



**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Randy Matheson | Executive Director  
 Community Relations | 425.204.2345 | [randy.matheson@rentonschools.us](mailto:randy.matheson@rentonschools.us)  
[www.rentonschools.us](http://www.rentonschools.us)

**Governor’s budget plan means loss of \$4.3 million for Renton Schools**

**State grapples with \$2.6 billion shortfall; meaning further reductions for school district programs, staffing**

February 8, 2010—The Renton School District continues to look for reductions to next year’s budget based on Governor Chris Gregoire recently released 2010 budget to balance a projected state shortfall of \$2.6 billion.

Renton Schools could lose as much as \$4.3 million and 36 teaching positions under the governor's proposal, which cuts funding for all-day kindergarten, gifted education, lower class-size and more. That loss, coupled with \$1.8 million in increases to operating costs like hikes in lighting, water and other utilities; higher insurance premiums; and, a state-mandated increase in retiree benefits costs, means the district’s budget cuts for next year could total \$6.1 million.



Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel has begun work to prepare the district’s budget for next school year that includes the governor’s cuts. Every department and school budget is being audited to find efficiencies. As in years past, the district’s priority will be to make reductions to areas outside of classrooms.

**Take the district’s online [budget priority survey](#)**

Renton School District will seek public input on the proposed budget at three community meetings in late February and early March (see schedule at right). Staff, families and community members can also offer input through an online budget priority survey ([click here](#)) through the end of February.

**Statewide cuts proposed by the governor:**

- About 8,000 teachers statewide (about 36 in Renton)
- Cut preschool for 3-year-olds
- Increase class sizes in kindergarten through fourth grade
- Eliminate state support for gifted education
- Suspend all-day kindergarten

**Community Budget Sessions**

**Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.**  
**Hazen High School Library**  
 1101 Hoquiam Ave NE  
 Renton 98059

**Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.**  
**Lindbergh High School Library**  
 16426 128th Ave SE  
 Renton 98058

**Monday, March 1, 7 p.m.**  
**Renton High School Commons**  
 400 S 2nd St., Renton 98055

**Impact of Gov’s proposed 2010 budget on Renton Schools**

Loss of all funding for all-day kindergarten	Loss of all funding for all-day kindergarten	Loss of all funding for Discovery program
Loss of all remaining I-728 funds	Loss of all funding for middle school vocational programs	Loss of remaining Learning Improvement Day (teacher training day)