

STATE BUDGET COMPARISONS

In response to a severe national economic downturn, states from every region of our country are faced with making difficult budget decisions. Often, public education is one of the first state-sponsored programs that face harmful cuts in order to balance these fiscal woes.

Protecting Our Progress in K-12 Education

- ▶ Faced with an expected \$4.6 billion budget shortfall, Minnesota lawmakers have proposed cutting K-12 spending by as much as \$273 per pupil.
Source: [Minnesota Public Radio](#)
- ▶ Public school employees in California are being warned that more than 26,000 workers could face layoffs in the coming weeks and months as a result of more than \$8 billion in cuts that local school officials have been asked to absorb.
Source: [The New York Times](#)
- ▶ In North Carolina, schools are faced with significant cuts to Pre-K, increasing public school class sizes, and rollbacks of critical standardized testing programs.
Source: [The Associated Press](#)
- ▶ According to the New York Times, “Nine states, including Alabama, California, Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina, have already announced cuts to state-run pre-kindergarten programs.”
Source: [The New York Times](#)

The O'Malley Brown Administration is putting families first by successfully fighting to maintain record funding for Maryland #1 ranked public schools at \$5.5 billion for FY2010, fully funding Thornton and the Geographic Cost of Education Index for the first time in Maryland history. At the same time, we raised our three year investment in new school construction and renovations to more than \$1 billion so that more children have access to state-of-the-art classrooms and science labs that prepare our students for college and the 21st century workforce.

Making College Affordable for Families

- ▶ In New Jersey, state officials are considering a five percent cut to public universities and colleges throughout the state, the seventh time in the last 10 years that higher education funding has been reduced in New Jersey.
Source: [The Times of Trenton](#)
- ▶ In Washington, significant cuts to higher education funding have led Washington State University to stop accepting new applications for incoming freshman.
Source: [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#)
- ▶ The California State University system has undergone “more than \$500 million in budget cuts and underfunding over the past two years,” causing school officials to begin turning away prospective students in an effort to lower costs.
Source: [The Wall Street Journal](#)

- ▶ In Pennsylvania, higher education officials are considering either cutting significant programs or increasing the cost of tuition in order to close a \$50 million gap in higher education funding for their schools.

Source: [*The Patriot News*](#)

- ▶ In Virginia, state officials have asked three public institutions of higher education to cut 7.5% of their budgets in order to help absorb a statewide \$641 million revenue shortfall.

Source: [*The Chronicle of Higher Education*](#)

In Maryland, Governor O'Malley and Lt. Governor Brown are putting families first by fighting hard and successfully maintaining the fourth consecutive year of zero percent tuition increase at every public four-year college and university in Maryland, putting the dreams of a higher education within reach of more middle class families. Even in tough times, funding for our community colleges has also increased by nearly 4% and community colleges are receiving record capital funding of \$84 million to build new libraries, classrooms and learning facilities so that they can fulfill their mission of preparing students for the 21st century global economy.