

# CRESTWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48127~3495

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October 30, 2009

Dear Crestwood Parents and Community Members,

The legislature passed a School Aid bill that cut school funding \$165 per student. Last week, Governor Granholm signed the bill after she cut another \$127 with line-item vetoes. **These two cuts will force the Crestwood School District to lose over \$1,000,874 or \$292 for every student enrolled in Crestwood Schools in the 2009-2010 school year.** This is a 3.6% reduction, four months into our fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

**Crestwood is a fiscally responsible district.** We reduced our expenditures and increased our revenue. For the first time in many years, we laid off staff members. We haven't filled positions vacated by retirements and resignations. We replaced our old boilers with energy-efficient models that reduced our energy consumption and costs. We purchased items, such as sidewalk salt, through bulk purchases to reduce cost. We invited students from other districts to attend our CAP (Crestwood Accelerated Program), we increased our facilities-use and child-care fees and charged pay-to-play fees to our student athletes. We did not offer programs, such as state-funded preschool, because we were not sure if the state would fund it and we knew that we did not have the money to provide it out of our district's K-12 budget.

**We do not have the flexibility to reduce our budget by over \$1 million within the next few months.** Our legislature and Governor have been unable to work together to come to a solution. The political bickering that is taking place in Lansing must come to an end. It is unfortunate that the children of Michigan are caught in the middle of our legislators' lack of coming up with short-term and long-term solutions for school funding. These cuts are unacceptable and are poorly timed for the students of Crestwood and the children of Michigan.

What can we do? I encourage each of you to **contact your state representative, senator and the Governor** and demand that education in Michigan have the highest priority and be adequately funded.

**Our message** to Michigan lawmakers must be three-fold:

- 1.) **Restore funding to K-12 schools**
- 2.) **Do not enact cuts in January of 2010**
- 3.) **Fix the structural school funding problem**

**The legislature will need to act by November 21, 2009 if a proration is to be averted.**

We will post more information our website ([www.csdm.k12.mi.us](http://www.csdm.k12.mi.us)) to keep you updated. Parents and community members who would like to become more involved are encouraged to join the Crestwood Legislative Network by contacting me at [lvavalk@csdm.k12.mi.us](mailto:lvavalk@csdm.k12.mi.us) or 278-0903. Thank you for your support.

***Our students can't wait to get a better education!***

Sincerely,

*Laurine VanValkenburg*

Laurine VanValkenburg, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools