

Education Funding Sessions for Legislative Candidates and Residents

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Coordinator, 610-7281

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Noting that almost half of NH's municipalities will suffer losses in State education aid as of next July, the Coalition Communities group has scheduled two education funding information sessions for candidates for the NH Legislature, as well as the residents of communities facing reductions in State aid.

The first session is Monday, Oct. 18, at the Moultonborough Community Auditorium and the second will be the following Monday, Oct. 25, at Portsmouth City Hall. Coalition Communities Coordinator Pat Remick will make a presentation and answer questions at the sessions that begin at 7 p.m.

"With so many of New Hampshire's communities scheduled for cuts in State aid, and one-third of those on track for losses of \$100,000 or more, it's critical that taxpayers and their legislators be knowledgeable about this important subject," Remick said.

"It's also extremely troubling that while 120 communities are facing losses in State aid, this formula will cost almost \$70 million more while the State of New Hampshire must find an additional \$160 million to replace the federal stimulus funding used this year. How will the Legislature fill that \$230 million gap?"

Remick said the Coalition is especially concerned that the divisive system of "Donor communities" – forcing taxpayers in only certain communities to fund education in other towns that may even have higher median household incomes – is scheduled to return and severely impact taxpayers to collect just 1.5 percent of the total spent by the State of New Hampshire to fund education.

"There is something wrong with a formula that causes this much pain, cuts \$7million from the third-largest school district in the State and also sends less money to struggling communities like Berlin and Allenstown," she said.

The Coalition Communities organization is comprised of 36 communities, many of which are destined to once again become "Donors" forced to send tax dollars to Concord for redistribution to other communities as of July 1, 2011 -- the end of the transition portion of the current education funding formula.

Although the State is not expected to release the final education funding figures for Fiscal Year 2012 until sometime between the Nov. 2 election and the Nov. 15 deadline, several communities will suffer major losses compared to this year.

In the Moultonborough area, these include Moultonborough (\$3.4 million); Plymouth (\$1,180,025); Lincoln (\$1,117,626); New London (\$1,014,778); Wolfeboro (\$936,472); Tuftonboro (\$886,206); Waterville Valley (\$711,226); Freedom (\$529,382); Newbury (\$463,426);

Sunapee (\$427,235); Sandwich (\$325,255); Center Harbor (\$298,093); Holderness (\$278,509); Bridgewater (\$158,412); Meredith (\$64,247); Ossipee (\$19,498).

Towns scheduled to suffer major losses in the Portsmouth geographic area are Rye (\$1,403,253); Danville (\$1,129,242); New Castle (\$1,178,265); Sandown (\$1,108,089); Newington (\$816,110); Lee (\$709,505); Northwood (\$352,913); Epping (\$229,135); Madbury (\$119,509); and North Hampton (\$89,583).

To see the full list of estimated losses across the State, visit www.cityofportsmouth.com/coalition.

The Moultonborough Community Auditorium is located at Moultonborough Academy at 25 Blake Road in Moultonborough. The Portsmouth session will be in the Eileen Dondero Foley City Council Chambers at Portsmouth City Hall, 1 Junkins Avenue, in Portsmouth.

For more information, call the Coalition Communities office at 610-7281.

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