

# Dearborn Heights School District No. 7

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March 16, 2011

Dear Parents,

Since Governor Snyder released his proposed budget for fiscal year 2012 (which begins October 1, 2011), you have been hearing about the huge cuts coming to our schools. As you know, schools have been facing budget challenges for several years, but none have been as devastating as the proposed cuts we are now facing. We have long recognized the need to conserve our resources and have already cut school supplies, technology outlay, curriculum supplies, athletics, and clerical/custodial staff. We have frozen employee wages for two years and received concessions in health care.

The proposed per pupil cuts, combined with an eroding tax base, lower property values, loss of students, rising costs of utilities, health insurance, supplies, equipment, and school meals will compound the already dire financial impact on our students. In fact, the full impact of the Governor's proposal is the largest single annual cut in the history of education in Michigan and will most certainly negatively impact programs for your children. The proposed \$470 cut to K-12 education is just a part of the budget challenges that our schools now face. The real math shows a much greater impact on our schools than the State has reported. For our district, the per pupil impact is \$682 resulting in a projected total loss of approximately \$2,100,000 for 2011-2012.

Until now, we have managed to keep most of our budget cuts out of the classroom, but given these proposed cuts, that will no longer be possible. We will be forced to make cuts in programs, raise class sizes significantly and eliminate additional employee positions.

This is unacceptable if Michigan is to create new jobs as well as retain and attract talent in the process. We need to invest in K-12 education so all of our children are prepared for college and global competition. Strong local schools are the backbone of strong communities and positively contribute to our quality of life. Stop cuts to school funding!

We need your help! If you believe that your child(ren) and your school can't afford these cuts, please share your thoughts with the decision-makers in Lansing. You can send a letter to Bob Constan (Legislator) at N 695 House Office Building, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI. 48909, or via email at [bobconstan@house.mi.gov](mailto:bobconstan@house.mi.gov). Also contact State Senator Tupac Hunter at Billie S Farnum Building, P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI. 48909, or via email at [sentahunter@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:sentahunter@senate.michigan.gov).

Thank you for taking action to support and protect your children, your schools and your community.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Bartold  
Superintendent of Schools