



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Governor's proposed 2010 budget cuts deeper into education, services

### State's estimated \$2.6 billion shortfall means further reductions for school district programs, staffing

January 12, 2010—Governor Chris Gregoire recently released her 2010 budget to balance a projected state shortfall of \$2.6 billion. The governor is required by law to draft a balanced budget by the end of the calendar year using existing revenue. ([Read the proposed budget.](#))

The governor said she would draft a new budget this month that includes increases in taxes to restore about \$700 million in state services that would otherwise be cut. It is not clear, however, that the state Legislature will go along with increasing taxes.

### District loss could total \$4.3 million

Renton School District could lose as much as \$4.3 million under the governor's proposal. Although it will not be clear how deep the cuts to the district's budget will be until the Legislature and the governor adopt a budget expected in early spring, 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.

The district has scheduled community meetings to provide opportunity for public input on the district's required reductions.

### Cuts proposed by the governor:

- Equivalent of about 8,000 teachers statewide (State education office [OSPI] estimate)
- Cut preschool for 3-year-olds, saving \$10.5 million.
- Increase class sizes in kindergarten through fourth grade, saving \$110.6 million.
- Eliminate state support for gifted education to save \$7.4 million.
- Suspend all-day kindergarten, saving \$33.6 million.
- Suspend funding for school-levy equalization, which aids "property-poor" school districts, saving \$142.9 million.
- Cut state college scholarships and university budgets.



Ted S. Warren/AP

Gov. Chris Gregoire talks to reporters in Olympia on Dec. 9, 2009 about her plan for balancing the state's \$2.6 billion budget deficit.

### Impact of Gov's proposed 2010 budget on Renton Schools

- ✗ Loss of all funding to maintain lower K-4 class sizes
- ✗ Loss of all funding for Discovery program
- ✗ Loss of all funding for all-day kindergarten
- ✗ 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)

### Renton School District 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