning teachers staying in the profession and fewer candidates entering teacher preparation programs. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of educators will retire within the next decade,’ said state schools chief Jack O’Connell in a statement released Tuesday. ‘All these factors are contributing to a significant future teacher shortage in California,’ he said. ‘In California, because of the layoffs, we are going to have a large pool of fully-trained, fully-credentialed teachers who are not working in the field of education,’ said Paula Lovo, executive director of the Ventura County Office of Education’s Teacher Support Services.”

(Ventura County Star, April 6, 2010)

15 Teachers in Hemet School District to Lose Jobs, Remaining Teachers Face 4.35 Percent Pay Cut

“The Hemet teachers union and the school district have reached a tentative contract agreement that will result in up to 15 teachers losing their jobs and five days being shaved from each of the next two school years. The district had sought to cut about $5 million in teacher pay as part of an attempt to eliminate $19.7 million in spending before the 2010-11 school year due to the state's budget crisis. The district had initially proposed cutting pay by 7 percent. The teachers union called on the district to reduce what it termed non-core programs and the benefits received by the top administrators. The deal calls for two furlough days this year and eight in each of the next two years. The eight will consist of five fewer instruction days, two fewer days to prepare for the school year, and one more day on which students would not have been present. Union President Jerry Hall said the unpaid days amount to a 4.35 percent pay cut. (Press-Enterprise, April 6, 2010)
Glendale School District Expects to Cut Up To 105 Jobs

“Glendale school district teachers are anticipating the results of the final seniority rankings, with teachers high on the list being more likely to lose their jobs. The list, due out this week, is expected to range from one to 105, down from a possible 112 teachers who were notified they could be let go, officials said. District administrators held a lottery Wednesday, the last step in 12 rounds of tiebreaking, to determine seniority. Each round rewarded teachers with points for training and credentials in subjects like foreign language, math, nursing, English and diversity. Points were also awarded for graduate degrees and specialization. District officials project an $18.5-million deficit in 2011-12 and have sought concessions from employee groups to offset state cuts to education. Officials project a more than $50-million deficit in 2012-13, which cannot be offset without laying off teachers, officials said.” (Glendale News Press, April 4, 2010)

ILLINOIS

Layoffs of School Personnel in Illinois Could Top 20,000

“In recent weeks, state education funding woes have triggered a tsunami of pink slips to thousands upon thousands of teachers and support staff in school districts statewide, with about 9,800 announced layoffs of teachers so far. Another 1,600 retiring teachers won't be replaced. Total planned layoffs stand at more than 17,000 school personnel. And that's with just 75 percent of districts responding to a survey sent by a coalition of education groups. When all is said and done, school layoffs statewide could top 20,000, the coalition warns. ‘What looms this school year is devastating for all of Illinois. It's going to significantly diminish the quality of education throughout the state,’ said Charlie McBarron, spokesman for the Illinois Education Association. ‘And in an economic crisis, the worst thing you can do is put thousands and thousands of people into unemployment. The General Assembly has to do something significant. They've got to do it now.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

State Superintendent Said 13,000 Teachers and Staff Could be Laid Off, if Funding is Cut the Figure Could Grow to 30,000

“According to State Superintendent Christopher Koch, at least 13,000 teachers and others will be laid off from their jobs in schools across the state. If education funding from the state is cut, he said, that figure could grow to 30,000.” (Chicago Daily Herald, March 22, 2010)

Chicago Public Schools are Targeting 3,200 Teachers and 880 Others for Layoffs; Elgin Proposing 1,079 Layoffs

“Facing a void of aid from a cash-strapped state government woefully behind on paying its 2009-2010 bills -- and eyeing further budget cuts in 2010-2011 -- districts such as the Chicago Public
Schools are drastically plugging holes that may only get bigger. By law, the districts must inform staff of proposed layoffs for next year in the spring. CPS is owed the most money from the state: $255 million. CPS is targeting 3,200 teachers and 880 others for layoffs. Northwest suburban Elgin, the second-largest district -- owed $12 million -- is proposing 1,079 layoffs.” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

**School Layoffs Go Beyond Poor Districts: Park Ridge to Ax 75 Teachers, Evanston-Skokie to Lay Off 29 Teachers, Naperville to Lay Off 145 Staff**

“And as federal stimulus dollars dry up, only an infusion of state cash -- such as through a state income tax increase urged by education groups and Gov. Quinn -- would prevent the cuts. It's not just traditionally poor districts jettisoning staff and programs. North suburban Park Ridge’s Maine Township High School District 207, for example, is axing 75 teachers; Evanston-Skokie School District 65 plans to lay off 29 teachers. Naperville's Indian Prairie School District 204 has targeted 145 staff. ‘We keep looking at our immediate crisis, and it is a crisis, but there is a bigger issue with our school funding formula,’ said Herman Brewer, acting president and CEO of the Chicago Urban League, which has long condemned the inequities of a school finance system based on property taxes. ‘These folks who have known nothing but prosperity are now in shock because all of a sudden the crisis they have generally associated with poor communities -- with the city of Chicago -- has hit them,’ Brewer said. ‘Our funding formula has created disparities so acute, people are starting to see it now.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

**Cuts Will Hike Class Sizes, Combining Grade Levels, Cut Athletics and Student Activities Including Arts, Gifted Programs, Pre-School**

“The red ink bleeding districts of teachers will also burden those left with more students in each class. CPS would hike class sizes as high as 37 students; west suburban Cary Elementary School District 26 would increase classes to 33, and Kankakee School District 111 would go as high as 30. Along similar lines, Plainfield's Community Consolidated School District 202 is eyeing multi-age classrooms combining two grades. But the problems won't be limited to job losses and less instruction time in cramped classrooms. ‘The situation is far worse when we factor in elimination and reduction of hundreds of programs in sports and music and school activities,’ said Brent Clark, executive director of the Illinois Association of School Administrators. Indeed, districts such as west suburban Morton High School District 201 are axing athletics and student activities. CPS has targeted non-varsity sports. Elgin has cut teams and shut down swimming pools. Other districts, like Queen Bee District 16 in southwest suburban Glendale Heights and Somonauk Community Unit School District 432 in the south suburbs, have wiped out art and music programs. Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202 is getting rid of band for fifth-graders. In Cary, it's gifted programs. In Kankakee, bilingual ed and reading programs will go. And CPS is taking the knife to pre-school. ‘It's really ugly out there right now,’ said Lisa Scruggs of Jenner & Block, lead attorney on a civil rights lawsuit the Urban League filed last year, charging the school funding system is discriminatory. Most funds come from local property taxes; only 28 percent come from the state. ‘You're guaranteeing failure when you make these kinds of choices.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)
Some Districts Have Appealed to Labor Unions to Avoid Cuts

“Some districts have averted draconian cuts through successful appeals to labor unions. In Gurnee, teachers agreed to freeze compensation for some positions to save 26 jobs. Teachers in south suburban Homewood School District 153 and southwest suburban Wheaton-Warrenville Unit District 200 also made concessions. The Chicago Teachers Union, however, refuses to reopen its contract to help fill a projected $700 million deficit. And Maine Township teachers rejected concessions that would have saved 45 jobs.

Students and Parents Have Protested Cut and Education Groups Urged a Massive Onslaught on State Legislators

“Students and parents haven’t taken the cuts lying down, launching protests at schools from Chicago to Glendale Heights. On Friday, students at north suburban Waukegan High staged a walkout. Waukegan Community School District 60 is owed $6.8 million from the state and is laying off 560 staff. Parents must do more, say education groups urging a massive onslaught on state legislators. ‘There’s no question that in Chicago, in Elgin, in East St. Louis, in Thornton, minorities are more severely impacted by the cuts that are taking place,’ said Scruggs, who expects to take the suit to trial this fall. ‘The New Triers of the world have reserves they can dip into to make sure kids continue to get services. Too many districts don’t. It comes back to the funding formula.’” (Chicago Sun-Times, March 28, 2010)

180 Teachers Laid Off in Illinois Community Unit School District 300 Due to Budget Constraints

“The Community Unit School District 300 Board of Education laid off 27 more teachers at a special meeting Monday. The school board narrowly voted to cut some third- and fourth-year, part-time or hard-to-fill teachers, based on what they are certified to teach and what the district’s projected needs are in the coming school year. Monday’s layoffs brings District 300's total reductions to the coming school year's budget to about $10 million, pending union negotiations. That includes about $3.48 million in teacher layoffs alone, according to Chief Financial Officer Cheryl Crates. It also brings to 180 the total number of teachers released by the school district because of those budget constraints. The school board narrowly voted last month to release 153 teachers. That included all 121 first- and second-year teachers not in positions considered hard to fill, cut for budgetary reasons alone. Another six preschool teachers were let go in case preschool enrollment drops off in the 2010-11 school year because of proposed cuts to preschool transportation, others for performance issues or resignations. All those cuts come as the state owes District 300 about $12 million in categorical funding, and Gov. Pat Quinn has proposed cutting education spending 25 percent in the 2010-11 school year.” (The Courier-News, April 6, 2010)

Caps on District 300 Class Sizes Will Jump About Five Students
“With 129 fewer teachers in the next school year, the district said caps on class sizes will jump about five students in kindergarten through fifth grade -- from 28 to 32 this year, to 33 to 37 next year. Middle school classes will rise to at least 33 students, with physical education classes at 38, minimum. And not only will high school class sizes increase, but also those schools will cut some electives based on student interest.” (The Courier-News, April 6, 2010)

Peoria District 150 Laid Off 290 Employees in Late March and Could Lay Off Between 200 and 400 Staff Members Before the Coming School Year

“Norm Durflinger serves as superintendent of Peoria School District 150, which handles 14,000 students along with 1,200 teachers and 3,000 staff members. Durflinger said the district laid off 290 employees last week and may lay off between 200 and 400 staff members before the coming school year. Only half of those laid off would be rehired if the district can afford it. Durflinger said he worries students will not get enough individual attention without as many teachers in the schools. ‘The bottom line is the individual, as much individual attention as we can give to students, is going to be decreased and that always affects learning,’ Durflinger said.” (Illinois Statehouse News, April 6, 2010)

Harlem District 122 Laid off 90 Teachers So Far This Year

“Near Rockford, Harlem School District 122 has had to lay off about 90 teachers so far this year, school board president Sandi Johnson said. The district planned for cuts, Johnson said, but in a district with 8,000 students, fewer teachers will be a challenge. The only silver lining Johnson sees is the statewide school cuts will bring more attention to the needs of school districts. ‘What I am hoping is that the impact it will have will be statewide, and it will maybe open people’s eyes up about what’s happening at the state level,’ Johnson said.” (Illinois Statehouse News, April 6, 2010)

Plainfield School Board Voted to Lay Off 52 Teachers, 159 Positions Expected to be Eliminated

“Before Plainfield School Board voted to lay-off 52 teachers last week, a group of Aux Sable Middle School students begged for their choir teacher's job… Out of the 52 teachers, four were in their third year of teaching and would have become tenured at the end of this school year. The layoffs are part of the district's deficit reduction plan to cut about $22 million. In total, 159 positions are expected to be eliminated The personnel cuts comprise about $7.8 million or about 35 percent of the $22 million in cuts. Despite the pleas, the board approved the 52 teacher layoffs.” (Plainfield Sun, April 2, 2010)

Oswego School Board Laid Off 61 First Year Teachers

“Sixty-one first-year teachers will receive dismissal notices Tuesday from the Oswego school district. The Oswego School Board voted Monday to pass the second phase of its deficit-
reduction plan, which includes the layoffs. The district faces an estimated budget shortfall of $12.6 million. The board passed the first phase of its cost-savings plan earlier this month. That cut about one-third of the district's support personnel.” (Oswego ABC affiliate WLS, March 30, 2010)

**Triad School District Cut 41 Teachers and Staff; Over 60 Percent of Non-Tenured Teachers were Let Go**

“The state’s funding crisis hit the Triad School District last week as the school board cut 41 teachers and staff to make up for its $3 million budget shortfall. Overall, 60 percent of non-tenured teachers (first year through fourth year) were let go, including 34 teachers, five part-time certified staff members and two part-time support staff. In addition, the board voted not to renew 27 assistant coach, department chair and club sponsor positions, though most of these employees will retain their teaching positions. Schools are required to notify teachers 45 days before the end of the school year that teachers will not be coming back. Triad officials said they will rehire teachers and staff based on need as soon as they are financially able.” (Belleville News Democrat, April 1, 2010)

**District 16 in Glendale Heights Sent Notices to 52 of its 147 Teachers**

“A final decision on a list of proposed budget cuts hasn't been made. Still, District 16 had a deadline to inform 32 nontenured and 20 tenured teachers that they were being let go because of a 90-day notice requirement. Superintendent Victoria Tabbert said the possibility of losing 52 of Queen Bee's 147 certified teachers is ‘an enormous hit to the district.’ She said the hope is to bring back as many of the teachers in the fall as possible. ‘We will save every job that we could save,’ Tabbert said. ‘But we have to know what kind of money we have. We can't just guess. And we can't just hope. There is no indication from the state that any dollars are actually definite.’” (Daily Herald, March 26, 2010)

**East St. Louis Will Lay Off Nearly 300 Employees Including 134 Teachers**

“Hundreds of East St. Louis school employees will be laid off next year, including more than 130 teachers, officials said. The cuts will affect nearly 300 employees in District 189, including 134 teachers along with administrators, social workers and counselors. The district is the largest employer in East St. Louis, one of the nation’s poorest cities, and serves more than 8,000 students. The state owes the district as much as $6 million. East St. Louis Superintendent Theresa Saunders said school leaders ‘can’t do what we can’t pay for.’ Some positions will be cut by early retirement, and all administrative salaries will be frozen for next year.” (Associated Press, March 28, 2010)

**Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124 Laid Off 11 Teachers and 8 Teacher Aides**
“Evergreen Park Elementary School District 124, faced with declining enrollment and lack of state funding, is laying off 11 certified teachers and eight teacher aides for the 2010-11 school year. The layoffs, including six special-education teachers, will save the district $844,133 next year but fall short of covering the decrease in revenue the district had expected to get from the state for the coming year, Superintendent Diane Cody wrote in a letter to district parents. As a result of Illinois' budget crisis, the state is behind by $723,000 in payments to the district, district officials noted. Meanwhile, the district has seen a drop in students to 1,878 in 2009 from a high of 2,094 in 2003, according to Illinois State Board of Education figures. Despite the decline, district staffing has increased over the years, Cody noted. The teacher layoffs, as a result, will achieve a better alignment with enrollment, she said.” (Chicago Tribune, April 2, 2010)

Mercer County School District Eliminating 21 Positions Including Four Teachers

“The Mercer County School District is moving forward with a plan to eliminate 21 positions. The Unit 404 Board of Education made the move this week mainly because of declining revenues from the state of Illinois. ‘The district is having to respond to the state’s financial woes,’ Mercer County Superintendent Alan Boucher said. ‘The board has the intention of cutting $1.2 million from the general budget.’ The staff cuts amount to $583,000 meaning the district still has to chop more than $600,000 from its budget heading into next school year. ‘Some of that will be through supplies and materials, athletics and capital outlay,’ Boucher said. Of the 21 positions being eliminated, five are through retirements and one is through resignation. “So, there is 16 people losing their jobs,” Boucher said. ‘Four of those would be teachers, and 12 would be support staff. The board with a heavy heart had to make those decisions.’ Mercer County, a first-year consolidation between the former Aledo and Westmer school districts, is owed more than $430,000 from the state.” (Quad City Times, March 26, 2010)

Granite City Schools to Lose 26 Positions

“Four teachers and 13 staff members from Granite City schools will lose their jobs in the latest round of school cuts. Joined by nine positions that will not be replaced -- eight retiring teachers and one open administrative position -- the district will lose a total of 26 positions. The cuts that will shave about $1.7 million from the Granite City District 9 budget were approved Tuesday at the Board of Education meeting, said Superintendent Harry Briggs.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Dupo School District 196 Cut 19 Teachers and 15 Support Staff

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Dupo School District 196, which cut 19 full-time teacher jobs and 15 support staff jobs Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

Highland Community Unit School District 5 Announced 40 Layoffs of Teachers and Staff

21
“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Highland Community Unit School District 5, which announced 40 layoffs of teachers and staff Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

**Edwardsville Schools Cut 60 Jobs Including 25 Teachers**

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Edwardsville schools, which cut 60 jobs, including 25 teachers Monday.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

**Triad Schools Cut 34 Non-Tenured Teachers**

“In other school districts, cuts were also approved this week as a result of uncertainty about state money, including… Triad schools, which cut 34 non-tenured teachers Monday and might need to cut more costs depending on what and when the state finally pays.” (Belleville News Democrat, March 25, 2010)

**Quincy School Board to Release 78 Staff Members Including 38 Teachers**

“The Quincy School Board voted 7-0 Wednesday night to release 78 personnel members, including 28 full-time teachers and 10 part-time teachers, for economic reasons as part of a plan to cut $4 million from its budget next year. A three-hour meeting ended at approximately 10 p.m., and 30 minutes later, the board reconvened after executive session to make the vote. A special vote was taken to release Erika Lovelace, cafeteria coordinator at Quincy High School and wife of Board member Curtis Lovelace. The board voted 6-0 with Lovelace abstaining. The board voted 6-0 not to renew contracts of non-final-year probationary teachers and final year probationary teachers for economic reasons as part of a plan to cut $3.8 million from its budget next year. The board also voted 6-0 to eliminate part-time and hourly certified and educational support personnel… The board also voted 5-0 to honorably dismiss educational support personnel for economic reasons.” (Quincy Herald-Whig, March 24, 2010)

**Bethalto Cut 65 Positions, Edwardsville Cut 60 Positions (25 Teachers), Alton Cut 48 Positions (29 Teachers)**

“Under state law, districts must notify teachers in the spring if they will not have a job when the new school year begins. That deadline has led to pink slips for teachers in many districts, including Alton, Belleville, Bethalto, Edwardsville and Roxana. More could be coming in the next few weeks at other schools… Bethalto cut 65 positions; Edwardsville, 60, including 25 teachers; and Alton, 48, including 29 teachers.” (St. Louis Post-Dispatch, March 25, 2010)

**Community Unit School District 300 Planned Additional Classroom Cuts on Top of 121 Teachers Released in March**
“With state funding for the upcoming school year still uncertain, Community Unit School District 300 said Tuesday it plans to lay off additional teachers and 10 district administrators. ‘It's frustrating, but the numbers keep changing,’ Superintendent Kenneth Arndt said. ‘We're caught between a rock and a hard place.’ The school board will hold a special meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday to consider cutting 10 administrative positions. The meeting will be at the district’s administration center, 300 Cleveland Ave. Those positions all are at the high school and central office levels, according to Arndt. The classroom cuts would come on top of 121 teachers released for budgetary reasons by the school board earlier this month. In February, the board also approved more than 20 layoffs, including elementary social workers, psychologists and media staff; high school staff, based on student enrollment in elective courses; kindergarten music and physical education staff; and custodians. Those were part of about $4.6 million in cuts to the district’s 2010-11 budget proposed by the superintendent.”  

(Courier-News, March 24, 2010)

Chicago Heights School District 170 Sent Pink Slips to 87 Nontenured Teachers

“Thousands of school employees added pink to their wardrobes Friday to protest a tidal wave of teacher layoffs sweeping the state. Hundreds of pink slips are landing in mailboxes of mostly nontenured teachers in the Southland, including 87 nontenured teachers in Chicago Heights School District 170...”  

(Southtown Star, March 21, 2010)

NEW YORK

Gov. Patterson and State Senate Support Closing Budget Gap by Cutting $1.4 Billion in State School Aid Out of Next Year’s Budget, State Assembly Plan Could Potentially Restore Half of Cuts

“As state lawmakers struggle to close a projected $9 billion budget gap by the end of the month, school aid is emerging as the main battleground. Gov. David A. Paterson has proposed cutting $1.4 billion in state school aid out of next year’s budget, cuts that Democrats in the State Senate endorsed on Monday. The Democratic-controlled State Assembly, however, is balking at those cuts, which some lawmakers in the chamber say would go too far and cripple schools. On Wednesday, Assembly lawmakers are likely to unveil their own budget resolution, one that several said would restore perhaps half of Mr. Paterson’s cuts, though the exact amount had not been finalized.”  

(New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

Some Assembly Democrats Called on Teacher to Put Off Automatic Raises This Year to Avoid Layoffs

“But a few Assembly Democrats have another idea. Teachers should consider putting off their automatic raises this year, and so avoid layoffs, three Democrats said in a letter sent to the state teachers’ union on Tuesday. ‘Staff salaries are the single largest fixed cost in every school budget,’ the lawmakers — Sam Hoyt of Buffalo, Ginny Fields of Suffolk County and Michael Benjamin of the Bronx — wrote. At a time when many people in the private sector have had..."
their earnings drop significantly, they argue, public sector employees should give back something, too. By voluntarily postponing automatic raises, the lawmakers estimated, the teachers could save school districts just over $1 billion, ‘nearly canceling the worst impacts of the proposed budget cuts.’” (New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

New York State United Teachers President Said No to Statewide Agreement Over Pay Cuts but Would Support Tax Increases, Spending Cuts and Local Salary Bargaining

“No deal, said Richard C. Iannuzzi, president of New York State United Teachers, the umbrella teachers’ union for the state. While some local unions may negotiate such postponements, Mr. Iannuzzi said, teachers had already sacrificed enough; more than 5,000 were laid off last year. A better option, he said, would be tax increases to raise more revenue, in combination with some spending cuts and some salary bargaining at the local level. Referring to Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Iannuzzi said, ‘He’s asking about a choice that doesn’t exist: If you take revenue, state aid cuts and local decisions, and local sacrifices, and put all that together, then you could forge a budget.’ ‘The assemblyman is correct,’ Mr. Iannuzzi said. ‘It’s time for some bold steps, and those steps are going to include some real looks at the revenue side of the ledger.’ He added that the union’s top priority was to reimpose the stock transfer tax, a move that Mr. Paterson opposes. ‘It could be a temporary decision, but it is certainly something that should be looked at,’ Mr. Iannuzzi said.” (New York Times City Room blog, March 23, 2010)

New York State Lawmakers Say School Cuts Are Not as Harsh As Advertised

“Some New York State lawmakers are suggesting that even the most drastic school aid cuts proposed by Governor David Paterson are not nearly as harsh as advertised. Even under the rosiest of scenarios, school districts statewide will see less aid from the state this year. The question is - will is be significantly less? Governor Paterson wants to scale back funding by 5 percent, but many Democratic lawmakers are concerned that amount is too high, especially with school districts from Buffalo to Brooklyn predicting either massive teacher layoffs or tax hikes, or both. But some lawmakers, including Assemblyman Robin Schimminger (D-Kenmore), believe those who are predicting dire scenarios for the school districts are crying wolf.” (WGRZ.com, April 7, 2010)

Superintendent Believes Governor's Proposed Cuts Will be Damaging

“On Your Side spoke to Erie 1 Boces Superintendent Donald Ogilvie, who believes the governor's proposed cuts to individual school districts will be very damaging. REPORTER: Is it fair to call these cuts ‘drastic?’ OGILVIE: I think anything that you've been counting on, that is now withheld, is a version of drastic. REPORTER: We hear districts talking about tax hikes, and big-time layoffs for teachers. If the money is more than what it was three year ago, why is there the need for all those drastic measures in districts? OGILVIE: It's not as though revenues keep increasing and the expenses are flat.
Every year, our school budget is going up and the aid increases does not match what the expenditure increases are.” (WGRZ.com, April 7, 2010)

Schools Chancellor Said State Budget Cuts Could Force New York City to Lay Off 8,500 Teachers

“Catastrophic budget cuts in Albany could force the city to lay off more than 20% of teachers in the South Bronx, Schools Chancellor Joel Klein warned Wednesday. The upper East Side’s school district would lose almost as many educators, Klein told the City Council. ‘These cuts would bring tremendous instability to our schools and students,’ Klein said. The layoffs of 8,500 teachers are part of a doomsday scenario city officials have begun considering in the face of massive cuts from Albany. However, help may be on the way. The Assembly spending plan unveiled last night restores about $600 million of the $1.4 billion in school aid cut by Gov. Paterson. The city would scoop up about $193 million of that money, according to Assembly spokesman Dan Weiller. The spending proposal also restores $151 million in city aid that Paterson had slashed, and an additional $35 million for students' MTA MetroCards. The Assembly scrounges up $200 million in new revenue with a $1-per-pack cigarette tax hike. Lawmakers are staring down a $9 billion budget gap and April 1 deadline. Paterson unveiled a bare-bones, stop-gap plan in the event Albany blows the deadline.” (New York Daily News, March 25, 2010)

According to Joel Klein, New York City Needs to Get Rid of 8,500 Teaching Positions

“A lot of New York’s teachers are about to be laid off. On March 21, the State Senate voted to slash state education funding by $1.4 billion, part of a resolution it passed in response to Governor Paterson’s January budget proposal, which has still not been finalized. A recent survey showed that district superintendents across the state plan to cut as many as 15,000 teaching jobs. The cuts will be most drastic in New York City: according to Chancellor Joel Klein, Gotham needs to get rid of as many as 8,500 of its 75,000 teaching positions next year. Since state policies mandate laying off teachers with the least seniority first, some of the best young teachers will be lost. The seniority law poses a particular threat to New York’s school system, because it will stall or even reverse the city’s impressive progress in recruiting a new type of qualified educator. The effect on overall teacher quality in these districts will be a wash, and the resulting increased class sizes will only have a mild negative effect on student proficiency.” (City-Journal, April 2, 2010)

Buffalo Superintendent Said District Would be Forced to Lay Off 680 Staff Members if Gov. Paterson’s Proposed State Aid Cuts are Enacted

“The Buffalo Public Schools will be forced to lay off 680 staff members — or nearly 10 percent of its work force — if Gov. David A. Paterson’s proposed state aid cuts are enacted, School Superintendent James A. Williams said Wednesday evening. Williams did not specify which
jobs would be cut, but hundreds of classroom teachers would certainly lose their jobs in a work force reduction of that magnitude. That, in turn, would lead to program cuts and larger class sizes. ‘We are looking at every department where there will be some adjustments made — every department,’ Williams told the Board of Education. The district has about 7,000 employees. Williams made his comments after a series of speakers urged the board to raise the pay of bus aides and cafeteria workers — some of them making as little as $8.43 an hour — to a ‘living wage’ standard. Williams said he agrees with that goal, which the board approved in principle last year, but said the first priority should be to save jobs in a fiscal crisis… Buffalo, which is accustomed to large yearly hikes in state aid, is slated instead for a $16 million cut next school year. Combined with rising costs, that results in a $34.2 million budget deficit. With the state’s own deficit now projected at more than $9 billion, there are growing signs that the State Legislature will not restore substantial amounts of school aid.’” (Buffalo News, March 25, 2010)

325 New York School Districts Plan for 4.1 Percent Reduction in Teacher Work Force

“Larger class sizes, fewer extracurricular activities and electives — such as music, art and Advanced Placement courses — not as many field trips, and less academic help for needy students. And massive layoffs. Those are some of the consequences the state School Boards Association and Council of School Superintendents foresee if the state budget includes a $1.4 billion education cut, as Gov. David Paterson has proposed. The average reduction for a school district would be 6.7 percent. Superintendents and boards of education will focus on what comprises more than 70 percent of their budgets — salaries and benefits. A recent survey of 325 school districts found that schools are planning for an average 4.1 percent reduction in the teacher work force, or layoffs to about 6,300 teachers outside New York City, the Council of School Superintendents and School Boards Association said.” (Poughkeepsie Journal, April 4, 2010)

New York Districts Consider Major Layoffs

“The Wappingers Central School District Board of Education is considering cutting 32.5 full-time teaching positions and four staff jobs, and the Arlington Central School District is faced with potentially eliminating 55 positions. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has said 8,500 teachers would be let go, for a statewide total of 14,800. The New York State United Teachers union is projecting that between 15,000 and 20,000 school employees would lose their jobs under the governor's education proposal, which the Senate is also recommending. Last year, public schools eliminated about 5,000 education positions through a mixture of retirements, leaving open empty positions and layoffs.” (Poughkeepsie Journal, April 4, 2010)

Mohawk Central School District to Eliminate Nine Teaching Positions

“Under a revised spending plan, the Mohawk Central School District will eliminate several staffing positions and reduce some services and activities but with far less of an impact on its taxpayers. Nine staffing positions will be eliminated under this plan, saving approximately $600,000. Four of the positions will be from retirements, effective June 30, that will not be filled.
Those positions are a high school social studies teacher, an elementary school librarian, an elementary school reading teacher and an elementary school classroom teacher. The same will happen with a special education teacher’s resignation. Four other teaching positions will be eliminated through layoffs. Business Manager Chuck Mower also said they have reduced some BOCES services, which would include special education and physical therapy services. He also said they have reduced some sports and extracurricular activities. Mower said they are not sure how these cuts will be made.” (Evening Telegram, April 6, 2010)

**Facing Layoffs, Utica Teachers to Discuss Contract With District**

“With the Utica Board of Education [New York] set to adopt next year's school budget in a matter of days, representatives from the Utica Teachers Association and the school district say they will meet to discuss proposals to save a dozen teaching jobs. Superintendent James Willis said he and several board members will meet with representatives from the union today to discuss various cost-saving proposals that include possible union concessions. Last week, Willis and Business Official Maureen Albanese presented a $132 million budget to the school board that would cut 12 teachers, two teacher assistants and three administrators. That budget is based on the governor's state budget proposal that would cut $1.4 billion from education. The Utica teachers have another year on the contract that was signed in September 2008. The contract calls for a 1.3 percent raise next year for the approximately 800 teachers in the district.” (Utica Observer-Dispatch, April 7, 2010)

**TEXAS**

**Fort Bend ISD in Houston Will Cut 470 Positions Including 195 Certified Teachers**

“Fort Bend ISD is beginning to cut jobs as part of their effort to address a projected budget deficit of about $20 million. Out of a total of 9,500 full-time positions in FBISD, it was determined that 470 positions must be eliminated as part of the overall budget reduction plan, according to a statement from the school district. Of the 470, the district has identified 195 certified teaching positions along with 80 certified non-teaching professional positions, and 195 non-certified positions for reduction (which includes all other positions). One hundred of the identified teaching positions relate to special education. Although the district's special education population has declined by more than 900 students in the last 10 years, the number of teachers in the program has increased by 176, according to district officials. The reduction in special education staffing is necessary to more appropriately align staff with the district's current student population… The reduction in force process began last week with letters being sent from the Human Resources Department to 85 certified regular education teachers and campus/district administrators, notifying them that their positions were being eliminated.” (Houston’s ABC affiliate KRTK, April 6, 2010)
NOTE: Many of the Teaching Positions were Reassigned to Fill Positions at Other Campuses

“Of the 195 teaching positions identified, many were reassigned to fill positions available at the new campuses and at other campuses where there are vacancies, allowing the district to limit the number of employees whose positions are being eliminated. Officials say the district's goal is to be able to offer the opportunity to as many teachers as possible to return to work in the district.” (Houston’s ABC affiliate KRTK, April 6, 2010)

Houston Independent School District to Cut 406 Positions

“Both the local AFL-CIO chapter and the Houston Federation of Teachers are urging a huge turnout at Thursday night's Houston Independent School District board meeting to protest planned layoffs of teachers and other district employees in an attempt to stop what one union leader calls "this insane idea" of Superintendent Terry Grier. Richard Shaw of the Harris County AFL-CIO Council sent out an e-mail in which he predicts that ‘the more senior and higher paid will be chosen for layoffs first. New teachers with no seniority and who will be placed at the bottom of the salary scale will be hired to replace them.’ Grier told [this blog] that there will be 406 fewer positions when the administration is done. Of those positions, 82 are teachers (some may not be in the classroom, but are teacher-certified), 154 administrative, 107 are ‘classified’ (secretarial and teacher aides) and 53 hourly employees. The district is facing a shortfall -- the estimated amounts have varied but seem to have settled at around the $25 million mark starting in fall 2010 -- and is taking measures to trim the gap now.” (Houston Press Blog, April 7, 2010)

GEORGIA

DeKalb County Budget Includes 427 Layoffs, Seven Teacher Furlough Days and At Least Four School Closings

“The DeKalb County school board will vote on a budget for next year that balances the current projected deficit with at least 427 layoffs, seven teacher furlough days and at least four school closings -- but no tax hike. On Friday, the board’s four-member budget committee adopted a tentative budget that reflects $115.8 million in cuts. The $735.2 million budget will go to the board April 12 for approval. ‘What we’re trying to do is survive so the system can move forward in the best shape possible,’ budget chairman H. Paul Womack said Friday. Womack, along with board members Don McChesney and Jay Cunningham, voted in support of the budget. Board member Eugene Walker voted against the proposal, saying he would only support a budget with a tax hike. ‘If you don’t have a millage increase, clearly that budget will be balanced on the backs of our programs and our employees,’ Walker said. At 22.98 mills, DeKalb already has the third-highest school tax rate in the metro area.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

District Human Resources Officer Said DeKalb Pays Employees More than the Majority of Districts in Georgia
“The committee's budget includes laying off 200 paraprofessionals, 150 central office employees, 59 media clerks and 18 technology specialists. In addition to layoffs, the budget committee voted to cut another 61 paraprofessionals, 10 assistant principals and 10 counselors through attrition. Even with the layoffs, DeKalb still has many more paraprofessionals than the state pays for, Cunningham said. The state funds for 500 paraprofessionals and after the cuts, DeKalb will have about 1,100. DeKalb also pays its employees more than the majority of districts in Georgia, according to Chief Human Resources Officer Jamie Wilson. ‘We have followed a path during a time of luxury and substantial funding that we have been able to do a lot of things that other counties have not been able to do,’ Womack said. The committee also voted to furlough teachers seven days, which is about a 3.9 percent pay cut. Administrators, secretaries and other employees will face 10 to 15 furlough days. The committee also voted to raise class sizes by two students and cut the board’s contribution to employees’ tax-sheltered annuity. That’s just the first round of cuts.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

Planning Task Force Will Meet March 30th to Narrow List of School Recommended for Closure from 14 to 4

“Last week, some board members were reluctant to close schools at the end of the year, saying they felt the choice was being rushed. On Friday, the committee's approved budget included at least four school closures, which are slated to save $2.35 million. The Citizens’ Planning Task Force, which is charged with recommending schools for closure, will meet Tuesday to narrow that list from 14 to four.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, March 26, 2010)

Planning Task Force Spent Past Two Months Narrowing List of Schools for Possible Closure from 83 to 10; Vote for Closures on April 12 and Final Approval on May 10

“On Thursday, the Citizens Planning Task Force is slated to recommend four elementary schools to close at the end of the school year. A meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. at the William Bradley Bryant Technology Center on Lawrenceville Highway in Decatur. That 20-member task force has spent the past two months narrowing the list from 83 to 10 schools for possible closure. The school board will vote on the closures April 12 and issue a final approval on May 10, board Chairman Tom Bowen said.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 1, 2010)

Some Members of the Task Force Argued that Schools Proposed for Closure are in Poor African-American Neighborhoods but School Officials Said That is Where Enrollment Has Dropped Due to Record Foreclosure Rates

“But parents aren’t the only ones divided. Even members of the task force bickered on Tuesday, some upset that the schools proposed for closure are all in south DeKalb -- and primarily in poor African-American neighborhoods. School officials say enrollment has dropped in the south end of the county, which is plagued with record foreclosure rates. In the north end, particularly in rapidly growing Dunwoody, schools are overcrowded, officials said. Board members said the closures are needed to help offset an anticipated $115 million shortfall in next fiscal year’s budget. The four school closures are expected to save about $2.35 million. State funding
formulas favor schools with enrollments of at least 450 students, said Robert Moseley, the district’s deputy chief superintendent of operations. H. Paul Womack, chairman of the board’s budget committee, has said the district may need to close as many as a dozen schools over the next two years to save money. DeKalb is the state’s third largest school system, but has the most buildings.” (Atlanta Journal Constitution, April 1, 2010)

Cobb County, GA Plan Could Force 6 Furlough Days for Teachers

“The Cobb County School Board could ask for six teacher furlough days and increased class sizes among its list of possible budget cuts for next school year. School Board Chairwoman Lynnda Crowder-Eagle has called a special meeting Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the school board office to discuss next year's budget. ‘We're facing a shortfall in the next fiscal year to the tune of $100 million-plus,’ said Doug Goodwin, a school district spokesman. ‘We've not determined what those changes and cuts will be.’ The district's 2011 fiscal year begins July 1.” (Atlanta Journal-Constitution, March 24, 2010)

NEW JERSEY

Ninety-Three Percent of New Jersey School Boards Consider Layoffs

“New Jersey's 600 school boards are submitting their doomsday budgets to meet today's filing deadline. Gov. Chris Christie is seeking to slash $800 million from education spending. Mike Yaple with the New Jersey School Board Association says some districts are turning to desperate measures. ‘Ninety-three percent of school boards are looking at layoffs, but then when asked how many were looking at laying off teachers it was about 85 percent. So, it looks like it’s going to be hitting classrooms as well as the support staff,’ Yaple says. ‘We saw two-thirds of school districts expect to cut sports and clubs. Thirty-two percent of school districts are looking at student activity fees.’ He adds that districts are also looking at an increase in property taxes. School districts must also let Christie know by today whether they intend to support a teacher salary freeze. The governor has offered to restore some state aid, if districts move toward a reopening of contract talks with the teachers union. (WNYC.org, April 5, 2010)

Christie Administration Said 20 Percent of School District Reported Staff Wage Freezes or Reduction in Budget Plans

“About a fifth of New Jersey school districts have reported staff wage freezes or reductions in their budget plans for the coming school year, the Christie administration announced Tuesday. The vast majority were made to administrators' pay, with support staff coming in second. Teachers in 11 districts accepted wage freezes, while in five districts they have accepted wage reductions. Of 116 districts statewide freezing or reducing wages, 23 were in Burlington and Camden Counties, according to state data. Gloucester County data were not available Tuesday. Of the local districts, Florence in Burlington County and Woodstown-Pilesgrove in Salem County were the only ones mentioned for teachers taking voluntary wage freezes. Moorestown
did not budget for raises for any employees other than principals and supervisors under contract.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, April 7, 2010)

Local Union President Makes Concessions Worth $1 Million, But Still Faces 80 Layoffs

“Governor Chris Christie visited Montclair High School to discuss school budget cuts with students. The governor traveled to Montclair High School Wednesday with a message: Our public schools will weather this storm just fine if teachers everywhere make concessions on salaries as they did in Montclair. It was [the local union president’s] idea to offer concessions worth nearly $1 million by freezing top salaries. But even still, because of the sharp drop in state aid, the district is facing at least 80 layoffs. He says Christie is villainizing teachers and cutting into the muscle and bone of his district’s budget. At the same time, he’s giving up $900 million so the state’s wealthiest families can enjoy lower tax rates this year. That’s more than enough to fully restore the school cuts.” (The Star-Ledger, April 4, 2010)

Students Staged a Walkout of Cliffside High School to Protest Plan to Cut 25 Teachers; District Considering Layoffs of 45 Staff

“Cliffside Park High School students who staged a walkout Friday predicted that the district’s plan to cut up to 25 teachers would lead to larger class sizes and a drop in educational quality. Cliffside Park High School students walked out in the middle of classes Friday morning, gathering on the field in protest of teacher layoffs. The 45-minute protest by hundreds of students included some stinging criticism of Governor Christie’s plan to slash state education aid as part of his attempt to balance the upcoming state budget. “Right now, he’s creating a fence around our future,” said 17-year-old senior Barbara Hernandez of Fairview, who called the aid cuts misguided… Cliffside Park school officials are considering layoffs of 45 staff, including about 20 support staff and custodians, to close a $1.8 million budget gap. The student protesters organized on Facebook and through text messages after news of the layoffs started trickling out in recent days.” (The Record, March 26, 2010)

Superintendent Said District was Also Considering Cutting Pre-K and Kindergarten to Half-Day and Ninth-Grade Sports

“Superintendent Michael J. Romagnino said he wasn’t happy that the students left the building, though he was aware they were going to march. He didn’t see the protest as being against the administration. ‘I think it was against the cuts,’ Romagnino said. ‘Most people, including students, understand that if you have to cut $1.8 million out of the budget, the only way you can make that up is by cutting programs and staff.’ Romagnino said the district, which has about 2,700 students, is also considering cutting pre-kindergarten and kindergarten to a half-day and ninth-grade sports, among other measures. The district will hold a budget meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. and a group has handed out fliers urging parents to show up in support of the teachers. Parents Rafael Concepcion and Lilly Cancar, who is a 1985 graduate of the high school, watched the
protest from just off school property. The couple’s two children attend elementary school in Fairview but will go to the high school in a few years.” (The Record, March 26, 2010)

**Governor’s Response to Student Walkout Was to Blame Union for Inciting Students; Called the Students “Pawns” and “Victims”**

“The governor said later Friday that he believed the teacher’s union had orchestrated the walkout. ‘They’re being used,’ Christie said, when asked if students should face consequences for the protest. ‘I don’t blame the kids at all. Those kids are victims. They’re pawns, unfortunately for them.’ Student organizers and a spokesman for the New Jersey Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union, said teachers pleaded with the students over the school's loudspeaker not to walk out. ‘Our members didn't encourage this, they didn't plan this, they had nothing to do with it,’ said NJEA spokesman Steve Baker. ‘This is just another example of the governor trying to play politics with education.’” (The Record, March 26, 2010)

**Christie Repeatedly Called for NJEA to “Open Its Books” and Said Group is Funded with Public Dollars Since Members’ Dues Come Directly from Public Salaries**

“The governor’s 10 percent cut in overall school spending – about $820 million – was distributed so that no district saw more than 5 percent of its total annual budget vanish. While Christie had told school districts to prepare for a 15 percent cut in state aid, many districts ended up seeing 100 percent of aid wiped out. Though Christie's budget proposal is not final and must be approved by the Democrat-controlled legislature by the end of June, school districts are using his aid figures as a guide when creating budgets that go up for a vote on April 20.” (Star-Ledger, March 26, 2010)

**Camden School Board Approved Budget That Could Eliminate 94 Teachers**
“Struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, the Camden school board last night approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools… The $337 million plan, which district officials intend to submit to the executive county superintendent today, would close the William F. Powell Elementary School and the South Camden Alternative School.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, March 23, 2010)

Woodbridge Superintendent Calling for 280 Layoffs Including 25 Teaching Positions Due to 33 Percent Drop in State Aid; Requested Salary Freeze from Teachers and Union Members

“If Woodbridge teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut under a budget expected to be sent to voters next month, officials said. It’s the only idea being publicly discussed that would free up enough money to stop some of the harshest spending cuts district administrators are asking the board of education to approve on Wednesday. The $182 million spending plan, proposed by superintendent John Crowe, calls for 280 layoffs -- including all custodial and food service staff - - takes most of the district's surplus and still raises taxes by 4 percent. It would slash educational programs, extracurriculars, 25 teacher positions and a long list of other posts and services. Most of the $12 million in cuts were made to compensate for a 33 percent drop in state aid.” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

Pay Freeze Concession Would Save $2.6 Million Allowing District to Avoid Laying Off 150 People

“If Woodbridge teachers and other union members agreed to a salary freeze, the district would save more than $2.6 million enabling officials to avoid laying off more than 150 people and sparing programs that would otherwise be cut under a budget expected to be sent to voters next month, officials said… A pay freeze concession from teachers in the Woodbridge Township Education Association, which represents some 2,000 educators, support staff and other workers, would allow the district to avoid privatizing custodial and cafeteria services, according to business administrator Dennis DeMarino, who compiled the proposed budget for the state's sixth-largest district. ‘And keep in mind that most of the teachers -- 90 percent of the teachers -- will still get a raise,’ DeMarino said last week, speaking after a budget discussion where staff and community members repeatedly asked the union to open its contract. ‘The only ones who don't are the ones at the top of the guide who have been here the longest.’ After adding custodians and cafeteria workers back into the budget, there would still be $880,000 in additional savings, he said. That could preserve dozens of other positions or stop some of the many other cuts being planned.” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

Union Officials Gave No Indication if Freeze is Being Considered

“Union officials won't give any indication of whether a freeze is being considered. President Brian Geoffroy declined to comment on the topic and wouldn't say if the union would hold a vote to decide whether to allow discussions with the board of education.
Geoffroy, pressured by speakers to address the topic during a public hearing, said a freeze would require the entire contract be opened. Any changes would have to be approved by the full membership. ‘We continue to take the information from all the members,’ he said. ‘That's how we are dealing with this process.’ To John Dutcher, a custodial supervisor at Ford Middle School, it seems unfair that he and his colleagues would be laid off as teachers get a pay hike. He and other supervisors have taken $10,000 salary cuts in the past, he said. ‘But in the entire time I've been here, not once has the teachers' contract taken anything but a raise in 20 years,’ he said.” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**Board of Education President Called for Union to Come Back to the Table**

“Board of education president Brian Molnar said he's been hearing from some teachers who feel it's time to open the contract and talk about a freeze. He said he understands Geoffroy's position and a need to answer to members but wants to see them come back to the table. ‘There's a lot of rhetoric going on in Trenton, between one side or the other, and you just don't hope it trickles down to Main Street,’ he said. ‘We want to work with everybody. We want to keep everybody employed. And we just all have to work together.’” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**New Jersey School Board Association Said 188 Districts Statewide are Discussing Reopening Contracts, 250 in Negotiations**

“Frank Belluscio, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association, said a statewide survey has shown that 188 districts, out of 313 respondents, are discussing reopening contracts. More than 250 districts are in ongoing negotiations. ‘Of course is takes two to tango,’ he said, ‘and you need the union to agree.’” (Star-Ledger, March 28, 2010)

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Charlotte Superintendent Plan Includes Steps Toward Laying Off About 600 Teachers**

“Employees of CMS administrative offices began getting layoff notices Monday, school board Chair Eric Davis said. The board has authorized Superintendent Peter Gorman to cut about 46 central-office jobs, but Gorman has not yet given details about his proposed restructuring. Davis said he expects those details today, along with an update on steps toward laying off about 600 teachers. It's the school board's last public budget meeting before Gorman presents a formal plan April 13, with up to $80 million in cuts from current spending expected. Davis said the board will try to signal Gorman on which cost-cutting options to pursue and which should be scrapped. Strong differences of opinion remain. For instance, board member Richard McElrath said Monday he'll only support a plan that eliminates all layoffs by cutting pay up to 10 percent. ‘If there was ever a time for shared sacrifice, this is a time for shared sacrifice,’ he said. ‘Until they do that, I'm not listening to anything else.’” (Charlotte Observer, March 30, 2010)
Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board is Seeking Furloughs for Teachers to Avoid Layoffs

“Charlotte-Mecklenburg School (CMS) officials are seeking furloughs, which are unpaid vacations, to avoid teacher layoffs. They are seeking the furloughs for the end of the 2010-11 school year, after state exams, which would essentially end the school year early. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg school board would have to be granted furlough authority by state legislature in order for the furloughs to take place.” *(The Examiner, April 6, 2010)*

**CMS Budget Could Include Cuts That Could Total $80 Million**

“The proposed 2010-11 school year budget will be $333 million. Gorman will present the budget to county commissioners April 13. The budget will also include cuts that could total $80 million if the $333 million is not approved. Among the cuts are teacher lay-offs, middle school sports, CMS-TV and school closings. Even if furlough authority is granted in time for this school year, a combination of other cuts will likely take place. So far, furloughs have proven to be the most popular budget cutting suggestion.” *(The Examiner, April 6, 2010)*

**CONNECTICUT**

**Teacher Openings in Connecticut Shrank by 35 Percent From Fall 2008 to Fall 2009**

“In another sign of the recession and tighter school budgets, the number of teacher openings in Connecticut shrank dramatically this year as school boards try to get by with fewer, a trend that has led to larger class sizes and fewer course offerings in some schools. The number of teacher openings dropped by nearly 35 percent from fall 2008, when there were 4,533, to fall 2009, when there were 2,957, according to a new state Department of Education report released today. ‘The economy is hard and it has hit school districts hard,’ said Tom Murphy, the department's spokesman. ‘Districts knew last year that this was going to be a difficult year, so they have peeled back.’” *(Hartford Courant, April 7, 2010)*

**Hartford Schools Preparing to Lay Off As Many As 92 Employees Including 49 Teachers**

“The State Board of Education refused on Wednesday to step into the middle of a dispute over layoff rules between Hartford teachers and the city school board, and instead urged both sides to work out their differences. At issue is Hartford Superintendent Steven Adamowski's proposal to change the way the district handles teacher seniority during layoffs. Now, a teacher targeted for layoff at one school can ‘bump’ a teacher with less seniority at any school. Under Adamowski's plan, a teacher or administrator targeted for layoff could bump only a person with less experience within the same school. The idea is to promote stability and prevent Hartford's 19 specialty schools and theme academies from losing large numbers of specially trained teachers. Hartford
schools, facing a $15 million budget gap, are preparing to lay off as many as 92 employees, including 49 teachers, spokesman David Medina said.” (The Hartford Courant, April 8, 2010)

**In Norwich, a Quarter of the District’s Teachers have been Notified that their Jobs are in Jeopardy**

“In Norwich, as in other cash-strapped public school districts, spring is the mean season. Trying to balance its budget, the district has decided to cut out middle school sports, foreign language classes and an instrumental music program. It will end some after-school bus routes. Officials are considering closing an elementary school. And nearly a quarter of the district's teachers have been notified that their jobs are on the line.” (Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010)

**Wallingford Recommended 80 Layoffs, Bristol Plans to Eliminate 20 Jobs**

“In Wallingford, for example, officials have recommended 80 layoffs, more than 10 percent of the workforce. In Stamford, officials are talking about closing a middle school. In Bristol, the district plans to close an elementary school and eliminate more than 20 jobs. In Waterford, where health insurance costs rose by 26 percent, the district decided to cut back on supplies, ask employees to take furlough days and eliminate programs such as elementary school Spanish classes, said Michael DeRay, the district's business manager.” (Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010)

**Unions Making Concessions are on a District by District Basis with Some Accepting Furloughs**

“Elsewhere, districts have asked employee unions for concessions, with mixed results. In Litchfield, for example, administrators and non-teaching staff agreed to furlough days but teachers did not, said Superintendent of Schools Deborah Wheeler. In Colchester, ‘Every single one of our labor unions and non-union staff has given up two days of pay,’ said Superintendent Karen Loiselle, who herself agreed to forego a salary increase this year. The district also eliminated freshman soccer and basketball, high school indoor track and middle school junior varsity soccer and basketball. Phil Apruzzese, president of the Connecticut Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, said local unions have been reluctant to give concessions under existing contracts but have taken only small increases or pay freezes in negotiating new contracts. "We all know what we are facing in these economic times, and it's dire," he said.” (Connecticut Mirror, April 1, 2010)

**Arizona**
Tempe School District Plans Rest on May Sales Tax Vote; Governing Board Already Approved Reduction in Force Notice in the Event the Measure Does Not Pass; Deficit Now Stands at $11.8 Million

“Class sizes in Tempe's Kyrene School District could increase and teachers might be laid off if Arizona voters don't approve a 1 percent sales tax next month, school officials said. Whether the district will face a $6 million deficit next fiscal year or almost double that amount hinges on whether voters approve the tax. If voters fail to approve Proposition 100, district administrators must cut $11.8 million from their 2010-11 budget. That would lead to measures such as increasing class sizes, pay reductions and program changes. On Tuesday, the governing board approved a reduction in force notice in the event the measure does not pass. On April 13, the board will receive a list of who would be affected… Because 90 percent of Kyrene's budget is salaries, an $11.8 million deficit would mean cutting positions, mostly teachers, resulting in what Lescher called increased class sizes by ‘significant numbers.’” (Arizona Republic, April 7, 2010)

Paradise Valley School District in Phoenix Would Lay Off 57 Teachers, Including Those on Hardship or Maternity Leave, if Sales Tax Increase Does Not Pass

“If Phoenix voters do not pass a 1 percent sales tax next month, the Paradise Valley Unified School District will have to lay off more than 70 staff members. Because the district would have to cut $13 million from its 2010-11 budget, the district could lay off 57 teachers along with 16 administrators and support staff. ‘The decision on who is on the list is based on seniority, so the last hired are the first out,’ said Judi Willis, district spokeswoman. ‘People on leave of absence for whatever reasons - hardship, maternity leave - would also be on that list.’ The 2.6 percent salary reduction that all district employees took this current school year would continue if the tax does not pass. The Arizona Legislature has already reduced Paradise Valley's budget for the upcoming school year by $7 million, meaning that the total cut to the district's budget would be $20 million if the sales tax is not approved. Letters to employees who may be laid off have been mailed. Superintendent Jim Lee was presenting the list of those names along with other recommendations to the governing board Thursday.” (Arizona Republic, April 7, 2010)

Flagstaff Unified School District Sent 450 RIF Letters to Employees Especially Those in Art, Music or Phys Ed or in the District for Three or Fewer Years

“The DeMiguel Elementary teacher is one of about 450 employees in Flagstaff Unified School District expected to receive a letter next week advising her that she is not guaranteed a job next year. Her husband, Keith, who has taught shop classes in FUSD for more than 20 years, is also likely to get a layoff notice. About half of the teacher-certified employees in the district will receive such a conditional note… The school board voted 4-1 on Tuesday to move ahead on a list 454 positions deep. The following groups will get pre-emptive reduction in force (RIF) or non-renewal of contract notes:
-- Teachers who specialize in art, music, physical education, languages, career and technical education, disciplinary and academic intervention classrooms; and librarians and counselors. Specialty teachers who hold certifications in other areas were culled from the list.
-- Teachers and administrators with contracts originally drafted as one year or less (these employees get annual "layoff" notices as a matter of course).
-- Teachers with three or fewer years in the district.
Administrators caution that they don't expect all of those employees to be let go -- officials built a sweeping list to maintain flexibility. A final district budget can't be set until after the May 18 vote on a statewide sales tax and other legislative decisions. But anybody who does not receive a notice by the district's layoff deadline of April 15 must be offered a contract for next year.”

(Arizona Daily Sun, April 8, 2010)

NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Predicts Layoffs Next Year Due to Budget Shortfall

“Albuquerque Public Schools Superintendent Winston Brooks made it clear at Monday night's board meeting that the school district's $43 million shortfall could easily become $100 million by this time next year, and if that happens, teachers' jobs will be cut. Superintendent Brooks says with 85 percent of APS's budget going towards employee salaries and benefits, it's clear where the cuts would occur. For now… Brooks's proposal includes two furlough days for himself and all other non-school employees; layoffs for double dippers who have been back on the job for less than three years; cuts in overtime, stipends, school budgets, and also eliminating a school day. There are also items listed for consideration including cutting the number of educational assistants by 15 percent, eliminating athletics, secondary fine arts and ROTC and reducing the number of assistant principals.” (KOB.com, April 4, 2010)

NEVADA

Labor Groups Unveil Agreements to Freeze Teacher Salaries and Take Furlough Days

“The five employee labor groups from Washoe County (Nevada) schools and district officials Friday unveiled agreements that will save jobs and trim nearly $11 million from the projected $33 million budget shortfall. In what was hailed as an unprecedented collaboration, the employees agreed to freeze their salaries and take two furlough days. Leaders of the employee unions generally agreed that salary concessions and the furlough days were better than losing jobs.” No instructional time will be lost to furloughs, but teachers will lose two paid professional development days, Buhrmann said. On those days, teachers usually meet to discuss curriculum and best practices, as well as learn about new technology, he said.” (Reno Gazette Journal, April 2, 2010)
**NEBRASKA**

**OPS to Eliminate 147 Teaching and Administrative Positions Due to Budget Crunch**

“Omaha Public Schools teachers and administrators have received official word that they could lose their jobs next school year. The school district has mailed 225 certified letters to people who may not have their contracts renewed for next fall. OPS announced in March that it planned to eliminate 147 teaching and administrative positions due to a budget crunch. That number has not changed, said Janice Garnett, assistant superintendent for human resources. The district has 3,929 full-time teaching positions. It plans to eliminate 44 of those positions through attrition. District officials have said they are cutting the positions to make up for $28 million in federal stimulus funding that ends in a year. In all, 47 full-time administrator positions will be cut. That group will include some high school deans, assistant principals and central office staff. Another nearly 50 people — sharing 56 part-time positions — also will lose their positions. In a typical year, the district hires 500 teachers. For this school year, it hired half that many. OPS announced last month that it plans to cut two of its 369 full-time office personnel positions and 75 of its 1,078 full-time teacher aid positions to save money.” (*Omaha World-Herald, April 8, 2010*)

**56 Part-Time Teachers Let Go From Omaha Public Schools**

“Omaha Public School teachers are learning what the future holds. Letters were mailed Monday letting teachers know who will be and who won't be asked to renew their contracts for 2010-11. Part-time teachers seem to be taking the biggest hit with 56 being let go. OPS officials say some part-timers were offered the opportunity to step into full-time jobs, but those opportunities were limited because of the number of teachers who decided to stay in the classroom. OPS says there are fewer retirements this year than expected.” (*WOWT.com, April 5, 2010*)

**TENNESSEE**

**Superintendent Worried About Next Year’s Layoffs After Losing Stimulus Dollars**

“The Scott County School Board extended the deadline last week for eligible teachers to take an early retirement incentive package in an effort to counteract deep budget cuts and keep layoffs of non-tenured staff to a minimum. If no more teachers take the package, Superintendent Jim Scott said layoffs would be unavoidable. “In my opinion right now, we could be talking about 12 to 15 non-tenured teachers,” Scott said. “But for every person that takes the early retirement package between now and the deadline, it could be one less.” Scott said the school system has learned it stands to lose almost $2.8 million in funding for the coming fiscal year as a result of $790
million in education cuts the preliminary state budget contained when it was released earlier this month. While the school system should be able to get by this year, Scott said it will only get worse going into 2011-2012. ‘We’re getting about $1.6 million in stimulus money this year, and unless things change and the government comes back with more funds, we won’t be getting any more stimulus next year.’”  (Times News, April 4, 2010)

**ALABAMA**

**Huntsville School Board To Lay Off Nearly 200 Employees, Most Teachers**

“The axe will soon fall on nearly 200 Huntsville City (Alabama) School employees, and most of them will be teachers. The school board unanimously voted for a measure that would eliminate 190 positions in the district, with 147 of those slots teaching posts. Assistant principals, counselors and support staff employees will also get pink slips at the end of the school year, a decision board members call difficult, but inevitable. Officials say the moves are just one part of making up for a $20 million budget shortfall due to declining revenues. Younger teachers who have not gained tenure will be on the chopping block first, but officials hope some of them will be brought back.”  (WHNT News, April 1, 2010)

**WASHINGTON**

**Coalition of Seattle Community Groups Push for Changes in Seattle Public School Contract, Nine Proposals Include Performance-Based Layoffs**

“A coalition of Seattle community groups is pushing for big changes in the contract for Seattle public-school teachers. Saying it has strong parent and public support, Our Schools Coalition has nine proposals, including such controversial ideas as evaluating teachers in part on how well their students do and basing any teacher layoffs on performance as well as seniority. The coalition is led by the nonprofit Alliance for Education, a fundraising and advocacy partner for the school district. It's unclear what effect the proposals will have on the negotiations between teachers and the Seattle School District, slated to start this month. Seattle Superintendent Maria Goodloe-Johnson said she welcomed the input, calling it ‘important to our work,’ but negotiations between the district and the teachers union are confidential, and parents and community members have no official role. While the Seattle Council PTSA generally agrees with many of the ideas, Hattendorf says that its members need to know more about the details.  (Seattle Times, April 6, 2010)

**LOUISIANA**
Louisiana Local School Systems Face Hundreds of Layoffs

“The economic picture is grim for [Louisiana] local school systems, and the latest news is that the immediate future could include hundreds of layoffs. In Terrebonne Parish, the number of employees to be laid off could reach 150. In Lafourche and Assumption parishes, it will likely be 100 apiece. Each system has a version of the same problem: rising costs and shrinking revenue. In a year such as this when the state is looking to fill a budget hole, there is unlikely to be any help coming from Baton Rouge. And as local sales taxes sag, there is a real budget crisis, one that could well mean cuts to services. For schools, that means fewer employees. Although local school officials surely want to do the right thing and will be reluctant to negatively affect teachers’ ability to educate, some cuts seem certain.” (The Daily Comet, April 6, 2010)

Terrebonne Public Schools to Lay Off 150 Workers to Cut Costs and Balance Budget

“Terrebonne [Louisiana] public schools will lay off more than 150 workers to cut costs and balance next year's budget. The layoffs, which the School Board approved in a 7-2 vote Tuesday night, are necessary to help close a gap of more than $11 million in the 2010-11 budget, schools Superintendent Philip Martin said. The plan will allow Martin to use the board's Reduction in Force policy, commonly called RIF, to eliminate nearly all of the system's 160 part-time positions, along with about 150 full-time posts, when creating next year's budget. Martin noted that the system cut more than $6 million in expenses before it started the fiscal year July 1. A large portion came from eliminating or reclassifying 81 positions, including teachers and teachers' aides. Most of the cuts were made by leaving empty positions vacant. Martin said officials cut another $2 million in costs throughout the year. Much of the savings came from halting construction projects and leaving more vacant positions unfilled. The shortfall is caused by a multi-million-dollar decrease in local sales-tax revenue, along with cuts in state-provided money.” (Houma Today, April 7, 2010)

Napoleonville, LA Laid Out Plan to Eliminate 97 Positions

“As Assumption Parish school system officials have laid out a reduction in force policy which could possibly eliminate 97 positions throughout the system. Board members viewed a proposed eliminations outline for the 2010-11 year at a special meeting Monday. The cuts include the potential loss of 38 classroom teachers, 31 paraprofessionals and four social workers, among many others. The board is set to vote on the matter April 7. Malissa Boudreaux, system director of business services, said the eliminations could save the school system an estimated $3.4 million, but would still leave a $2.2 million gap to fill. Officials say declines in sales tax and property tax collections caused the budget problem.” (WXVT News, March 30, 2010)
Boston Superintendent Proposed Cutting 80 Custodial Positions

“In developing the $821.4 million proposed budget, Superintendent Carol R. Johnson said she tried to avoid making cuts that would directly affect classroom learning. Consequently, one area being hit hard is the custodial staff, which would lose more than 80 positions, much of it through layoffs. The custodian union will be joining teachers today to rally for preservation of their jobs. ‘Custodians are on the front line in our schools when it comes to health and safety problems,’ Michael Lafferty, the custodian union's business representative, said in a prepared statement before the planned rally. ‘Failure to clean bathrooms and classrooms after even just one child has been sick can allow the rapid spread of illnesses throughout a school.’ The $821.4 million budget request is the same amount as the district is spending this year on the 56,000-student school system. But the rising costs of doing business, such as escalating health care premiums and contractually negotiated pay raises, are forcing the district to cut about $50 million in spending to meet Mayor Thomas M. Menino's request for a so-called level-funded budget for next year.”

(Boston Globe, March 24, 2010)

WASHINGTON D.C.

D.C. Schools Chancellor Announced Over 380 Job Cuts in October 2009 to Close $44 Million Gap in 2010 Budget

The two sides have not met face to face since Sept. 21, and no bargaining sessions are scheduled. The last meeting came just days after Schools Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee announced more than 380 job cuts to close what she described as a $43.9 million gap in the 2010 budget. Union leaders said the layoffs, which included 266 teachers and support staff members, came without warning despite long hours at the table through the spring and summer. They also said they do not believe Rhee's explanation for the reductions, especially after the hiring of 934 new teachers for this school year. It strongly suggests that the budget crisis was contrived to weaken the union and force out older or outspoken instructors, they said. ‘There is no trust right now,’ said Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, the 1.4 million-member parent organization of the Washington Teachers' Union. She described the Sept. 21 meeting, an evening session in Rhee's office that broke up after midnight, as a ‘rancorous, cantankerous and stressful’ discussion of the cuts. Rhee, who called allegations that she intentionally precipitated layoffs ‘absolutely, categorically false,’ did not dispute that bargaining had ground to a halt. But she said that has been the norm for the negotiations, which began in late 2007.”

(Washington Post, October 21, 2009)
Detroit

DPS Financial Manager Plan Envisioned a Smaller District by Closing 45 More Schools in 2010; Total Closures Would be 140 Since 2005

“Robert Bobb, the emergency financial manager for Detroit Public Schools, asked parents Monday night to get behind his academic plan, an ambitious road map to the future that envisions a smaller district with the closing of 45 more schools this year and sets dramatic targets for student achievement. ‘I ask you parents to walk that road with me tonight,’ Bobb said as he unveiled his plan to about 800 people at Renaissance High School. The number of school closures Bobb noted was five more than he had announced earlier. It would bring total school closures to 140 since 2005 -- more than half the district.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

“Doors are expected to shut on more than a quarter of Detroit's 172 public schools in June as the district fights through steadily declining enrollment and a budget deficit of more than $219 million, an emergency financial manager said Wednesday. Three aging, traditional and underpopulated high schools would be among the 44 closures. Another six schools are to be closed in June 2011, followed by seven more a year later, emergency financial manager Robert Bobb said. Detroit already closed 29 schools before the start of classes last fall and shuttered 35 buildings about three years ago.” (Associated Press, March 17, 2010)

Predictions of Enrollment Loss of 30,000 Students Within 5 Years (a Third of the Population) Led to Closures

“The closures are forced by predictions of continued enrollment loss with no clear end in sight. The trend is attributed to a declining birthrate, exodus of families from the city and competition from other schools. In all, the district expects to lose more than 30,000 students within five years, or a third of its population.” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

District Planners Consulted with City to Mesh School Closures with Efforts to Retain Populations in Stable Areas for Those Targeted for Revitalization

“A massive closure plan by Detroit Public Schools calls for shutting Osborn, Kettering and Cooley high schools while preserving as many K-8 schools as possible on the city's outskirts to prevent more students from fleeing to the suburbs. The plan to be announced today will mean about 45 building closures this year and a savings of $31 million. In choosing which schools to close, district planners consulted with the city to try to mesh the plan with efforts to retain population in stable areas or those targeted for
revitalization. ‘Most importantly, it's taking into consideration where the city of Detroit is going,’ Emergency Financial Manager Robert Bobb said… Focusing on schools near the city's borders is the result of studies showing that when a school closes on the border, about 21 percent of the students leave the district, compared to about 7 percent when a school closes in the heart of the city. ‘If you close a school on the border and parents can see the other school … it's just a matter of going across the street,’ Bobb said. ‘So we are protecting our borders.’” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

**DPS Planning a Force Reduction of 2,100 Next Year**

“Bobb wouldn't say how many jobs would be lost under the plan, but acknowledged the district would need fewer principals, teachers and staff. The job losses would be part of an expected work force reduction of 2,100 next year.” (Detroit News, March 17, 2010)

**DPS Would Also Need $700 Million More in Bond Money for School Improvements**

“Bobb also said that the district would need $700 million more in bond money for school improvements. He suggested a new Bates Academy, a facility for swimming and diving at Renaissance, a sports complex at Cass Tech and a new facility for special-needs students. The district already has $500.5 million in bond money voters approved in November… Bobb also said the district needs millions more in bond money than voters approved in November. He suggested using it for a new Bates Academy, a facility for swimming and diving at Renaissance High School, a sports complex at Cass Tech and a new facility for special-needs students.” (Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)

**First Phase Funded by Voter-Approved Bond Sale, Second Phase Depends on Future Active Role of Citizens**

“The facilities plan will be implemented in two phases. The first is funded by a voter-approved bond sale of $500.5 million. The second calls for voter approval on a second $500 million bond sale ‘assuming citizens take an active role in a new bond measure in the future,’ Bobb said. It's not known if Bobb will be around for the start of the plan's second phase. He was appointed by Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm last March to straighten out the district's finances. His contract ends in March 2011.” (Associated Press, March 17, 2010)

**Plan Would Include Accountability Commission to Set Up at Every Grade Level in Detroit**

“More than a vision for the future of Detroit Public Schools, the new academic plan unveiled Monday night is a new accountability tool for the public, Bobb told an invite-only crowd of 800 on Monday. The $540-million, five-year plan aims to pull up the graduation rate for seniors from 58% to 98% and to meet state and national averages on standardized tests, among other long-range efforts. ‘We will now have the assurance that someone is watching,’ he said, referring to an accountability commission that philanthropic leaders expect to set up to grade every school in
Detroit, including DPS, charter and private schools. ‘Ours won’t be a hollow plan like so many that have graced the desks within DPS over the years and collected dust on the shelves.’” *(Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)*

**Final Number of Schools to be Closed was Larger Than Earlier Stated Plan**

“This plan, he said, will move forward because that’s what Detroit parents and students deserve. In his address, Bobb indicated he would be closing 45 schools this year, not 40 as originally stated. He is expected to release the names Wednesday. The number drew a collective gasp from the crowd.” *(Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)*

**Some Questioned Whether the Plan Violates State Law Because Manager Did Not Collaborate With or Consult the School Board on the Plan**

“While many Detroiters appear to agree with the plan, others questioned whether it violates state law because Bobb did not collaborate with or consult the school board on the plan. Rep. Bert Johnson, D-Detroit, a cosponsor of state education reform laws passed in December, said that without input from the school board, Bobb’s plan violates state law. ‘The ideas are great ideas and there’s not a parent on the planet who doesn’t want a 98% graduation rate,’ said Johnson, who has two sons who attend DPS. ‘To the extent that he’s come up with a plan and gone outside of Public Act 172 and not formulated that plan with the school board I think that is going to prove problematic because the law is what it is. We’ve all got to follow the law.’ Board member Annie Carter said she and her colleagues on the board want to work with Bobb. ‘We’ve been asking to work with him,’ Carter said. Bryant said it will be crucial that Bobb has support in the community to carry out the plan. ‘He’s just going to have to continue to bring it to the attention of the parents, the grandparents. So many people have lost confidence in Detroit Public Schools.’” *(Detroit Free Press, March 16, 2010)*

**Under Plan by DPS Financial Manager, 44 Schools Would be Closed in June, Other Schools Would be Consolidated or Renovated, and New Schools Would be Built by Bond Sales**

“The Detroit Public Schools’ financial manager has scheduled a series of town hall meetings to get parental and community response to a plan that includes closing schools. Under the five-year master facilities plan announced by Robert Bobb last week, 44 schools would be closed in June. Other schools would be closed, consolidated or renovated, and new schools would be built with money from bond sales. Bobb said many schools in the 87,000-student district are under capacity and aging. His plan would put about 75 percent of Detroit students in new or renovated schools. Bobb said he expects to make a final decision next month about which schools will close.” *(Detroit News wire report, March 26, 2010)*

**Many Districts Studying Potential Effects of Combining Schools, Redrawing School Boundaries, or Closing Schools**
“Districts across the tri-county area are facing deficits and cuts. Bloomfield Hills Public Schools has studied combining its two high schools, Andover and Lahser. The Farmington Public Schools Board of Education has approved redrawing school boundaries. And a citizens' group for Utica Community Schools recommends closing four elementary schools next school year. East Detroit Public Schools -- facing an $11-million deficit -- also is poised to close schools, and is looking for an interim superintendent after firing Bruce Kefgen, who is accused of failing to supervise the district's finances and address deficiencies.” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)

Detroit Free Press Headline: Tensions Grow and Schools Plan More Cutbacks

“Ever-shrinking revenue streams are pushing backs against the wall in several metro Detroit school districts, forcing school boards and administrators to consider drastic measures that could mean everything from closing or combining schools to privatizing services and laying off employees. The proposed moves are creating tension across the region. In several districts, unionized employees have held peaceful demonstrations to express their concerns as contract negotiations drag on and cutbacks are debated. Educators in the Grosse Pointe district picketed outside the school board's meeting last week. Ranae Beyerlein, president of the Grosse Pointe Education Association, said the district is considering laying off upward of 50 teachers. ‘We're trying to keep the cuts out of the classroom and away from the students,’ she said, adding that negotiations with the district have stalled.” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)

Rochester District Teachers Worked Only Contractual Hours for a Day to Show Extra Time they Work

“Rochester Community Schools also is facing a hefty deficit of $14.6 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year. District spokeswoman Debbi Hartman said all areas will be impacted. ‘You're not going to make anybody happy,’ she said. ‘There could be reductions in staff. There could be anything.’ Most of the Rochester district's teachers, whose contract expired in August, decided to work only their contractual hours on Wednesday. They met in the parking lots of their respective buildings, walked in together at the required time and left when they contractually were allowed to leave. Typically, the teachers stay after on their own time, said Cathy Perini Korreck, president of the Rochester Education Association. ‘We decided it would be a good exercise, visibly, to show what it looks like when you have employees that have sort of an on-the-clock mentality,’ she said. Unionized employees for Royal Oak Public Schools rallied Thursday outside a district budget workshop meeting, concerned the district would move to outsource services. Superintendent Thomas Moline said the district is considering privatizing custodial, maintenance and grounds services -- a move that could save about $900,000. The district still is in negotiations with the union. Moline said the cuts aren't something district officials want to do, but ‘our backs are up against a wall.’ Bruce Anderson, president of the Royal Oak Education Support Personnel Association, said there should be across-the-district wage cuts. ‘I'm a reasonable man,’ he said. ‘I'm willing to do what it takes to protect jobs.’” (Detroit Free Press, March 29, 2010)
Kansas City

Kansas City School Board Voted to Close Half of the District’s Schools (29 of 61 Schools) on March 10

“The board voted 5-4 after parents and community leaders made final pleas to spare the schools even as the beleaguered district seeks to erase a projected $50 million budget shortfall. The approved plan calls for shutting down 29 of 61 schools a striking amount even as public school closures rise nationwide while the recession eats away at academic budgets.’ The urban core has suffered white flight post-the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision Brown v. the Board of Education, blockbusting by the real estate industry, redlining by banks and other financial institutions, retail and grocery store abandonment,’ Kansas City Councilwoman Sharon Sanders Brooks said to applause from a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 people.’ And now the public education system is aiding and abetting in the economic demise of our school district,’ she said. ‘It is shameful and sinful.’” (Associated Press, March 11, 2010)

School Board’s Plan Includes 18 Elementary/Early Childhood Schools

The plan will close two high schools, four middle schools, three alternative schools, 18 elementary schools or early childhood learning centers, and two administrative/support facilities. (Kansas City School District Proposed Resolution, March 10, 2010)

Problems Stem From a Historically Dysfunctional School Board

“The sudden move suggests a depth of dysfunction here that is rarely associated with Kansas City, a lively heartland town with a reputation for order. But a closer look at the school board’s recent history reveals a chaotic, almost nonfunctioning body that put off making tough choices and even routine improvements for generations. Experts said that in the board’s years of inaction is a cautionary tale for school districts everywhere. ‘This is extraordinary,’ said Jack Jennings, president of the Center on Education Policy, a research group in Washington. ‘The school board was dysfunctional for years. There was very poor governance for a long period of time, and it was like a revolving door with superintendents.’” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Kansas City Has Not Heeded Suggestions from National Analysts

“In 2006, the Council of the Great City Schools, a Washington-based coalition of the nation’s largest school districts, produced an extensive analysis of what was going wrong in the Kansas City schools. It concluded that the board wasted too much time on administrative trivia, its instructional program lacked ‘cohesion and forward momentum’ and it had ‘no machinery’ for intervening when students fell behind. The council included advice in the report on how the schools could fix themselves, but little if any action appeared to have been taken as a result.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

18,000 Students Have Left for Other Schools in the Past Decade
“Students have been leaving the Kansas City public schools in droves. Close to 18,000 students exited to better suburban districts or charter schools in the last 10 years alone. The student enrollment is now 17,400 children, who are mostly black and impoverished.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Closure Plan Calls for the Elimination of 700 Jobs

“And achievement levels in the schools are abysmal: Fewer than a third of elementary students in the city schools read at or above grade level. And in most of the schools, fewer than a quarter of students are proficient at their grade levels. Faced with a $50 million deficit in its $300 million budget, the district decided to close the schools. The plan also calls for the elimination of 700 of 3,000 jobs, including teaching positions.” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Covington Was the Latest of Several Superintendents Brought in to Fix the School System

“Education experts praised the new schools superintendent, John Covington, who was hired in April from the Pueblo, Colo., school district where he was also superintendent, for pushing for change. A former principal and teacher, Dr. Covington spent months researching and writing the Right-Sizing plan, and managed to win a 5-to-4 majority from the board. Previous superintendents had failed in similar efforts to downsize the district. ‘He put a mountain of information out there with statistics, and people finally understood what was happening, even if they didn’t like it,’ said Duane Kelly, who has been a school board member for 10 years and voted in favor of the closings. ‘It was time.’” (New York Times, March 11, 2010)

Support for Superintendent Has Become Central Issue in April 6 School Board Elections

“Candidate Crispin Rea accused appointed board member Cokethea Hill of being part of a slate of candidates who want to replace the school closing plan. Rea said the school system needs a board that will support the school chief and stay out of his way. Earlier this month, the school board, by a split vote of 5-4, approved superintendent John Covington's plan to close nearly half of the district's schools -- 26 schools and three centers. Hill said she voted against the closing plan because it was not detailed enough for her. She said she could not support that plan with more information. She also denied she was part of a ‘slate.’ Hill called her alliance with some other candidates as being ‘part of a team.’” (KMBC News, March 29, 2010)

Some Board Members Have Called for Expansion, Not Reduction

“Linwood Tauheed objected to the process Covington used to form his plan. He said he favors "super-sizing" the district not "right-sizing it." He explained the best way to stem the declining enrollment is to bring more quality teachers to the classroom, attracting top students. He said the abstract way of declaring a teacher "qualified," by their academics is not working.” (KMBC News, March 29, 2010)
School Board Set Up Buyout Plan for Teachers

“On Wednesday, the Kansas City School Board decided to dedicate $4 million toward a retirement incentive program to encourage teachers to voluntarily leave their jobs, KMBC’s Martin Augustine reported. With the buyout plan for teachers, counselors and principals -- known as certified staff -- they must have at least 10 years of service and other requirements. If they accept it, they'll receive a one-time payment of $20,000, on top of the retirement benefits they've already earned.” (KMBC News, March 24, 2010)

VIRGINIA

Bedford County, VA: Superintendent’s Budget Proposal Recommended Closing Two Schools

“Looking to cut $7 million in the next fiscal year, Bedford County Schools Superintendent Douglas Schuch recommended a budget proposal Thursday that would eliminate 124 full-time positions and close two elementary schools... Body Camp Elementary School and Thaxton Elementary School would be closed and the majority of surrounding preschool programs would be relocated to those buildings, Schuch said. Big Island Elementary School, which a school board member had previously mentioned as a possible closure site, is not included in proposed changes.” (Lynchburg News Advance, February 11, 2010)

NEW JERSEY

Camden School Board Approved Two School Closings

“Struggling to make up for a loss of more than $15 million in state aid, the Camden school board last night approved a tentative budget that could eliminate more than 300 positions, including 94 teachers, and close two schools... The $337 million plan, which district officials intend to submit to the executive county superintendent today, would close the William F. Powell Elementary School and the South Camden Alternative School.” (Philadelphia Inquirer, March 23, 2010)

NEW YORK

Troy, NY Discussing Closure of Elementary Schools to Save $2 Million

“The Board of Education at the Enlarged School District of Troy said they will likely formally announce on Wednesday which of the elementary schools would close in order to save upwards of $2 million on the proposed budget. ‘I feel the sooner, the better to give parents, teachers, and
students time to absorb the information,’ said BOE president Tom Mayo. The administration insisted that a decision had not yet been made and that Superintendent Fadhilika Atiba-Weza would make a recommendation to the board shortly, which could be approved or rejected.” (The Troy Record, March 30, 2010)

**INDIANA**

**Adams County Considering Closing an Elementary School to Cut $880,000 from its Budget**

“Declining revenue is taking its toll on an Adams County school district, threatening the future of an elementary school. In a school board meeting Tuesday evening, North Adams officials named Monmouth Elementary to their list of possible cuts as district leaders struggle to cut $880,000 from their budget. The closure could save the district $490,000. Monouth was targeted officials say, because the building could be sold to another entity like Ivy Tech Community College, which has reportedly entered a "dialogue" with North Adams leaders… In addition to a school closure, district leaders are considering charging students to play sports, consolidating bussing county wide and outsourcing custodial services. A final decision on the proposed cuts is expected on Tuesday April 13th.” (Indiana NewsCenter, April 6, 2010)

“‘It's sad for our community that in this economy it has to come to this. I don't think our children are mentally ready for this big step,’ said parent Kelly Vanlandingham. That big step Vanlandingham mentioned is the idea that some elementary students could be housed in the middle school next year, if the closure is approved. Under one proposal, pre-kindergarten through fourth grade would be housed in the remaining two elementary schools. Fifth graders would be sent to Bellmont Middle School. In a second scenario, one elementary would house pre-kindergarten through first grade, with the other taking second through fifth grades.” (Indiana NewsCenter, April 6, 2010)

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**No School Closings in Boston for Now but Superintendent Said “There Will be Schools That We Have to Close in the Future”**

“As the Boston School Committee meets Wednesday evening to finalize budget cuts, officials say that school closures are off the table — at least for now. ‘At this time, we’re not recommending closing schools for the FY2011 budget,’ said Superintendent Carol Johnson. ‘However, we anticipate that in order to continue to balance our budget, there will be schools that we have to close in the future.’” (WBUR, March 24, 2010)
WASHINGTON D.C.

Three Schools Closed in 2008 Will Not be Reopened in the Near Future Due to Reduced Revenue

“Chancellor Michelle A. Rhee's promises to rebuild three D.C. schools that closed in 2008 are likely to remain unfulfilled in the near future, a delay that city officials attribute to reduced revenue because of the economy and unanticipated expenditures on other projects. Rhee and Mayor Adrian M. Fenty (D) roiled neighborhoods across the city when they announced the closure of 23 schools that were underenrolled or in poor physical condition. In three cases, they softened the impact of the deeply unpopular decisions by promising to modernize or rebuild the schools while students were relocated. Since fall 2008, students at Bruce-Monroe Elementary (Ward 1) have attended Park View Elementary, children from Brookland Education Campus (Ward 5) are enrolled at Bunker Hill, and Turner Elementary students (Ward 8) have gone to Green Elementary. Parents in each community were told that new or vastly modernized buildings would be ready within three years. But the school system's $200 million-a-year capital program, which has delivered gleaming new facilities such as Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School (Ward 5) and the Wheatley Education Campus (Ward 5), faces a budget squeeze as tax revenue declines and deficits mount. ‘Our biggest issue is money,’ said Rhee, who is scheduled to appear Monday before the D.C. Council. ‘We don't have as much of it as we did before.’ Asked whether, in retrospect, she overpromised school communities, she said: ‘I promised based on what [the financial situation] looked like at the time. I didn't expect the capital budget to take a hammering.’” (Washington Post, March 22, 2010)