

Governor Carcieri's FY11 Budget Request: Implications for K-12 Education in Rhode Island

The General Assembly is currently considering Governor Donald L. Carcieri's proposed State Fiscal Year 2011 budget (which runs from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011).

The Governor recommends total expenditures of \$2.11 billion for Education in FY 2011, from the following sources:

- \$1.003 billion from **general revenue**
- \$311.8 million from **federal funds**, including \$101.6 million (33%) from ARRA
- \$25.1 million from **restricted receipts**
- \$769.4 million from **other funds**

For Fiscal Year 2011, the Governor recommends \$1.144 billion in expenditures from all funds for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE). Of this total:

- \$828.2 million is from **general revenue** (a decrease of \$29.5 million/3.4% from the enacted FY 2010 level)
- \$283.0 million is from **federal funds** (an increase of \$4.6 million in federal expenditures)
- \$23.9 million is **restricted receipts** (an increase of \$15.9 in restricted receipt expenditures)
- \$8.0 million is from the **Rhode Island Capital Plan Funds** (an increase of \$2.3 million in RICAP funds)
- \$383,624 is from **other funds** (an increase of \$200,000 in other funds expenditures)

OVERALL INCREASE IN EDUCATION FUNDING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN RHODE ISLAND: Proposed Education Aid (from all revenue sources) to local governments in Rhode Island totals \$808.1 million in FY 2011, a \$32.8 million (4.2%) increase in total state funding relative to the FY 2010 revised budget. Total Education Aid is defined to include local public schools, the School for the Deaf, Davies Career and Technical School, the Charter Schools, the Central Falls School District and the Metropolitan Career and Technical School, as well as support for teacher retirement and school housing aid.

Charter school aid increases by \$7.2 million to reflect program growth and new charter school options.

For **State Fiscal Stabilization (ARRA) Funds**, the Governor's budget distributes \$47.7 million in FY 2010 and \$26.6 million in FY 2011 to local districts, Central Falls, charter schools, and the state schools.

Prepared by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT.

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OVERALL DECREASE IN THE STATE SHARE/GENERAL REVENUES USED FOR EDUCATION:

The Governor's general revenue recommendation of \$1.003 billion for Education for FY 2011 is a decrease of \$39.8 million (3.8%) from FY 2010 enacted levels.

OVERALL DECREASE IN FUNDING FOR LOCAL DISTRICTS AND INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS:

In both fiscal years 2010 and 2011, the Governor recommends across-the-board reductions for school districts, including Central Falls and charter schools. The across-the-board reduction to local districts, charter schools, and state schools totals \$20.5 million in FY 2010 and \$26.9 million in FY 2011. District and school funding does not include all local education aid from the state (which is why total local education aid increases between FY2010 and FY2011 but direct aid to districts and schools are reduced).

- For **local districts**, the reduction amounts to \$17.6 million in FY 2010 and \$23.4 million in FY 2011.
- For **Central Falls**, the reduction amounts to \$1.3 million in FY 2010 and \$1.7 million in FY 2011.
- For **charter schools**, the reduction amounts to \$1.0 million in FY 2010 and \$1.3 million in FY 2011.
- For the **Davies School**, the reduction amounts to \$310,607 in both years.
- For the **School for the Deaf**, the reduction amounts to \$132,322 in both years.
- For the **Met School**, the reduction amounts to \$250,000 in FY 2010 and \$125,000 in FY 2011.

There is also a **decrease in Group Home aid of \$600,000** to reflect fewer beds subject to reimbursement.

In addition, the Governor's proposed FY2011 budget contains adjustments that reduce general revenue expenditures but that do not represent actual cuts in funding. There is a reduction of general aid that is offset by a decrease in required pension contributions and there is a shift of \$5.0 million in State Fiscal Stabilization (ARRA) Funding from FY 2011 to FY 2010 and \$5.0 million in general revenue funding from FY 2010 to FY 2011.

STAFFING

For the Elementary and Secondary Education Department (which includes the Davies Career & Technical School and the School for the Deaf), the Governor recommends **staffing authorizations totaling 327.4 FTE positions in FY 2010 and 342.4 FTE in FY 2011**. The FY 2010 total is unchanged from the enacted level. The additional 15.0 FTE positions in FY 2011 are limited-term positions in the ACES program to be funded with ARRA competitive grant awards, principally the **Race to the Top Fund**. If the department does not receive the competitive funding, the positions will not be created.

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