



## MSDE BULLETIN

Vol. 18, No. 10, October 24, 2007

### **GOVERNOR OUTLINES BUDGET WITH POSSIBLE CUTS IN LIEU OF NEW REVENUE**

Governor Martin O'Malley yesterday released a *Cost of Delay* budget to reflect more than \$1.7 billion in cuts that he says will have to be made to balance the Fiscal Year 2009 budget if the General Assembly is unable to reach a consensus during the special session scheduled to start next week.

Standing with Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown and members of the Cabinet, Governor O'Malley outlined more than \$850 million in cuts that impact local jurisdictions, and an additional \$800 million in cuts to state agencies and programs.

"We believe we have a responsibility to be straight with Maryland families by honestly presenting the choices we face. So today we are releasing the outline of our FY 2009 budget – closing the \$1.7 deficit we've inherited entirely through cuts – if we are unable to reach consensus during the upcoming special session," said Governor O'Malley.

During yesterday's announcement, Governor O'Malley outlined specific cuts in local aid, including cuts in public education by freezing Thornton, delaying the Geographic Cost of Education Index, freezing teacher pensions, and cutting library grants.

The Governor also outlined cuts that would need to be made in police aid, Program Open Space, and more than \$160 million in reduced investments in higher education – including the University System of Maryland, community colleges, and private colleges and universities.

"Over the last few weeks, we have offered what we believe is a better solution. And we've called the General Assembly back for a special session – because this is a crisis that reaches that level... that requires our immediate and undivided attention," O'Malley stated. "The cost of delay is simply too great for Maryland's families and local jurisdictions."

Governor O'Malley earlier had outlined plans to close Maryland's structural deficit by reforming Maryland's income tax structure to make it fairer for working families, closing corporate tax loopholes so that all businesses pay their fair share, reducing the State property tax, and reducing spending growth by more than a billion dollars. The Governor has also proposed expanding the sales tax.



**Governor O'Malley, along with Lt. Governor Brown and members of the Cabinet, introduces his Cost of Delay budget package at a press conference in Annapolis. The Governor said that without changes in revenue, dramatic cuts would be necessary to wipe out the structural deficit facing the State.**

The Cost of Delay Budget would greatly affect local budgets, according to estimates from the Governor's office.

For example, Baltimore City would lose \$218 million, Prince George's County's funding would drop \$153 million, Montgomery County's budget would fall \$86 million, and Baltimore County would lose \$85 million. Much of those loses would be in education aid, such as Thornton and the freeze in retirement.

The plan also would cut all funding for State Aided Educational Organizations, such as the Maryland Academy of Sciences, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, SuperKids Camp, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, and the National Aquarium.

Museum, art program, and other cultural activity funding would be slashed under the budget plan. For example, funding to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of African-American History and Culture would be cut by 25 percent – a \$500,000 impact.

The General Assembly will begin to look at the Governor's ideas next Tuesday, Oct. 30, when the first hearings are scheduled to be held. The special session could last two weeks or more.

For more information about this budget package, the Governor's office has made available several charts located here:

<http://www.gov.state.md.us/pressreleases/CostOfDelay.pdf> ■

## **SOMERSET COUNTY EDUCATOR NAMED 2008 MARYLAND TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

April Todd, a Language Arts teacher at Somerset Intermediate School in Somerset County, has been named the 2008 Maryland Teacher of the Year.

Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick made the surprise announcement earlier this month at an evening gala that included Governor Martin O'Malley, Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, Congressmen, members of the State Board of Education, and hundreds of educators, parents, business and community leaders.

Ms. Todd, a graduate of Washington College and Salisbury University, holds degrees in anthropology and literature, and a master's degree with a thesis on Reading Perceptions. Ms. Todd credits literature for influencing her decision to teach and attributes much of her success to the respect she gives her students, as well as her belief in their potential. Ms. Todd said that her primary joy stems from her work in the classroom.

As a sixth and seventh grade language arts teacher, her passion is developing technology projects that inspire reluctant readers and writers. She has authored reading strategies that have been implemented in two Maryland counties, as well as taken state leadership roles working with the Maryland School Assessments, the Voluntary State Curriculum, the Maryland Toolkit, and presenting at statewide conferences.

Ms. Todd volunteers as a museum docent, is involved with Relay for Life and Walk America, and is a 'Locks of Love' hair donor.

"Choosing Maryland's Teacher of the Year is never an easy task, and this year's nominees were some of the best ever," said Dr. Grasmick.

"April Todd's need to understand social interactions and cultures within the material she reads and for the students she teaches, helped her stand out," she added. "Her tireless work with reluctant readers and writers influenced her to find a more effective path of instruction—this is one reason she is certainly well worthy of our celebration."

Ms. Todd said her greatest joy is to be in the classroom with her students.

"An ongoing sense of accomplishment for me is derived from seeing my students take pride in their learning and their knowing their teacher is determined to bring expertise to the classroom to meet their needs no matter how challenging," said Ms. Todd. "Students are my greatest influence, for they fuel my passion to teach, and their knowledge is our future."

As the Maryland Teacher of the Year, Ms. Todd will receive an Apple computer, \$9,000 in cash awards, a week at National Space Camp, a 4-day trip to the Teacher of the Year



**April  
Todd,  
Maryland  
Teacher of  
the Year,  
2007**

Conference in Dallas, Texas, a SmartBoard and supporting materials from SMARTer Kids Foundation valued at over \$15,000, and a \$25,000 Chevy Malibu from MD Automobile Dealers Association. She also will be honored by the President at the White House in April 2008.

Ms. Todd will now go on to the National Teacher of the Year competition. The National Teacher of the Year will be announced next April.

Presenting sponsors for the Maryland Teacher of the Year program are the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, McDonald's® Family of Greater Baltimore, and Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems.

Platinum sponsors include: Bank of America, Comcast, Lockheed Martin, Verizon-Maryland, and Whiting-Turner Contracting Company. Gold sponsors include: The Baltimore Sun, Joe Corbi's Pizza, M & T Bank, Maryland State Teachers Association, and State Farm Insurance Company. ■

**MSDE BULLETIN  
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC POLICY  
Nancy S. Grasmick State Education Building  
200 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201**

**On the web: [www.marylandpublicschools.org](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org)**

**Nancy S. Grasmick, State Superintendent of Schools  
Ronald A. Peiffer, Deputy State Superintendent  
Bill Reinhard, Editor**

**MSDE-TV Video:**

**<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/newsroom/videos>**