LFT 60-Second Issue Factory

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State budget has grim news for our schools

There is grim news for our schools in Governor Bobby Jindal's budget. Because of bad choices made over the past few years, the state is facing a huge deficit. The governor's budget "fixes" the problem by freezing or cutting funds for public education.

Already, the governor has frozen the modest 4% merit increase for state employees.

If the governor's budget passes as is, it will mean:

- No more state stipends for nationally certified teachers, guidance counselors, librarians, and therapists.
- Over $100 million in Minimum Foundation Program growth funds will be eliminated.
- Local school systems will be forced to pay for transportation of private and religious school students.
- Nearly $13 million in mid-year education budget cuts will be annualized.

But at the same time, the governor's budget increases funds for religious school vouchers in New Orleans and quasi-public charter schools. The department of education will get $73 million for a whole new bureaucracy.

The Louisiana Federation of Teachers believes these budget choices are wrong for our teachers and school employees, wrong for our schools and wrong for the children we serve.

We will work with lawmakers in the legislative session to halt the cuts to public education. To find out more, and to see what you can do to help, please visit our Web site at http://la.aft.org.

Watch LFT President Steve Monaghan's 60-Second Issue Factory at http://la.aft.org

LOUISIANA federation of TEACHERS & SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AFT / AFL-CIO

Louisiana Federation of Teachers

Steve Monaghan, President

9623 Brookline Avenue • Baton Rouge, LA 70809

(225) 923-1037 • (800) 634-5089 • http://la.aft.org