

# ARIZONA

Total State Budget Cuts to pre-K–12 education: \$183 million



Photo: Wars

## Yes, It Can Get Worse

**A**rizona is a “cut king,” second only to California on slashing the most from education spending, per pupil, from FY 2008 to FY 2012. State lawmakers cut \$183 million from K–12 education in 2011. Arizona ranks sixth among states in the amount of public school funds being funneled to private schools—the state redirects \$61 million per year through individual, corporate, and other kinds of tax credit programs.

### Examples of how our children are paying the price:

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
  - » **Statewide:** Eliminated pre-K funding
  - » **Cottonwood-Oak:** Eliminated full day kindergarten
- ▶ Class Size
  - » **Statewide:** Numerous elementary and middle schools closed
  - » **Vail:** High school class sizes rose from 24-29 students to 32-35 students
- ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum
  - » **Statewide:** Eliminated a program that funded career and technical education for 9th grade students
  - » **Kyrene:** Cut art, music, PE and library services
  - » **Lake Havasu:** Eliminated elementary school art and music

# FLORIDA

Total State Budget Cuts to pre-K–12 education: \$1 billion



Photo: Ebyabe

## New Cuts Harm a School System Already in Trouble

Florida has cut more than \$1 billion from education in its new budget for 2011–12, an almost 8 percent drop that translates to a loss of \$542 per student. Florida ranks first among states in the amount of public school tax dollars being sent to private schools. The state redirects \$229 million per year through voucher and corporate tax credit programs.

### Examples of how our children are paying the price:

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
  - » **Statewide:** Cut \$20 million in funding for pre-kindergarten—about \$180 per 4-year-old
- ▶ Class Size
  - » **Statewide:** Increased pre-K classes to 20
  - » **Miami-Dade County:** Increased class sizes for AP and other “college prep” courses from 25 to more than 30
- ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum
  - » **Statewide:** House version of legislation defined social studies as an “elective,” making it easier to cut
  - » **Broward County:** Eliminated art from 44 elementary schools, music from 20 schools and PE from 20 schools. Also eliminated 40 percent of media specialists
  - » **Hernando County:** Cut French, automotive and construction technology courses
- ▶ Special Programs
  - » **Volusia County:** Eliminated 9th grade sports
  - » **Miami-Dade County:** Cut after-school programs for 4500 children
  - » **Pinellas County:** Eliminated 37 guidance counselors
  - » **Pinellas and Duval Counties:** Eliminated transportation to magnet schools

# 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



## Troubling Indicators on the Rise

Ohio is cutting state K–12 education funding by \$800 million over the next two fiscal years, 2011-12 and 2012-13. The cut amounts to an average of 7.5 percent, which equals \$400 per student and nearly 14,000 teachers' salaries. Ohio comes in fourth among states in the amount of public school tax dollars being redirected to private schools. The state redirects \$107 million per year through voucher programs.

### Examples of how our children are paying the price:

- ▶ Early Childhood Education
  - » **Statewide:** Eliminated a mandate requiring districts to provide and fund full-day kindergarten. In the Dayton area this meant eliminating funding for full-day kindergarten in almost every district and the Toledo area raised the fee for kindergarten.
- ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum
  - » **Medina:** Eliminated many AP science and math classes, the French and German programs and offerings in art, music and other “electives.”
- ▶ Special Programs
  - » **Alexander:** Cut computer classes in elementary grades
  - » **Athens City:** Cut the field trip budget and high school computer and photography classes
  - » **Medina:** Increased activity fees: \$660 to play a high school sport, \$200 to join the concert choir, and \$50 to act in a school play

# PENNSYLVANIA

Total State Budget Cuts to pre-K–12 education: \$851 million



## How Creative Can School Cuts Be?

**P**ennsylvania's state political leadership passed and approved a new budget this year that cut \$851 million from public schools. Pennsylvania ranks seventh among states in the amount of public school funds being sent to private schools. The state redirects \$52 million per year through various types of tax credit programs.

### Examples of how our children are paying the price:

#### ▶ Early Childhood Education

- » **Statewide:** Four districts eliminated full-day kindergarten, 9 reduced full-day kindergarten, 7 eliminated pre-k and 11 reduced pre-k
- » **Philadelphia:** Cut full-day kindergarten
- » **Highlands and East Alleghany:** Went from full-day kindergarten to half-day kindergarten
- » **South Park:** Cut full day kindergarten for at-risk children

#### ▶ Class Size

- » **Statewide:** Seventy percent of schools increased their class sizes
- » **Chester Upland:** Eliminated 40 percent of teachers and increased class sizes from an average of 21 students per teacher to 30 in elementary school and more than 35 in high school. (This move actually prompted students to walk out of over-crowded classes)
- » **Beaver County:** Increased class size by 50 percent

#### ▶ Well-Rounded Curriculum

- » **Statewide:** Forty-four percent of schools reduced their curriculum offerings
- » **Allentown:** Cut electives in high schools
- » **York:** Cut all art, music and PE teachers in elementary schools
- » **Bethel Park:** Cut 3rd-grade music and 5th-grade foreign language

#### ▶ Special Programs

- » **Statewide**
  - Twenty percent of schools eliminated summer school programs that allowed students to graduate on time
  - Thirty one percent of schools either established or increased pay-to-play fees for students
- » **York:** Eliminated nearly all special education aides, English language learner aides, and library aides