

## **March 2009**

### **Legislative Update**

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#### **Oregon PTA legislative report: Cuts to State Budget for 2007-09 impact schools and services. Staff layoffs and loss of school days expected in some communities.**

The Oregon Legislature is in the final steps of rebalancing the 2007-09 budget. At the time of writing this legislative report a Ways and Means subcommittee has voted to cut \$300 million and use reserve funds and federal stimulus dollars to balance the budget. Included in that calculation are cuts to education funding and in human services to children and a loss of public safety dollars. [Read more...](#)

#### **Loss of staff, days and programs**

Different districts have responded with plans to deal with the budget cuts this year. Layoff notices have been sent, programs have been cut and in some districts days of instruction will be cut. Districts with reserves will use them to protect days and staff positions. Some districts have considered asking for local tax votes to help balance budgets. Similar deep cuts will be happening in other service areas that protect children and help the most vulnerable Oregonians.

#### **Upcoming discussions in the capitol**

Many bills are just beginning their trip through the legislative process. Some ideas under consideration will include improving transparency in the budget process, building a sustainable model for on line learning, taking on the issue of bullying in schools and extending health care benefits to Oregon children. Ideas about revenue increases, changing the way the "kicker" is used and other efforts to stabilize the delivery of state services will be considered. Oregon PTA will be active in those discussions and we welcome your input on ideas impacting your community.