



NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
2109 NEWTON DRIVE, N.E.
P.O. BOX 1469
COVINGTON, GEORGIA 30015

Dr. R. Steven Whatley
Superintendent

PHONE
770-787-1330

January 20, 2010

Dear Families of the Newton County School System,

Governor Perdue announced his proposed budget on Friday, January 15, 2010. The Newton County School System (NCSS) is currently studying the Governor's proposal that calls for an additional three percent cut in K-12 funding for the current Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 budget which ends this June 30th.

The Governor's recommendation also includes a requirement for three additional furlough days before June 30. There are other aspects of the proposed budget that could further affect us. These recommendations by the Governor indicate the severity of the ongoing budget crisis facing our state and public education. As with any budget proposal, the Legislature will consider the Governor's recommendations and likely make changes in the budget before it is finally approved.

Approximately 59% of the Newton County School System's revenue comes from the state. The additional proposed three percent reductions come on top of more than \$2.7 million that NCSS has not received from the state due to state cuts in our revenue made earlier in this fiscal year. These cuts have caused the school system to: make reductions in personnel; increase some class sizes; reduce funding for instructional textbooks, materials, and supplies; and reduce benefits for employees. Employees working 190 days or more have already been furloughed three days, and administrators have been furloughed four days.

In addition to releasing the proposed amended budget for FY 2010, the Governor also released the proposed budget for FY 2011. As we develop the school system's local budget for FY 2011, we will continue to monitor the state budget situation and develop options as needed to address declines in state funding. Additional communication will be forthcoming.

Please know that, even in these challenging economic times, the students of the Newton County Schools will remain our focus in decision making and preparation for academic achievement.

Sincerely,

R. Steven Whatley
Superintendent