

February 2009

Superintendent's FY10 Budget Will Cut \$46.2M

Only \$21.6M in savings has been identified – 917 positions would be cut

On February 4th, Superintendent Johnson presented a recommended school FY10 budget of \$786.9M, a \$46.2M or 5.5% cut from FY09. The School Department represents 47% of FY09 departmental spending and its \$46.2M reduction represents a proportional 47% of the total cut to departmental spending in FY10. The \$46.2M in budget-to-budget reductions must be identified before the School Committee's budget vote on March 25. The Superintendent has identified \$21.6M in cuts, leaving a \$24.7M budget gap.

Superintendent's Budget In Millions	
FY09 Budget	\$833.1
FY10 Proposed	\$786.9
Total Reduction	(\$46.2)
Identified Cuts	(\$21.6)
Unidentified Cuts	(\$24.7)

Key components of securing the \$21.6M in identified reductions include:

- Identifying greater efficiencies in central support operations that include the cut of 218 positions.
- Reducing school budgets based on each school's enrollment, grade level, and service to special needs and bilingual populations causing a cut of 699 positions.
- Transportation services including no busing for private and parochial schools.
- Eliminating supplemental funds for ten Superintendent's Schools.

The \$21.6M cut would impact 917 positions, including 372 teachers. If school unions accept the Mayor's one-year wage and step increase freeze proposal, the School Department would save \$29.9M. However, freeze savings are intended to mitigate the 917 layoffs, not to close the \$24.7M gap.

With \$24.7M more to cut before March 25, the Superintendent suggested two solutions to closing the budget gap.

- Increase transportation efficiency by restructuring student assignment from a three zone to a five zone system.
- Further consolidate schools to maximize existing space and reduce empty seats.

Federal Stimulus Package

School officials are expecting that the recently passed federal stimulus act could help lessen painful cuts. Boston is projected to receive \$29M each year for two years in Title I and IDEA special education grants. In addition, Boston can expect to receive some education funding through the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund.

One-time federal stimulus funds for school operations should be carefully targeted to provide long-term benefits in area like technology and professional development. Federal stimulus dollars should only fund positions that can be sustained in two years after stimulus funds stop. It is crucial that this one-time revenue is not used to prop up an unsustainable operations base or to substitute for a long-term solution to control spending.