



NJDOE News

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Commissioner Davy Highlights Governor Corzine's Commitment to Education in FY2010 Budget

Education Commissioner Lucille E. Davy today applauded Governor Corzine for making education a top priority in next year's budget and committing an additional \$300 million to education funding at a time when states around the nation are proposing drastic cuts.

"Despite the unprecedented global economic crisis, Governor Corzine's budget proposal continues his commitment to investments in education," said Commissioner Davy. "The message could not be more clear: Funding education and investing in our children's future are of paramount importance to the Governor."

The Fiscal Year 2009-10 budget as proposed yesterday includes \$7.9 billion for K-12 education costs - an increase of nearly \$148 million. Additional funding also will be provided to existing high-quality preschool programs around the state and incentive funds will be available to help school districts leverage federal funding for new or expanding preschool programs.

Governor Corzine's budget also maintains his commitment to the School Funding Reform Act (SFRA) enacted last year. No school district will see a decrease in state aid and 171 districts with budgets below the adequacy benchmark will receive increases of up to 5 percent.

"Being able to run the new funding formula and provide districts with level or slightly increased funding is a tremendous accomplishment when the overall state budget is lower than last year," said Commissioner Davy. "As I heard earlier this week from my counterparts in other states, education resources are in short supply around the nation leading to sharp decreases in aid to local districts in other states. That is not happening here."

Commissioner Davy, who attended events in Washington, D.C. on Monday and Tuesday with education commissioners from other states, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan and President Obama, said the educational support provided in New Jersey's budget also align with initiatives being developed by the president and his administration.

"Whether it is investing in high-quality preschool education or increasing the rigor in our high school classrooms, New Jersey is poised to take advantage of reforms being advocated by the Obama Administration and the funding that will go along with it," said Commissioner Davy. "Thanks to the steps Governor Corzine has taken in this budget and in years past, New Jersey will be a leader in the national education movement underway."

The 2009-2010 district-by-district state aid figures can be found on DOE's Web site at <http://www.nj.gov/education/stateaid/0910/>. District aid profiles are located at <http://www.nj.gov/education/sff/>.