



CONFEDERATION
OF OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS



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SCHOOL
BOARDS
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OEA • NEA



May 30, 2002

Dear Superintendent, School Board Chair, OEA, AFT-Oregon, OSEA Local Presidents and Coalition for School Funding Now (or Parent/Community) Representative:

On the eve of the third Special Session of the Legislature, the state economist has announced an additional revenue shortfall in excess of \$550 million. Additional anticipated cost increases to the state General fund plus the \$220 million cut to K-12 funding associated with failure of Ballot Measure 13 brings lawmakers to Salem facing a budget deficit of \$880 million.

Our organizations did not agree on Ballot Measure 13, but we do agree that the current funding crisis facing public education must be resolved as quickly as possible with restoration of the \$220 million loss.

Stay focused on your local district and the local impacts. Do not debate or agree to "accept" any proposed solution. We will end up divided on what might work. Be assured that your statewide organizations will work closely with each legislator to find a workable solution to this deficit. We all must be motivated by the same urgency your school districts face trying to conclude work on your 2002-03 budgets in light of this critical uncertainty at the state level. Here are the action steps that must be taken:

1. Superintendents should immediately call a meeting with the local school board chair, leader of the Coalition for School Funding Now, or alternative parent or community group representative, and the Presidents of the OEA, AFT and OSEA unit in the district. Agree on the most effective possible presentation of the *impact of these state budget reductions* on your district based on these criteria:

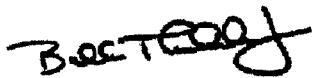
Remind legislators of the specific impact the \$92 million in cuts (already taken) in your district.

Share in detail the cuts that will occur if you must absorb a reduction of \$330 *per weighted student* resulting from the \$220 million cut from Ballot Measure 13.

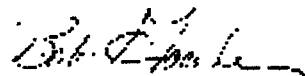
Emphasize the urgency of the situation as you prepare next year's budget. Give them specific budget dates and the reasons decisions must be made over the next several weeks rather than months.

2. Meet as a group with your local legislator to review these findings and report to your state organization on your meeting.
3. Be prepared to come to Salem with your team when the Special Session is called to meet again with your legislator. A Special Session is currently being discussed for mid-June but it is unlikely one will be called until legislators agree on a plan to resolve the deficit.

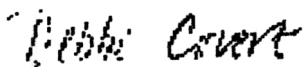
Thank you in advance for all of your efforts to make these contacts and assist in this process.



William Thorndike, Jr., Co-Chair
Coalition for School Funding Now!



Bob Goerke, President
Confederation of Oregon
School Administrators



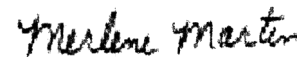
Debbi Covert, President
AFT Oregon



Kristine S. Kain, President
Oregon Education Association



Thomas W. Bennett, President
Oregon School Boards Association



Merlene Martin, President
OSEA