

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ASHE COUNTY SCHOOLS 2010-2011 BUDGET INFORMATION

With the downturn in the economy and millions of dollars in reductions from state funding for school systems across North Carolina, Ashe County Schools faces the difficult challenge of doing more with less money. In the 2009-2010 school year, the school system reverted \$493,673 back to the state. Of that reversion, 3.23% of cuts were from support and administration, while only 1.02% was school-based. The Ashe County Board of Education was able to protect all jobs during the 2009-2010 school year. On June 30, 2010, the General Assembly passed the new state budget. Ashe County Schools will realize over \$1 million in cuts during the 2010-2011 school year. Projected cuts for the 2011-2012 school year are \$1.9 million.

With fewer dollars, difficult decisions had to be made to operate with an already strapped budget. Cuts have been made across the board, some more painful than others, due to the shortfall in funding. There have been cuts in travel, workshop expenses and supplies, which are easier to address than having to lose positions or educational programs. Up until this point, Ashe County Schools has been fortunate to avoid layoffs by not filling positions following retirements and resignations. This year, funding cuts are forcing school officials to make some difficult decisions. The Board of Education made the following non-personnel cuts: textbooks, graduation project, grade level planning, ABC waivers, three retirements were not filled and four positions were absorbed. The Board of Education used money from fund balance to offset the budget cuts. The decision has been made that the following programs will be eliminated: Spanish programs in the elementary schools, media assistants and one JROTC position.

While state funding has decreased, our local County Commissioners have continued to fund the school system at the same level during these difficult economic times. The Ashe County Board of Education is very appreciative of the financial support the County Commissioners have demonstrated.

The Ashe County School System is composed of different departments, all of which are important to the success of our students. We will continue to work together during these hard economic times to provide the best education possible for our students.