
Note: Please see “Most States are Imposing Cuts that Hurt Vulnerable Residents” at <http://www.cbpp.org/12-17-08sfp.htm> for updated information about education cuts in state budgets.

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MOST STATES ARE CUTTING EDUCATION

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Thirty-six states have cut education or proposed such cuts because they face massive, devastating budget deficits in this recession.

The combination of rising unemployment, declining consumer spending, declining asset values, and foreclosures has led to declining state revenues. And the number of people in poverty is growing, adding costs to state budgets for programs such as Medicaid and social services.

Education is by far the largest component of state budgets. Some 46 percent of all state general fund expenditures is devoted to elementary, secondary, and higher education.

Nearly all states are required to balance their general fund budgets. When large budget deficits develop, education often is cut deeply.

The following details cuts in education funding and programs that states have made as they enacted their fiscal year 2009 budgets, additional cuts as they faced mid-year deficits, and cuts that have been proposed for the upcoming fiscal year.

K-12 Education and Other Childhood Education Programs

At least 20 states have implemented cuts to K-12 education. At least six additional states are proposing such cuts.

The implemented cuts include the following:

- **Florida** has cut aid to local school districts for the current year by \$140 per pupil. **South Carolina** has cut per-pupil funding by \$95 in the current year. **Maine** has cut K-12 funding about \$140 per pupil; this comes on top of education cuts earlier this year that were targeted to reduce specific programs. **Georgia** has cut aid to local school districts and the state's governor has proposed additional cuts. Under the governor's proposal per pupil cuts would amount to

\$115 per pupil for the current fiscal year, and \$189 per pupil for the coming fiscal year..

- **California** is reducing basic K-12 education aid to local school districts. It also is cutting a variety of other programs, such as adult literacy instruction. For Fiscal Year 2009-10 California's governor has proposed delaying payments to school districts, allowing school districts to shorten the school year by up to five days, and reducing funding for some grants and programs aimed at helping high needs students.
- **Kansas** has been delaying payments to school districts.
- **Maryland** cut funding for a school breakfast pilot program, professional development for principals and educators, health clinics, gifted and talented summer centers, and math and science initiatives. For the coming fiscal year, Maryland's governor has proposed cutting direct aid to local school districts by \$69 million.
- **Massachusetts** enacted cuts to Head Start, universal pre-kindergarten programs, and early intervention services to help special-need children develop appropriately and be ready for school. Funding for K-12 has also been reduced, including spending for mentoring, teacher training, reimbursements for special education residential schools, services for disabled students, and programs for gifted and talented students.
- In **Nevada**, the governor has ordered various cuts to K-12 education, including delaying an all-day kindergarten expansion, cutting per pupil expenditures by \$400 in a pilot program, eliminating funds for gifted and talented programs, eliminating funds for a magnet program for students who are deaf or hard of hearing, and making across-the-board cuts. Additionally, young children with developmental delays will lose more than 15,000 hours of needed services.
- **Rhode Island** has frozen state aid for K-12 education at last year's levels in nominal terms and reduced the number of children who can be served by Head Start and similar services by more than 550.
- State education grants to school districts for the current fiscal year have also been cut in **Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, Utah** and **Virginia**.

Additional proposed cuts for the coming year include the following:

- **Colorado's** governor has proposed suspending a number of educational programs in the current fiscal year, and cutting K-12 funding for FY 2010 by almost 4 percent.
- **Idaho's** governor has proposed cutting general fund spending for public schools by 5 percent in FY 2010 relative to the state's FY 2009 appropriation.
- **Nebraska's** governor proposes providing school districts with 7 percent less funding for the coming two-year budget period than they are slated to receive under the state's education funding formula.
- The **New York** governor proposes nearly \$2 billion in cuts in education funding in FY 2010. Reductions in aid to individual school districts would range between 3 percent and 13 percent.

In addition, a number of specific programs are eliminated, including supplemental math/science programs and new-teacher mentoring programs.

- **South Carolina's** Governor proposes suspending funding for textbook purchases in FY 2010.
- **Washington's** governor has proposed reducing by one-third the amount the state spends to supplement education funding in property poor school districts. This proposal is likely to widen the gap in education funding between wealthy and poor districts.
- Governors in **Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada** and **Virginia** have also proposed cuts affecting K-12 education in FY 2010.

Colleges and Universities

At least 28 states have implemented cuts to public colleges and universities and/or large increases in college tuition to make up for insufficient state funding. Cuts are proposed in four additional states.

- **Arizona** State University plans to address its loss of state funds by holding vacant or laying off 150 to 200 faculty associates, requiring employees to take off an average of three weeks without pay, boosting class size, and reducing enrollment in its nursing school by 5 percent to 10 percent. Tuition in Arizona this year rose 9.5 percent in response to funding cuts.
- In **Florida**, university budgets and community-college funding were cut. The University of Florida has announced it will eliminate 430 faculty and staff positions and decrease funding for disability services, financial aid services and internship opportunities. Student enrollment is declining by more than 1,000 students at both Florida State University and the University of Florida. The legislature approved a statewide tuition increase for the current academic year of 6 percent; the University of Florida increased tuition for in-state undergraduates by 15 percent.
- In **Kentucky**, state budget cuts to colleges and universities of about 3 percent led to in-state tuition hikes of 5.2 percent at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System. The Council on Postsecondary Education has also approved in-state tuition increases for universities across the state from 6.1 percent (Murray State University) to 9 percent (University of Kentucky and University of Louisville). Additionally, the University of Kentucky has announced 188 faculty and staff positions would be eliminated.
- **New York** has enacted tuition increases for this year and next year. Resident undergraduate tuition will increase a total of 14 percent by the 2009-10 academic year..
- When the state of **Rhode Island** cut higher education funding last year, the University of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and the Community College of Rhode Island all increased tuition for the current academic year. Each of these institutions now has gone one step further by increasing tuition further mid-year, by 6.7 percent, 8.2 percent, and 4.3 percent respectively.
- Following cuts to state university budgets, tuition increases for the current academic year were announced in **Alabama** (13 percent), **Maine** (10 percent), **New Jersey** (4 percent to 9 percent), **Oklahoma** (9 percent to 10 percent), **South Carolina** (6 percent), **Tennessee** (6

percent) and **Virginia** (average increase of 7.3 percent when fees are included). **California** is raising in-state tuition for 2009-10 by 7.4 percent to 10 percent as part of its October budget deal, and in December the governor called for additional tuition increases of 9 to 13 percent for some institutions.

- Other states making cuts in higher education operating funding include **Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah,** and **Vermont.**
- Governors in **Georgia, Idaho, Mississippi, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, Pennsylvania, South Carolina** and **Virginia** have proposed additional higher education cuts in their budgets for fiscal year 2010. Some of these cuts are quite large. For example:
 - **Nevada's** governor proposed cutting funding for state universities and colleges by 36 percent compared to the state's prior budget.
 - **Virginia's** governor has proposed cutting funding for four-year state colleges and universities by 15 percent.
 - **South Carolina's** governor recommended that the state begin phasing out three two-year college campuses.
- The governors in **Kansas** and **Colorado** have proposed cutting higher education funding in both the current fiscal year, and the next fiscal year. Universities in **Kansas** have already begun making cuts in anticipation of a reduction in state funding.
- For the upcoming year, higher education cuts are also proposed in **Indiana, New Mexico,** and **Washington.**

States Need Help to Avoid These Cuts

State deficits over the next two and a half years are likely to total more than \$350 billion. Local governments face additional shortfalls. With education accounting for such a large share of state general fund budgets, it is difficult for states to avoid these types of damaging cuts — which will only get deeper as the recession continues. The economic recovery legislation passed by the House (and, to a lesser extent, the version passed by the Senate) would reduce the extent of such cuts.

AT LEAST 36 STATES HAVE ENACTED OR PROPOSED CUTS TO EDUCATION

State	K-12 and Early Education	Higher Education
Alabama	Enacted	Enacted, Proposed
Alaska		
Arizona		Enacted
Arkansas		
California	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
Colorado	Proposed	Proposed
Connecticut	Enacted	Enacted
Delaware	Enacted	
District of Columbia		
Florida	Enacted	Enacted
Georgia	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
Hawaii		
Idaho	Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
Illinois		
Indiana		Proposed
Iowa	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted
Kansas	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
Kentucky	Enacted	Enacted
Louisiana		Enacted
Maine	Enacted	Enacted
Maryland	Enacted	Enacted
Massachusetts	Enacted	Enacted, Proposed
Michigan		
Minnesota		Enacted, Proposed
Mississippi	Enacted	Enacted, Proposed
Missouri		
Montana		
Nebraska	Proposed	
Nevada	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
New Hampshire		
New Jersey		Enacted
New Mexico	Proposed	Proposed
New York	Proposed	Enacted
North Carolina		Enacted
North Dakota		
Ohio	Enacted	
Oklahoma		Enacted
Oregon	Enacted	
Pennsylvania		Enacted, Proposed
Rhode Island	Enacted	Enacted
South Carolina	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
South Dakota		
Tennessee		Enacted
Texas		
Utah	Enacted	Enacted
Vermont		Enacted
Virginia	Enacted, Proposed	Enacted, Proposed
Washington	Proposed	Proposed
West Virginia		

Wisconsin		
Wyoming		
TOTAL	20 Enacted, 13 Proposed	28 Enacted, 16 Proposed