

# **Gloucester City School District**

## **Summary of the Effect of the Current State Aid Figures**

**On the 2007-2008 School Year**

**Dr. Mary T. Stansky  
Superintendent of Schools**

**PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS FOR 2007-2008  
Gloucester City School District**

(3/14/07)

Preliminary Budget for 2007-2008 = \$39,781,846  
 State Aid 2007-2008 = \$30,713,645  
 General Fund Appropriations 2007-2008 = \$32,581,790  
 (Includes Local Contribution)  
**Revenue Balance Needed 2007-2008 = \$ 7,200,056**

School	Category	Amount	Subtotal
Cold Springs School			
	Salaries/Benefits	978,500	
	Teachers (5)		
	Aides (8)		
	Secretary (1)		
	Teacher Coaches (2)		
	Tutors (3)	(4-funded NCLB)	
	Security (1)		
	Summer School	60,926	
	Supplies	114,062	
	Equipment	9,000	
	Pur Prof / Prof.Dev.	19,174	
	Trips / Admissions	22,215	
	Travel	8,430	
	Books	7,925	
		Subtotal	1,220,232
Mary Ethel Costello School			
	Salaries/Benefits	833,068	
	Teachers (6 1/2)		
	Tutors (3)		
	Secretary (1)		
	Teacher Coaches (2)		
	Guidance C (1)		
	Summer School	33,954	
	Supplies	131,000	
	Equipment	30,000	
	Pur Prof / Prof.Dev.	14,800	
	Trips / Admissions	33,700	
	Assemblies	7,000	
	Textbooks	44,001	
		Subtotal	1,127,523

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GHS			
	Salaries/Benefits	1,423,213	
	Teachers (14 1/2)		
	Aides (5)		
	Nurse (1)		
	Guidance C. (2)		
	Supplies	109,936	
	Equipment	37,979	
	Pur Prof / Prof.Dev.	49,526	
	Textbooks	57,115	
	Trips / Admissions	45,435	
	Athletic Trainer (1)	55,974	
	Athletics	7,310	
	Summer School	56,974	
	Travel	7,700	
	Dr's Ed Auto Ins	1,600	
		Subtotal	1,852,762
Highland Park	Salaries/Benefits	147,604	
	Teachers (1)		
	Counselor (1)		
	Aide (1)		
	Travel	500	
	Supplies	9,258	
	Books	17,248	
		Subtotal	174,610
Adult School	Teacher (1/2)	22,449	
	Supplies	5,567	
	Printing	1,000	
	Textbooks	3,437	
		Subtotal	32453
Special Education	Salaries/Benefits	222,946	
	LD (1)		
Note: 3 positions	Secretary (1)		
Currently vacant	ESL Teacher (1)		
	Aide LD (1)		
	Pur Prof / Prof.Dev.	25,049	
	Travel	2,600	
	Supplies	39,990	
	Equipment	5,621	
	Textbooks	14,083	
	Admissions	2,500	

		Subtotal	312,789
Facilities	Salaries/Benefits	124,820	
	Positions (3)		
	Custodial Repair Maintenance	70,600	
	Construction Services	1,325,000	
		Subtotal	1,520,420
District	Salaries/Benefits	120,197	
(currently vacant)	Business Office (1)		
	Attendance Of (1)		
	Positive Outcomes	154,970	
	Tuition Reimbursement	42,780	
	Curriculum/Tech	63,026	
	Community Ed	30,140	
		Subtotal	411,113
Early Childhood Program		Subtotal	553,176
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,205,079</b>

**Summary:**

Gloucester City School District is looking at losing approximately 70 positions district-wide. Our minimum class size will be 31 and go up to 41 in grades 7-12. As outlined above, our cuts will include: teachers; guidance counselors; all literacy and math coaches; all tutors for the students behind in math and reading; all instructional aids for the kindergarten classes; the adult school, the community education program; security positions; all professional development; all field trips (including the senior class trip); special education aids; nurses; the dropout prevention officer; secretaries. We also wiped out most of the supply lines. Our summer school programs are eliminated (this includes the summer courses for credit at the high school).

All our whole school reform programs will be eliminated as will most of the electives at the high school (drafting, CAD, graphics, photography-gone). The Driver's Education program is eliminated. We will have to re-visit our policy requiring students to earn 120 credits in order to graduate with a high school

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diploma because there will not be enough electives or courses for them to take. The Abbott secondary initiatives will be eliminated. We will be looking at reducing the school day for seniors because we will not have enough courses to offer nor will we have enough teachers to man study hall periods (which will really be large "holding tanks" for students during periods in the day where no course can be offered).

We will not be able to expand the early childhood program to meet the enrollment projections. The early childhood aid received from the state is only 1/3 of the budget for the approved program- the other 2/3 of the funding is moved out of the K-12 general fund to fully fund the pre-school program, leaving the general fund short on monies needed for the K-12 population. There is no more money to eliminate from the general fund.

The necessity of cutting \$7.2 million in educational programs and staff will have the effect of completely dismantling the Abbott reforms. What a sadness for our children. In Gloucester City, our assessment scores have improved steadily under the Abbott mandates. The reform programs, the reduction in class sizes, the addition of security personnel, the addition of counselors and counseling services, the addition of our alternative program and the continuation and improvement of our adult school, have all contributed to the vast improvement in student achievement in all subgroups and in student attendance. Our dropout rate alone shows a decrease from 6.8% in 1999 to less than 1% today. Our violence and vandalism incidences are virtually non-existent, down from 85-90 occurrences in 1999 and 2000.

Gloucester City received less state aid for the 2007-2008 school year than it did in the 2004-2005 school year. While our state aid has been decreased or held flat, other costs have continued to rise. Salaries go up every year, health care benefits increase between 12-24%, utility costs go up every year, insurance costs are up, leasing costs are up, special education costs continue to skyrocket, out-of-district tuition rates have no cap and continue to rise, and transportation costs increase every year. The list is extensive and growing as the state and federal government demand that the schools do more and more with no additional funding.

The state has also refused to provide the Abbott districts with adequate school buildings for our students. In Gloucester City, we still have 300 students un-housed in grades 7 and 8 at the high school facility and 100 students in grades 4-6 un-housed in the Costello school. The middle school that was approved three years ago was not built and there seems to be no intention at the state level to get the school constructed. We have no funding in capital outlay. This means that the district has no way to maintain our buildings or even to do emergency or routine repairs.

We are expected to continue to offer educational programs that meet the Core Curriculum Content Standards. We are mandated to demonstrate improvement in student achievement; to eliminate our dropout rate; to insure that all students' emotional, social, and educational needs are met, to provide ever-increasing services to special needs students. The schools have become the social agencies for society. We are given all the mandates and responsibilities but not the funds to meet the needs of the students.

It seems that the state has decided that the Abbott Supreme Court rulings were only temporary, and that we can now reduce funding to the poor districts. This is a terrible travesty. Just when the children of our state are finally given the means to be successful, and the opportunities to learn the skills to break their cycle of poverty and hopelessness, the state withdraws the funding and the support for its most needy population. Shame on all of us.



**EAST ORANGE SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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Superintendent of Schools  
Dr. Clarence C. Hoover, III

March 26, 2007

Senator Ronald L. Rice, Co-Chair  
Assemblymen Craig Stanley, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on the Public Schools  
135 West Hanover Street  
P.O. Box 070  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Re: 2007-08 Proposed Budget

Dear Gentlemen:

The City of East Orange Board of Education is submitting a 2007-08 needs-based budget with a separate application in accordance with Department regulations seeking approximately \$20,000,000 in additional State funds.

The separate application for additional funds explains the specific needs that require additional funding in 2007-08 beyond the proposed State aid increase of approximately 3% to provide our children with a thorough and efficient education and, for that matter, to provide the same level of effective programs and services as last year. Last year, after a painstaking process, the District was able to agree to flat funding, which actually represented a cut in funding since there was no COLA increase or adjustment in our State aid, through various one-year stop-gap measures, including the reduction of surplus in the amount of \$13,000,000. The District is not able to absorb what amounts to another reduction in funding for the 2007-08 school year without severely undermining our foundational educational program and existing supplemental programs since, for example, non-discretionary increases in expenditures substantially exceed any State aid increase for 2007-08.

*"Rising to a Standard of Excellence"*

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After consideration of potential cuts and other budget savings, the District determined that the funding sought by the District for the 2007-08 school year is needed to:

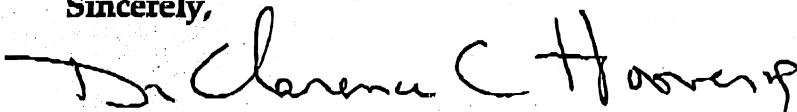
- (1) maintain our foundation education program;
- (2) maintain existing supplemental programs;
- (3) provide Abbott-mandated programs and services and programs;
- (4) provide programs and services for our students based on the District's demonstrable or particularized needs under the Abbott decisions; and
- (5) fund fixed costs (non-discretionary increases in costs) in negotiated pay raises, insurance, utilities and other related costs over which the District has no control.

Our present projection is that the District will be faced with a \$20,000,000 deficit in the 2007-08 school year without the additional State aid.

In preparing this budget, the District followed the Department's programmatic regulations and addressed the instructional needs in our two-year report on instructional priorities. We also followed the DOE regulations and Abbott V decision in developing a budget with programs, services and positions driven by the District's demonstrable or particularized needs as reflected in that report and in other district needs assessments.

We have been advised by legal counsel that the Department's proposed budget approach, which places a cap on budget increases in the Abbott districts and which would result in the dismantling of many Abbott measures, is contrary to the State's assurances to the Supreme Court last year and violates the Abbott mandates. The Board of Education believes, based on advice of counsel, that we would be violating our constitutional and statutory responsibilities to the children in East Orange -- and would totally undermine and frustrate the progress the District has made to date with the Abbott reforms -- if we did not seek and obtain the additional funding needed to meet DOE regulations and existing Supreme Court requirements. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Clarence C. Hoover, III  
Superintendent of Schools

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