



Senate of Pennsylvania

March 16, 2009

To: All Pennsylvania School Superintendents

From: Senate President Pro Tempore Joseph B. Scarnati *JBS*
Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi *D*
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Jake Corman *JCP*
Senate Education Chairman Jeffrey Piccola *JCP*

Re: School Funding for 2009-10

Dear Superintendent:

Since Governor Rendell announced his 2009-10 budget proposal on February 4, the federal government has enacted the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which includes a significant amount of funding for education.

However, we urge you to take a very cautious approach to preparing your 2009-10 budgets since the depth of the Commonwealth's budget shortfall and the impact of ARRA are still not fully known.

Until the 2009-10 state budget is signed into law, there is no guaranteed level of funding for school districts and/or any other entity in the state. In fact, provisions of the *Pennsylvania Constitution* and existing statutory law require the General Assembly to appropriate any funds received from the federal government.

The General Assembly will consider the Governor's proposals and the impact of ARRA as we work to enact a final 2009-10 state budget. Although we believe it is the goal of every legislator to enact a final budget before June 30 that provides equitable levels of funding to all Pennsylvania school districts, there is no way to determine the final appropriation level at this time.

This is a time for every governmental entity, including school districts, to hold the line on spending and to continue looking for ways to cut spending and avoid imposing tax increases on hard-working Pennsylvania families.

The Senate Education Committee will hold two days of additional budget hearings to carefully scrutinize the Governor's recommendations for the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the impact of ARRA, including the basic education subsidy and related line-items. These hearings will be held on March 25 and March 26. Full video of the hearings will be available online at <http://www.pasenategop.com> as soon as possible after they have concluded.

Thank you for your kind attention to this letter. We look forward to working with you in our common goal of ensuring that every Pennsylvania student has the opportunity to receive a quality education.



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To: All Pennsylvania School Board Presidents

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Senate Majority Leader Dominic Pileggi
Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman
Jake Corman
Senate Education Chairman Jeffrey Piccola

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