



## NEWS RELEASE

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# Legislature's cuts to district's budget less than expected

## *District's preliminary budget work based on 'worst-case scenario', Legislature's budget not as severe to schools as Gov's initial budget*

April 14, 2010—Renton School's budget next year will not be as negatively impacted by state cuts as first proposed in the governor's initial budget, released in December 2009.

The district's loss of state funding was to be as much as \$4.3 million. That, coupled with increases in operating costs (utilities, insurance and state-mandated retirement annuities), brought the district's total anticipated reductions to \$6.1 million.

The budget released Tuesday by the Legislature makes cuts to Renton of just under \$2.5 million, and did not cut some programs as anticipated, including full-day kindergarten and highly-capable education (the Discovery program in Renton).

### Impact of Legislature's budget to Renton Schools

- Loss of all remaining I-728 funding (\$1.3 million)
- Loss of funding to keep class size low at 4<sup>th</sup>-grade (which equals 7 Renton teaching positions, and \$940,000)
- Loss of remaining Learning Improvement Day (teacher training day (\$246,220)
- District will not have to increase contributions to state-mandated retirement funds (saving nearly \$500,000)

Additionally, the Legislature keeps in place funding for some items that the district anticipated having to fund. For instance, the district expected to pay nearly \$500,000 in increased costs for state-mandated retirement benefits.

The district has been working on its budget for months—considering every department and school budget for reductions and efficiencies—based on proposed cuts by the governor and Legislature.

Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel will offer to the School Board a balanced budget for next school year with proposed cuts to administration; office budgets for materials and supplies; consolidation and streamlining of some business operations, and more. As in previous years, the district worked to keep budget cuts away from classrooms.

### Community, staff budget meetings rescheduled

A more detailed budget will be presented to district staff, parents and the community at community meetings in mid-May. Those meetings were originally scheduled for late April. But, with the state's late release of its budget, the district will now have to finalize its work in the coming weeks.

### State cuts K-12 education, higher ed, more

### Community budget meetings rescheduled

*(originally scheduled April 20, 21, 22—moved due to receipt of Legislative budget)*

**Monday, May 10, 7 p.m.**  
**Lindbergh High School Cafeteria**

16426 128th Ave SE  
Renton ([map it](#))

**Thursday, May 13, 7 p.m.**  
**Hazen High School Library**  
1101 Hoquiam Ave NE  
Renton ([map it](#))

**Monday, May 17, 7 p.m.**  
**Renton High School Cafeteria**  
400 S 2nd St., Renton ([map it](#))

Although less dramatic than expected, the state Legislature did make cuts to K-12 education budgets, as well as cuts to higher education and other state services. Public schools will lose as much as \$120 million, including the elimination of \$79 million in funding for the class-size reduction initiative, I-728.

To help close a \$2.8 billion state budget shortfall, the Legislature will implement a business-and-occupation tax surcharge; apply new taxes on some out-of-state companies; and tax beer, soda, bottled water and candy, which in total is expected to bring in \$757 million through June 2011.

The tax bill now heads to the governor, who is expected to sign it.