**USEP-OHIO E-update March 29, 2011**

**Dear Friends of USEP-OHIO,** News this week includes many questions of the Ohio budget and its effects on Ohio families. Maybe we see a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Just when there seems to be nothing but controversy, it is refreshing to know that state leaders are paying attention to the concerns we all have for the future. Recognizing that anger and frustration only make our work more overwhelming, it helps to hear that Ohio voters are intelligent and tell legislators that their opinions are nuanced and include wishes to cut, but also to be fair to the groups under pressure. No simplistic fix will work. An example:Ohio voters tell in a recent poll (March 15-21st) that 48% oppose - 41% support limiting collective bargaining. In a second question that asks is limiting collective bargaining necessary to help balance the budget? 55% said NO; 37% said yes. Lawmakers who fear voter backlash and legal fights are listening, and working together looking for ways to soften some provisions. (source: Wall Street Journal-U.S. News, March 26-27 edition).

**Included in this E-Update: Critical information from the Ohio Education Budget, Updates on Career Tech, Tech Prep Grants and Resources including links to conferences and Webinars.**

**USEP-OHIO Discover Parenting 2011 project timeline.**  Discover Parenting is a program designed for secondary students to explore how it feels to be a safe and responsible parent.  Student photos for the statewide exhibit must be received by April 15.  The Discover Parenting Statewide Exhibit will be on display in the Riffe Center for Government and the Arts in May.  Action Projects must be received by May 13. Register and read more at the USEP-OHIO website [www.usep-ohio.com](http://www.usep-ohio.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  or email usepohio@usepohio.com.

You are the link to parent action and information for Ohio families and students. The news of Education in Ohio is constantly changing.  Stay alert to changes you should know about and caring for our kids.

**Cindy McKay, Executive Director, USEP-OHIO, Inc.**

**Budget Recommendations for K-12 Ohio Education Budget Provisions Summary**

Proposed funding levels for K-12 GRF550 Foundation Funding increases from $5.31 billion in FY11 (estimate) to $5.4 billion in FY12 (2 percent increase) and $5.5 billion in FY13 (1.5 percent increase).

General Revenue Fund for K-12 increases from $6.26 billion in FY11 to $6.3 billion in FY12 (1 percent increase) to $6.4 billion in FY13 9 (1.4 percent increase).

All Funds for K-12 decrease from $11.53 billion in FY11 to $10.2 billion in FY12 to $9.7 billion in FY13.  The decrease in funding is the result of the expiration of federal stimulus funds appropriated via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA); decreases in federal funding for IDEA, Title 1, and other federal programs; decreases in lottery profits; and changes proposed for the Revenue Distribution Fund.

The Revenue Distribution Fund (line items 900 and 909) decreases from $1.2 billion in FY11 to $756 million in FY12 to $505 million in FY13. This fund is used to reimbursement school districts for local tax revenue lost as a result of the elimination of the Tangible Personal Property Tax (TPPT) and the Kilowatt Hour Tax.  The Jobs Budget proposes to accelerate the phase-out of reimbursements to school districts for these lost revenues.  The amount of reimbursement that a school district will receive will depend on how much the school district relies on the reimbursement as part of its overall budget.

The following summary of certain provisions in The Jobs Budget regarding K-12 education was prepared from the "Blue Book" and the "Budget Overview":

**K-12 EDUCATION**:  The proposed budget "provides a reform agenda to move Ohio from being a manager of the educational status quo to a higher performer."

**TEACHERS**:  The Jobs Budget "welcomes" teachers trained through Teach for America; provides a bonus to teachers for increased student learning; lets teacher quality drive employment decisions instead of seniority; tests teachers in failing schools; and streamlines the dismissal process for poor-performing educators.

Educator Preparation (line item 448) is reduced by 40 percent from FY11 to FY12 ($1.3 million to $786,737).

**SCHOOLS**:  The Jobs Budget includes provisions to give parents the right to reconstitute their children's school; creates innovation schools; ranks schools on the basis of student performance and cost effectiveness; creates a student results-driven recognition programs; and revokes the charters of the poorest-performing schools.

**Funding for Career Technical Education, Joint Vocational Schools Districts, Students at Risk, and Special Education is maintained, and changes are recommended for Gifted Education.**

* **$1 million is redistributed each year from Tech Pre Consortia to increase funding for High Schools That Work and Tech Prep grants.**
* Funding for Special Education is included in Line Item GRF 550 Foundation Funding.  Special Education is funded at $593.9 million in FY11, and in FY12, and FY13.
* Funding for At Risk students through GRF 550 Foundation Funding is maintained at $608.9 million in FY11, and in FY12 and FY13.
* Funding for Gifted Education ($68.3 million in FY11) is included in basic aid support for schools, but the distribution mechanism will not be known until the budget language for HB153 is introduced. The spending requirements for gifted education are eliminated.  Funding for gifted units provided by Educational Service Centers ($8.1 million in FY12 and FY13) is still included in GRF 550 Foundation Funding.

Funding for Pupil Transportation, Line Item GRF 502, decreases from $462.8 million in FY11 to $438.2 million in FY12, and increases to $442.1 million in FY13.

**SCHOOL CHOICE**: The Jobs Budget expands the number of EdChoice Scholarships; removes the cap on community schools; and enhances community school access to facilities. The total budget for School Choice is $92.7 million in FY12 and in FY13.

Non-public schools receive administrative cost reimbursements and support for auxiliary services such as the purchase of secular textbooks, health and diagnostic services, guidance and social work counseling.  The funding increase (1.4 percent in FY12, and 1.5 percent in FY13) for nonpublic schools represents the same aggregate percentage increase of the line items GRF 550 Foundation Funding and GRF 502 Pupil Transportation.

Line item 455 Community Schools and Choice Programs is increased from $1 million in FY11 to $2.2 million in FY12 and FY13, an increase of 120 percent from FY11 to FY12.

**SHARED SERVICES**:  The Jobs Budget proposes that services provided by Educational Service Centers and Technology Centers be integrated through Regional Shared Service Centers, which would provide support to school districts and local governments.  A new health insurance program for schools and local governments, the Ohio Public Employees Health Care Program, will also be created and managed by the Department of Administrative Services.

Half of the funds for GRF431 School Improvement Initiatives ($7.39 million) are transferred to Educational Service Centers to provide school improvement services to school districts.

**The Ohio General Assembly**:
The Ohio House and Senate will hold hearings and sessions this week.  The House and Senate Education Committees will meet.  The House Finance and Appropriations Committee and subcommittees will also meet this week. A substitute bill for HB153 (Amstutz) Biennial Budget, which includes the language of the bill, is expected to be introduced.

Information on the Biennial Budget Proposal:  The Ohio Department of Education has on its web site documents related to the proposed FY12-13 Biennial Budget HB153 (Amstutz), including an analysis of the recommendations for K-12 education as of March 17, 2011.  More [information](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104981593765&s=3601&e=001r2djOFsQcmixJuoJ9Ku2odJuSyk8SmBLdtd0U8C0J0S9AM-PI5EmHyJ1HhaOtvY-LW1OTEozl4B_CA3CR4oBWogfXImlHNBYXv33GRh_imC7xA5fJeh2p3AAIyv595CKzTL7FSNXoxwrj2jybv3enKU8X_bza_jSSqAMt_fPfYtsM2rIrONPlVPACnEElctlFKngMt4xXIvQ0NUuYAcTFYJqL8IrF4kfXRL10du9TNdrDAtEboQPzERnfAg0B7CA5fi3n8sMUc-1_mNXwDn4Rg==" \t "_blank) is available.

State Board of Education News: The Executive Committee of State Board of Education, Debe Terhar president, will meet on Tuesday, March 29, 2011 to develop a process to select the next Superintendent of Public Instruction.  The current Superintendent, Deborah Delisle, resigned effective April 30, 2011.  The committee will also discuss the appointment of an interim superintendent.

Legislative Update: The Ohio House approved on March 23, 2011 HB159 (Mecklenborg), which requires electors who appear at a polling place to vote to provide photo identification, and establishes a process for those who cannot provide a photo or who have a religious objection to being photographed.

* The Ohio House approved on March 22, 2011 HB21 (Combs), which would amend sections 3319.22 and 3319.223 and enact section 3319.227 of the Revised Code to qualify Teach for America participants for a resident educator license.
* The Ohio Senate approved on March 22, 2011 HB36 (Kozlowski) School Calamity Days, which excuses up to five, instead of three, calamity days for the 2010-2011 school year, and broaden schools' authority to make up calamity days by lengthening remaining days in the school year, and declares an emergency.
* The Ohio Senate also approved on March 22, 2011 SB81 (Cates) Teach for America, which qualifies Teach for America participants for a resident educator license in Ohio. The bill requires the State Board of Education to issue a "resident educator license" to participants in the program who have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education; have maintained a cumulative undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.5; have passed a State Board-prescribed subject area examination; and have successfully completed the summer training institute operated by Teach for America.

**News at the Ohio Statehouse**:

**Recent News:**

**Superintendent Delisle Resigns**:  Superintendent of Public Instruction, Deborah Delisle, submitted to the State Board of Education on March 15, 2011 her resignation effective April 30, 2011. The State Board of Education has directed Board leadership to propose a response to the circumstances of the resignation and a process to select the next superintendent.

The Senate approved on March 16, 2011 SB71 (Manning) Municipally Owned Facilities.  This bill gives tax breaks to municipally-owned stadiums that house independent and non-affiliated sport teams. The bill does not require school districts to agree to the tax breaks, even though school districts could lose revenue as a result of the tax break.

The Ohio House concurred on March 16, 2011 with Senate amendments to HB30 (Gardner) School Funding. The bill includes the following provisions:

* eliminates spending and reporting requirements related to the school funding system
* eliminates the prohibition on unit funding for gifted student services effective after fiscal year 2011
* eliminates the requirement that school districts offer all-day kindergarten
* eliminates the requirement that school districts annually set aside operating funds for textbooks and instructional materials,
* eliminates the requirement that school districts establish family and civic engagement teams except as required for implementation of federal "Race to the Top" grants

The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator

**This Week:**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2011**

Senate Education Committee: The Senate Education Committee, chaired by Senator Lehner, will meet at 9:30 AM in the South Hearing Room. The committee will receive testimony on the following bills:

* SB116 (Seitz) School Transportation Employees:  Permits non-Civil Service school district boards to terminate positions of district transportation employees for reasons of economy and contract with independent agents to provide transportation services.
* SB118 (Cates) Body Mass Screenings - Schools:  Makes schools'
* implementation of body mass index screenings optional.
* SB86 (Sawyer) Community School - DYS Adults:  Permits the establishment of a community school to serve adults of school age who are incarcerated or who have been released from the custody of the Department of Youth Services, and declares an emergency.

House Finance and Appropriations Committee: The House Finance and Appropriations Committee, chaired by Representative Amstutz, will meet at 1:00 AM in hearing room 313 and receive testimony on HB153 Biennial Budget (Amstutz) from Randy Cole, Office of Budget and Management.

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee: The House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Carey, will meet at 6:00 PM in hearing room 114.  The committee will receive testimony on HB153 (Amstutz) Biennial Budget.

House Health and Aging Retirement and Pensions Subcommittee: The House Health and Aging Retirement and Pensions Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Kirk Schuring, will meet at 7:00 PM in room 017 to receive testimony on HB69 (Wachtmann) State Retirement Systems.

House Commerce and Labor Committee: The House Commerce and Labor Committee has scheduled SB5, the collective bargaining bill, for amendments and a possible vote at 9:00 AM in Hearing Room 114.

**WEDNESDAY, March 30, 2011**

House Health and Aging, Retirement, and Pensions Subcommittee: The House Health and Aging Retirement and Pensions Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Kirk Schuring, will meet at 2:30 PM in room 113 to receive testimony on HB69 (Wachtmann) State Retirement Systems.

House Higher Education Subcommittee: The House Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Gardner, will meet at 2:30 PM in hearing room 121.  The subcommittee will receive testimony regarding HB153, the FY12-13 state budget, from the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, e-Tech Ohio Commission, Higher Education Facilities Commission, Ohioana Library Association, and Ohio Arts Council.

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee: The House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Carey, will meet at 2:30 PM in hearing room 116.  The committee will receive testimony on HB153 (Amstutz) Biennial Budget from representatives of the Ohio Department of Education regarding standards, assessments, accountability, EMIS and longitudinal data systems, and supports for school districts.

House Education Committee: The House Education Committee, chaired by Representative Stebelton, will meet at 5:00 PM in hearing room 017. The committee will receive testimony on the following bills:

* HB139 (Mckenney) Northeastern Ohio Universities:  Renames the Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy as the Northeast Ohio Medical University and declares an emergency.
* HB155 (Fedor)School Bullying Policies:  Enacts the Jessica Logan Act to require that public school bullying policies prohibit bullying by electronic means and address certain acts that occur off school property and requires staff training on the bullying policy.
* HB157 (Schuring)  Teacher Development on Dyslexia:  Authorizes educational service centers to provide teacher professional development on dyslexia.
* HB116 (Barnes) School Anti-bullying Act:  Enacts the School Day Security and Anti-Bullying Act to require age appropriate instruction on the parental notification of public schools' policies prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011**

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee: The House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Carey, will meet at 10:00 AM in hearing room 122, and will reconvene at 1:00 PM.  The committee will receive testimony on HB153 (Amstutz) Biennial Budget regarding teacher licensure, community schools, and scholarship programs.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2011**

House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee: (IF NEEDED) The House Primary and Secondary Education Subcommittee, chaired by Representative Carey, will meet at 10:00 AM in hearing room 114.

**Action for Education:**

**ACT NOW!  To save Career and Technical Education funding for Ohio Programs – see this article for links and help to send your message of support in a letter from the Association for Career and Technical Education.  (Family and Consumer Sciences classes are critical for Ohio students.)**

**ACT NOW! The following letter from the Association for Career and Technical Education in Ohio describes the ramifications of deep budget cuts on Ohio programs, and offers links/resources with additional information to help you.**

As you know, CTE is facing very serious threats. The House-passed appropriations bill for FY 2011, H.R. 1, eliminates all funding for the Perkins Tech Prep program, which would mean a loss of $4,446,194 to CTE programs in Ohio.

The (US) Senate is now working on its version of the bill, and you are in a critical position to speak out for CTE and make an impact. Ohio's Sen. Sherrod Brown is a member of the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee and needs to hear from you!

**Action Needed:**

* Call Sen. Brown's office at 202-224-2315 and ask him to fight to restore Perkins funding in the FY 2011 appropriations bill.
	+ Try to speak to the staff member that works on education and appropriations issues; if that staff member is unavailable, leave a detailed message and try again at a later time.
	+ Use the [talking points](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=dw9mtscab&et=1104713693404&s=25490&e=001Eb2tZLFyEogCZZid49cRFhRCa-c6NQoJRcEMKmFG_u6feK0nwZsGSbeFI23QtLzB7FNmC9wOXv4IckY7qwm2559Q1DAd3PWvrc56pswwHovF9XycSUObgPVEoF7R5wzcENfM7xRlKpOlkajDGSH1nO4_iLbwXtPzUhDcYD5oz5idxpTWoQmC_nGtphIGoChmubWVG1AkfOKDjdE4UALRJcIjfP4ljrEW" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=dw9mtscab&et=1104713693404&s=25490&e=001Eb2tZLFyEogCZZid49cRFhRCa-c6NQoJRcEMKmFG_u6feK0nwZsGSbeFI23QtLzB7FNmC9wOXv4IckY7qwm2559Q1DAd3PWvrc56pswwHovF9XycSUObgPVEoF7R5wzcENfM7xRlKpOlkajDGSH1nO4_iLbwXtPzUhDcYD5oz5idxpTWoQmC_nGtp) and [chart](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=dw9mtscab&et=1104713693404&s=25490&e=001Eb2tZLFyEoicy0KGpixmZDjSUGJSVv-1IuFPMKAMoH6QDal8Nik-eLjVA78vjG-QmIssIbJJ1a9pb1rWHCydLJuJTW4Y12bjZ_NueYGv6Cdez4rbCZ7_DM7mvdhu4T4jwCP7CiBjrZ2qNxCdvkVpXBnexMrJ_T6zOOyfPXxppYP0wC_4JLxmYy2y8MQSk5Q0gDKg471sgUg=" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=dw9mtscab&et=1104713693404&s=25490&e=001Eb2tZLFyEoicy0KGpixmZDjSUGJSVv-1IuFPMKAMoH6QDal8Nik-eLjVA78vjG-QmIssIbJJ1a9pb1rWHCydLJuJTW4Y12bjZ_NueYGv6Cdez4rbCZ7_DM7mvdhu4T4jwCP7CiBjrZ2qNxCdvkVpXBnexMrJ_T6zOOyfPXxppYP0wC_4JLxmYy2y8) on ACTE's Web site to help make the case.
	+ Be sure to share what losing this funding would mean to your program, students and community.
	+ Thank the staff member for the time, and report on the conversation to Jamie Baxter at ACTE.
* If you have already called and were able to speak to the education staff person, then recruit other members of your community to call and reinforce your message. Forward this message to colleagues, parents, business/industry advisory members and others who have a stake in CTE programs. We must continue to put pressure on Sen. Brown's office -- because so many programs face cuts in this bill, he needs to hear from as many constituents as possible on behalf of CTE and Perkins!

***If you have any questions or need additional information, please*** ***contact*** ***the ACTE Public Policy Department. You can read more about ACTE's policy activities and the latest happenings in Washington, D.C., on ACTE's [CTE Policy Watch blog](http://ui.constantcontact.com/ctepolicywatchblog.aspx%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//ui.constantcontact.com/ctepolicywatchblog.aspx) -- check it out today!***

**Action for Education:  From the Ohio Alliance for Arts Education this information/ request**

**Take Action**:  Ask Congress to Restore Funding for Arts in Education and the NEA!
Another short-term continuing resolution was signed into law on March 2, 2011 to fund the federal government through March 18, 2011. The new funding bill immediately cuts $4 billion in domestic spending, including the elimination of $40 million in the U.S. Department of Education's Arts in Education program.  This program provides funds for the Arts Education Model Development and Dissemination and Professional Development competitive grants, VSA, and Kennedy Center arts education programs.
The elimination of these funds in FY 2011 jeopardizes funding for multi-year projects already in place by terminating funding for the 2011-2012 school year and beyond.
Last month the U.S. House of Representatives passed a full-year FY 2011 continuing resolution (H.R. 1) which includes a $43 million reduction in funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and elimination of funding for the Arts in Education program. The Senate has not yet acted upon this resolution, but lawmakers are running out of options, and the current continuing resolution expires on March 18, 2011.

Your help is needed to ensure that federal funding is reinstated for the Arts in Education program and that the proposed cuts in H,R. 1 for the National Endowment for the Arts are restored.

As debate continues over the next week or two, your advocacy is essential. Please speak up for saving arts funding in the final FY 2011 appropriations bill.
Contact your members of Congress NOW to ask for restoration of FY 2011 funding for the NEA and the Arts in Education program:

-Reinstate the Arts in Education program at the U.S. Department of Education, which provides vital federal leadership and funding that improve schools, teaching and student learning. Cuts to this program will eliminate funding for multi-year programs that are already in progress!

-Restore FY 2011 funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to ensure that NEA funding for the current year is not reduced to the level passed by the House, with its cut of funding from the 2010 level of $167.5 million down to a proposed level of $124.5 million.

To take action please contact the [American for the Arts Action Center](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nwca3AZwiJQRuUcDfZeVdaFJlSQT-GmLgW67g-jyMkN0WTTbTO3d253U5F_3yluwWED-8-5WyMaVWYREWGFfitiPwukcvZeI9U0nB-09w9K8RWOD_QAa_5QznWuf5JkZrwOyMXX0EQPLxOdYYQWaP4r-xoGZeM5jidc=" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nwca3AZwiJQRuUcDfZeVdaFJlSQT-GmLgW67g-jyMkN0WTTbTO3d253U5F_3yluwWED-8-5WyMaVWYREWGFfitiPwukcvZeI9U0nB-09w9K8RWOD_QAa_5QznWuf5JkZrwOyMXX0EQPLxOdYYQWaP4r-xoGZeM5jidc=).

**Research/Reports:**

**Disconnect Between Policy and Research:** A March 8, 2011 Hechinger Report Edblog entitled "Do education policies ignore the facts?" by Sarah Garland notes that research studies on many education reform initiatives, such as class size, merit pay/incentives, charter schools, and even the value of Kindergarten and early childhood education, are being ignored as some policy-makers rationalize state budget cuts in education.  Read more [here](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104981593765&s=3601&e=001r2djOFsQcmiK-0OPff4ztrvGKIcYJj06wFvTi7HliSa29T0i4JCVkJvnoU_h0bT9ezE3iQC3QBPfvkGbioAge1ndITXQYv5jCsuZrh1vqH7drj1bVNt-GN4gXzb0QqDmil9Lwu_ZsL3DxUlZGeTQuIXlZVtmasTByuZ8UqH6xY1gQ-FNIidjfLLvQtc8ssKh7oaVNkq3IGMlYPo2q-0mEjB3Fevo1UkaZwwylGZeZg-91KiZY6QGpQnNBY42tF1PadZ0peNueaDoY4D5hlpdFGPcM_4BFV26wR0FfRrEIvGzQoq4Tmiwkb0Fta10NkJEcKqlc8bhonAxBW9MuFx-Rw==" \t "_blank).

**Policy Matters Releases Report:** Policy Matters Ohio released on March 25, 2011 a report entitled "$7 Billion in Ohio Tax Breaks, and Nobody's Watching" by Zach Schiller.  The report reviews The Jobs Budget's tax expenditure report prepared by the Ohio Department of Taxation for the General Assembly and submitted to the General Assembly with the Kasich administration's biennial budget recommendations. (The Tax Expenditure Blue Book is available at [http://obm.ohio.gov/](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104981593765&s=3601&e=001r2djOFsQcmi-TOH1o9-zOmAlG6g5N-pwmcFjCe--I62zAg7dBUyhxQBr-FZxl_hEK93H27A0JwGJArH1w-PhOxsrB57HjuwIkfbG7o6MRNk=" \t "_blank)).

The report notes that more than $7 billion in tax revenue is foregone each year as a result of tax exemptions and credits, and there is no regular review by lawmakers of these expenditures to determine their usefulness. The number of tax expenditures has increased from 122 in FY10-11 to 128 in FY12-13. Most of the expenditures provide tax relief to businesses and tax relief for economic development.  Sales tax exemptions account for $4.8 billion in FY12 and $5 billion in FY13, but there are also $456 million in credits against the Commercial Activity Tax (CAT).  This relatively new tax (2005) replaced the unpopular corporate franchise tax and currently raises $1.47 billion in revenue.  When it was approved by the General Assembly it was promoted as a broad-based tax applied to gross receipts from business activity in Ohio, and less likely to have tax exemptions applied to it.

The report also notes that no tax expenditures are targeted for elimination in the proposed biennial budget, HB153 (Amstutz), even though state funds for school districts and local governments are being cut.  And, the recently approved Transportation Budget (HB114) includes even more tax expenditures that are not included in the tax expenditure report.

The Policy Matters report recommends the following:

* "The General Assembly should closely review the tax expenditure report, and reduce or eliminate unneeded loopholes. It should set a target - 10 percent of the $7.4 billion estimated for FY12 would make a good starting point - for temporary or permanent annual reductions as part of the FY12-FY13 budget. This could include reductions in tax credits, as other states have undertaken."
* "The General Assembly should set up a schedule to review all tax expenditures on a permanent basis. The purpose of each of the 128 tax expenditures identified in the report should be spelled out, so that the review can determine whether that purpose is being met. New tax expenditures should have automatic sunsets, so they only continue after their worth has been proven."

The [report](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104981593765&s=3601&e=001r2djOFsQcmhBX9-RT15yD8TUP97MOyS3bTlH7Ea87jwfnJTd6Ho3cSZWklkFe7JYOrvH_N_2JMUJXR1dKcKimOoeDYKK2StaFeOZbQw4_98oI8lYz9PRzswD-_VKOaAFCHvQQH7ljeMLnysJRk4tJ8WetOUYxjap" \t "_blank) is available.

**Ohio to Receive Federal Grant for Low-Achieving Schools**:  U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, announced on March 17, 2011 that Ohio was one of five states that would be receiving $19.5 million through the federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) Program. The funds are a part of a $546 million grant program made available to states for FY10. The $19.5 million is being distributed by formula to the state.  Schools will be able to apply for the grants through a competitive process in the spring. As a part of the application, school districts must indicate which of the four school intervention models will be implemented in each of the lowest-achieving schools that are receiving the federal funds. The intervention models are Turnaround Model; Restart Model; School Closure; and Transformation Model.

Information about [Ohio's application](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104902874624&s=3601&e=001Kktr4TO4oZ483d1_JJs-_vNqDwOlQcb02Ycy19rT196nFKV6Q13rE0pGf10bsujrK5-LoyePUSpFZx8t4O9G4OJ5LO08N464C3H-giImGnaLU1nOHi0svvojr-1S-qwZzxpBDvnkjmmbo0PtsC1j7yWYge6olRET" \t "_blank) is available.

**Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin to Visit the Statehouse**: As part of the Sesquicentennial celebration of the Ohio Statehouse, historian Doris Kearns Goodwin will present a program marking the 150th anniversary of the Ohio Statehouse and the beginning of the American Civil War at the Ohio Statehouse on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 from 1:00 - 2:00 PM. The program will be streamed-live at [http://www.ohiochannel.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nwc1YGjtC8hvHQBZhdUgiwJE1Ilv5G0fxjDdhAxENG9SCvD6lxZ4zpbzUSVHlu6Kzflsxbvd9-6xHfjlLcE_RphaaiKYCCmRMNqgvwOlmnDz7Q==" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nwc1YGjtC8hvHQBZhdUgiwJE1Ilv5G0fxjDdhAxENG9SCvD6lxZ4zpbzUSVHlu6Kzflsxbvd9-6xHfjlLcE_RphaaiKYCCmRMNqgvwOlmnDz7Q==). Educators are encouraged to use this program to help students learn about the history of the Ohio Statehouse, Ohio's participation in the American Civil War, and the leadership of Abraham Lincoln during the war. Students can submit questions to Doris Kearns Goodwin via email at statehouse@csrab.state.oh.us by 5:00 PM on April 5, 2011. Questions should include the student's name; school; grade; city; county.  For more information please visit [http://OhioStatehouse.org](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nweP-IRvhls7Bpy6pjXiGMP7Ok9GbW6yL38Otp1AxN_I-3QOGj-oHruC06qrnm0x3REf38nzJGSpnHk4X5fcWiVpWyB3Ht-FQO32yBNbscGlXw==" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104693731838&s=3601&e=001A-CHvdZ4nweP-IRvhls7Bpy6pjXiGMP7Ok9GbW6yL38Otp1AxN_I-3QOGj-oHruC06qrnm0x3REf38nzJGSpnHk4X5fcWiVpWyB3Ht-FQO32yBNbscGlXw==).

**Resources:**

**Check out references for Family and Consumer Sciences information**: [www.oatfacs.org](http://www.oatfacs.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Event News from Policy Matters Ohio:**

Thursday March 31, 5 p.m., [Good Jobs Strong Communities Town Hall](http://e2ma.net/go/7006545825/208507814/221246264/1408121/goto%3Ahttp%3A/www.policymattersohio.org/pdf/GoodJobsTownHall2011_0331.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), Trinity Commons Sanctuary in Cleveland - Amy Hanauer and others to speak about the Ohio budget

Tuesday April 5, noon, [One Ohio Now rally at the capital in Columbus](http://e2ma.net/go/7006545825/208507814/221246265/1408121/goto%3Ahttp%3A/www.scribd.com/full/50550119?access_key=key-1sv8wnlktvsxgrs9i4xh" \t "_blank) - Speak out for a better budget that supports jobs, services, communities and families in Ohio

Friday April 8, 8:30 a.m., [Senior Voice! Community Forum](http://e2ma.net/go/7006545825/208507814/221246266/1408121/goto%3Ahttp%3A/www.policymattersohio.org/pdf/SeniorVoice2011_0408.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank), Trinity Commons in Cleveland - Pam Rosado and others to speak about how the Ohio budget affects seniors, the safety net, and Ohioans with disabilities

**OHIO GRADS Teachers spring meeting Tri Rivers Career Center Marion Ohio April 8! Teachers serving Ohio Pregnant and Parenting Teens – You are critical to the future of thousands of Ohio families!**

**Ohio Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (OAFCS)** Annual Meeting April 1-2. in Toledo/Perrysburg Ohio   **Theme: Linking Cultures: Enriching Lives** Place:The new Hilton Garden Inn is the premier hotel (perfect for both the business and leisure traveler) in the Toledo, Ohio area. Enjoy the unique setting in Levis Commons **Concurrent sessions** by peers and experts **Cultural performances** **by Toledo Sister Cities** (India, China, Scotland, Germany...) throughout the conference**.** Don't miss this opportunity to network and advance your career by participating in this professional development event. Attached is the **"Registration form"** for the Annual Meeting. You can also access this form, hotel reservation link, and additional information about the conference at the OAFCS website at [http://www.oafcs.org/oafcsmeeting.html](http://www.oafcs.org/oafcsmeeting.html%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.oafcs.org/oafcsmeeting.html)

#### **Participate in this Education Week Seminar April 7 or watch it later -** Free Live Webinar:

**[Addressing Diverse Student Learning Needs](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/10956708%3A13411352337%3Am%3A1%3A219433458%3ACFE12BAC19CF1004F72496CEEEC0BC9B%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)**
**Thursday, April 7, 4 p.m. EDT
Also available "on demand" any time 24 hours after the event.**
[Free registration](http://e-news.edweek.org/ct/10956708%3A13411352337%3Am%3A1%3A219433458%3ACFE12BAC19CF1004F72496CEEEC0BC9B%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) is now open.

 **Participate in this AAFCS Webinar March 29 or watch it later**

**Budget and Debt Management:  An FCS Approach** Presented by Dr. Linda Simpson

90-minute program including Q & A  March 29, 2011, 4pm ET [Register Now!](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=kql6x9dab&et=1104703983880&s=4291&e=001U9ADSwaDOuJ8YpuTbJ-Jw0eIZV-p0-7kaVvzXx2StPGm-EmnjKt_4-nqR5RalySrfBfMp1g8bSgTyBoAAHzwY4cbOoFTBA_JS062hT3-Xlh4snDAmc6eFySVznW7ELI3fKIONgLGnOtobiUQARoa8jxendK-x3kfwaabU7RLfKuapXtXPsmNMyfc_4HnXtJflpTYV-HYCIDtUK56rwwN8drA7DFdK5TX" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=kql6x9dab&et=1104703983880&s=4291&e=001U9ADSwaDOuJ8YpuTbJ-Jw0eIZV-p0-7kaVvzXx2StPGm-EmnjKt_4-nqR5RalySrfBfMp1g8bSgTyBoAAHzwY4cbOoFTBA_JS062hT3-Xlh4snDAmc6eFySVznW7ELI3fKIONgLGnOtobiUQARoa8jxendK-x3kfwaabU7RLfKuapXtXPsmNMyfc_4)

**$50 for AAFCS members ($65 non-members) New [Bundled Pricing Discount](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=kql6x9dab&et=1104703983880&s=4291&e=001U9ADSwaDOuKuFy3W8qWlSVx-q5uC_LuI45rQkjRUS_H61gcwI8YMsP5faKfqvTjgROf1fp7I1mDjbcOTHf8-A15YzoZsGVB8jqDDvQlbOgx2h0GiMuzrzxNqrD2rh7pT2tNcXg2m72dSxFmMQFvGoIB14oISO1iB-y-B8S3uQKVFH1x0X5wAdR4nMYeS6SxeSQCNqazzJ-ORibK8E0nTHQ==" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=kql6x9dab&et=1104703983880&s=4291&e=001U9ADSwaDOuKuFy3W8qWlSVx-q5uC_LuI45rQkjRUS_H61gcwI8YMsP5faKfqvTjgROf1fp7I1mDjbcOTHf8-A15YzoZsGVB8jqDDvQlbOgx2h0GiMuzrzxNqrD2rh7pT2tNcXg2m72dSxFmMQFvGoIB14oISO1iB-y-B8S3uQKVFH1x0X5wAdR4nMY) when you purchase 3 webinars**

***In just 90 minutes, you will learn*** dozens of effective strategies for improving the way students of any age learn about vital topics such as:

* Creating a sound Financial Plan-the 6 key elements
* Setting up an Emergency Fund-what's the best formula?
* Protecting one's credit rating-how to avoid the top 3 missteps most people make
* Developing a budget-plus 6 ways to make it work, starting tomorrow
* Understanding how spending is tied to our emotions
* Discovering simple ways to reward yourself, reduce guilt, and lessen stress on the family

All of the basics of developing a financial plan and a budget will be covered as well as what you and your students need to know about credit reports, FICO scores and the true out-of-pocket cost of poor credit. (*Keeping up with the Jones' may be keeping your credit score down!*) You'll receive simple and effective worksheets, along with guidelines on how to jumpstart personal budgeting...and sticking to it!  Useful websites, online tools, and other resources will be shared. And this webinar has a direct relationship to STEM objectives.  But there's much more to gain in 90 minutes....

 **Keep It In FCS!**

FCS professionals need to be at the forefront of this rapid expansion of financial literacy education for all age groups.  With the unique qualifications and holistic approach of FCS, it is a good match for the financial literacy needs of today.  Before you teach another class on financial literacy, register for this webinar, and learn how you can be most effective in helping others. **About the presenter:**  Linda Simpson, PhD, is a professor in Consumer Studies at Eastern Illinois University. She has taught this topic at the university level for 15 years and has made dozens of presentations. Dr. Simpson holds three FCS degrees: a PhD in FCS Education and Bachelor's and Master's degrees in FCS.  **Who should register?** This webinar is ideal for all FCS professionals, and anyone who teaches or wishes to teach in the area of personal finance. **Not able to attend on March 29?**  No Problem!  This event will be archived on the AAFCS website for the same low registration rates!

 **All-Ohio Conference (OATFACS)Ohio Association for Teachers of Family and Consumer Sciences Summer Conference July 26-28, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency registration and agenda can be found** **at** [www.ohioacte.org](http://www.ohioacte.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.ohioacte.org/)

**ATTENTION - FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE TEACHER course as a supplement to the mathematics offered in classes.**  This course will help these teachers become more knowledgeable about learning and teaching GOOD mathematics, as related to the family and consumer science topics.  This course will help the participant to see his/her very important role in preparing the students to gain confidence in their use of mathematics.

**This course, along with one other course, will meet the requirements for the participant to become a HQT as an INTERVENTION SPECIALIST in mathematics CONTENT.**

**Tues, Wed, Thurs, June 14-16, 2011. Bluffton University, Bluffton, Ohio.**

**22.5 Contact hours for LPDC Credit:  Cost $125**

**OR**

**1 Semester Hour Graduate Workshop Credit:  Cost $275**

**(Extra $25 for joining OCTM will be waived for FCS Teachers)**

 **Lunches are included in registration cost**

**Very reasonable housing and breakfasts on campus are available for those from a distance**

**See brochure for CONTENT (appropriate for FCS classes)**

**But content will also be FLEXIBLE, according to needs of participants**

**AT BLUFFTON UNIVERSITY, BLUFFTON, OHIO, on I-75 Exits 140 and 142 between Dayton and Toledo, and more specifically, between Lima and Findlay**

**Ohio FCCLA State Leadership Conference will be held April 13-15**.  All registrations must be completed through email to joyce.sheets@ode.state.oh.us .  Registration deadline is March 22. Conference information will be posted at [www.ohiofccla.yolasite.com](http://www.ohiofccla.yolasite.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//www.ohiofccla.yolasite.com/) .Paulette Farago, Ohio FCCLA State Adviser  < Paulette.Farago@ode.state.oh.us  >

 **View this Chapin Hall (University of Chicago) Live Webcast March 17th – Children and Federal-State Budget Trade-Offs March 17, 2011**
**To view a video webcast anytime**. Program length: 1.5 hours
[Website for the live video webcast](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6njaa9n6&et=1104738322529&s=39485&e=001TzAHkRoPhoy2J8JSIbVXu0RTBmj41kupGYNMYevc8yYZQwuzxiwrdn_UIZjMD107Re0fz3fiwSlvTMSZqF48fg6Of1U9y7TE9h2aAanpCIm6LYI2BrPga3rYHw23LpPZtM7RDV1Qsi52nKYguA3Ckj-wU0crWgwP" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=6njaa9n6&et=1104738322529&s=39485&e=001TzAHkRoPhoy2J8JSIbVXu0RTBmj41kupGYNMYevc8yYZQwuzxiwrdn_UIZjMD107Re0fz3fiwSlvTMSZqF48fg6Of1U9y7TE9h2aAanpCIm6LYI2BrPga3rYHw23LpPZtM7RDV1Qsi52nKYguA3Ckj-wU0crWgwP)

 From Sandy Spavone at NOYS – National Youth Traffic Safety Month brings you ACT OUT LOUD!  Deadline April 11, 2011.  Enter the National Youth Traffic Safety Month Contest, and win up to $10,000 for your school.  For more information and to enter use the following links.  **[Contest Rules](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPaYO_-OPqRhYtA97n974j0WThZMrWH3oNnqHPRPG7tZzv6Q7FhDwE-Wn7h5PL53gcmhgf6TbbzB5dY0qnpGTVH2zg5XvYErfNS0VfU5KlQuXiRL_18S9nv70GzGfWU2QGNNb3niDJAjuDTkS8ophBMY9wMxAaU7yjp1DP8HBa4RgQ==" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPaYO_-OPqRhYtA97n974j0WThZMrWH3oNnqHPRPG7tZzv6Q7FhDwE-Wn7h5PL53gcmhgf6TbbzB5dY0qnpGTVH2zg5XvYErfNS0VfU5KlQuXiRL_18S9nv70GzGfWU2QGNNb3niDJAjuDTkS8ophBMY9wMxAaU7yjp1DP8HBa4RgQ==).**

**[ActOutLoud](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPYCXUOQvwku4AK77wCrm7ud3o4H95HsM6DzpXpy4sPWAH16NRjYnGVif8W_KVHZ7X16oFwiJa4aWr8sDjZMCy1OumJsUTPFLmppt115GDfDUw==" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPYCXUOQvwku4AK77wCrm7ud3o4H95HsM6DzpXpy4sPWAH16NRjYnGVif8W_KVHZ7X16oFwiJa4aWr8sDjZMCy1OumJsUTPFLmppt115GDfDUw==)[NOYS](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPbRCXxAcXXB9hBbuCI6s4-Z7zuTwOaVatPrtfY-F55BOEshUM1PpAcppb4IkcgSLQJzKw54cbhWkREIXSp8QyDZglH7u97_Nq4=" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPbRCXxAcXXB9hBbuCI6s4-Z7zuTwOaVatPrtfY-F55BOEshUM1PpAcppb4IkcgSLQJzKw54cbhWkREIXSp8QyDZglH7u97_Nq4=)** **[UnderYOURInfluence](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPZka0JM1zoOvxmLVYUr4U1CBJ7PMiAmYIJSAGWQaP6s8dOnr8QAtHwaq4owo_XO1LLFCATGCR9pAjMul1EPAZUXqxS4KoxGOYd3QYxPx6ElXVXhqv5nRS_I" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=m5t6oecab&et=1104247207937&s=5497&e=001C1TUYLStYPZka0JM1zoOvxmLVYUr4U1CBJ7PMiAmYIJSAGWQaP6s8dOnr8QAtHwaq4owo_XO1LLFCATGCR9pAjMul1EPAZUXqxS4KoxGOYd3QYxPx6ElXVXhqv5nRS_I)**

**Educator Trainings on Conflict Management:**  **For upcoming trainings contact** The Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management at: (614) 752-9595, or email at: Sarah.Wallis@cdr.state.oh.us. Save the date for conference - **Bullying Prevention and Beyond: Restoring Community, Repairing Harm May 4, 5!**

**Early childhood**:**[Click here for more information and to REGISTER for the 2011 Ohio Early Care and Education Conference.](http://guest.cvent.com/d/kdq8mt%22%20%5Co%20%22http%3A//guest.cvent.com/d/kdq8mt%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)** April 28-30, 2011 Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, Ohio Challenging behavior, impulsivity/hyperactivity, out-of-control, aggressive behavior…
Are these issues in your classroom?
Learn from national experts how to understand young children’s behavior and respond effectively.

**USEP-OHIO Thanks** **ohioartseducation@gmail.com** **Director Donna Collins, Ohio Alliance for Arts Education ([www.OAAE.net](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104461206685&s=3601&e=001Rgj-AAFHDVWrCHPbB_4Qur6T-GS9KR1OOJu5kI_hCCqrAGF3Wdj452C6NUwiV05RytSeSr8Bthwjzzpd3piBh6C1cngLUREUuR70CMBjLJg=" \t "_blank" \o "http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?llr=uh7v4ocab&et=1104461206685&s=3601&e=001Rgj-AAFHDVWrCHPbB_4Qur6T-GS9KR1OOJu5kI_hCCqrAGF3Wdj452C6NUwiV05RytSeSr8Bthwjzzpd3piBh6C1cngLUREUuR70CMBjLJg=)). and Joan Platz for content re advocacy.**

**Contact us at** **usepohio@usepohio.com** **.  Visit the website [www.USEP-OHIO.com](http://www.usep-ohio.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)  with questions, comments, *Parent Tips* for parents, grandparents and teachers and much more!**

 **END March 29, 2011 USEP-OHIO E-Update**