

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Rochester Community Schools turn out successful students who go on to be leaders in society. This is due in large part to the professional, dedicated staff.

But of course, the parents and community can play an even bigger role in advocating for kids.

Let's face it: legislators are tired of listening to the teachers' voices. But we refuse to give up on our schools, or on your kids—you should refuse as well.

Write or call your senators, representatives, and the Governor. Tell them that cuts to schools are NOT ok. Tell them that corporate tax breaks and loopholes are NOT more important to Michigan's economy than the education of our children – this state's future.

Your children's teachers are not looking for handouts. We have been doing our part to help Rochester save over \$20 million in the past 10 years. But we won't stand idly by while the government takes *money they don't need to take* from our kids. So the big questions are...

WILL YOU STAND WITH US?

WILL YOU STAND UP FOR YOUR CHILDREN?

Hopefully by now you are asking yourself,

“What can I do about all this?”

Contact your legislators! The following site will direct you to your legislator.
www.legislature.mi.gov

Scroll down to “Contact your Representative” or “Contact your senator”

Contact the Governor!

Governor Rick Snyder
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909
(517) 373-3400
(517) 335-7858 - Constituent Services
(517) 335-6863
Rick.Snyder@michigan.gov

Stay Informed!

The MEA is a wonderful resource for the teacher perspective. Despite the attitude that the “union” is a big, scary entity, the REALITY is your children's teachers ARE THE UNION. Check us out: www.mea.org

For a local perspective, try the Rochester teachers' union site: www.rochestereaa.org

Don't want a “union” website? See for yourself: www.legislature.mi.gov. Look for “Bills” then under the categories of education or workers.

Compiled by a classroom teacher, on her own time, with the support (and printing capabilities) of her union

WHY ARE MY PUBLIC
SCHOOL WORKERS
OUTSIDE WITH
SIGNS??

TUESDAY, JUNE 7:
DAY OF ACTION IN
DEFENSE OF KIDS

Did you know...

The state School Aid Fund has a **surplus** of nearly \$600 million dollars and would have allowed the state to offer a \$200-plus INCREASE per pupil for the coming year?

The state is moving \$900 million **from** the School Aid Fund **to** the General Fund (which of course, can be used for non-school expenditures).

HERE is what the Governor has already signed off on:

- A “roll back” of the minimum per-pupil foundation allowance by \$470 – from \$7,316 to \$6,846. This dollar figure is **ALL** the state is *required* to provide to districts. In years past, there have been reductions/withholdings but **NOT** a rollback. **Is your child worth \$470 LESS than he/she was last year?**
- One-time only payments of \$100 per student and the opportunity to earn another one-time only \$100 payment *if districts meet four of five financial management best practices*. Districts have 4 weeks to meet these requirements—arguably at the busiest time of the year. **Does this seem like something that would HELP schools?**

- Emergency Managers who have the power to negate ALL contracts, eliminate or ignore school boards and other elected officials, all with NO required qualifications in education or city governance. **Think this would never happen in Rochester? See the previous 2 bullets.**

As a result of all of this, the currently proposed cuts to RCS (effective Fall, 2011) include:

- The elimination of Media Assistants which will reduce the ability for students to use the media center before, **during**, and after the school day.
- The reduction/restructuring by half of the Learning Consultant paraprofessionals. This would essentially *cut by 50% the number of students who are able receive academic support during the school day*. These students tend to be **MOST** in need of this support.
- The Dean of Students -- a position that handles student discipline -- would be eliminated at Rochester and Stoney Creek High, the buildings with the two highest student populations in the district, thus putting an even greater burden on the administrators and staff.
- Elimination of the Police Liaison program for after-school activities.

And HERE is some of what is being proposed...

- Elimination of teacher tenure
- Mandatory 20% health care contributions for public employees (excludes legislators)
- Consolidation of school districts (with other districts) without the districts’ approval
- Wage and step freezes across the state for union members
- Mandated 5% pay cut for all public employees
- *A hiring freeze* for all state employees
- Removal of the cap on charter schools

Here are our questions: Does ANY of this sound like a job “creator?” Who is going to want to work in education in a climate like this? *How does this help kids?*