

NORTH CAROLINA

Total State Budget Cuts to pre-K–12 education: \$800 million



Photo: Jim Bowen

Faced with Increasing Demand for Education, A State Cuts Supply

Overriding the governor's veto, the North Carolina General Assembly approved a 2011 budget that cut \$800 million in funding for education. The state ranked 47th in spending per pupil in the country in 2010 and likely will slip to 49th for 2011. This year, the North Carolina Legislature passed a bill that for the first time allows the state to send public tax dollars to private schools for families of special needs students.

Examples of how our children are paying the price:

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
 - » **Statewide:** Cut \$16 million (20 percent) for pre-K education
- ▶ Class Size
 - » **Statewide:** Eliminated 13,000 educator jobs
- ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum
 - » **Statewide:** Slashed \$92.2 million from textbook purchasing and \$42 million (almost half) from instructional materials purchasing
- ▶ Special Programs
 - » **Statewide:** Eliminated a \$13.3 million dropout prevention program