



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Budget Cuts Force Furlough Approval

(Columbus, GA)- The Muscogee County Board of Education approves a recommendation to furlough employees for three (3) days. The decision comes after Governor Sonny Perdue announced a reduction to Quality Basic Education (QBE) funds. In addition, the governor proposed school districts consider furloughs to make up for additional budget cuts.

“This is not something we wanted to do, but it is something we have been forced to do because of the current state of the economy and budget cuts,” said Superintendent Susan Andrews. “This was a tough decision to make because we value all of our employees.”

On Tuesday, July 21, 2009, Governor Sonny Perdue notified superintendents across Georgia that he would be withholding three (3) days of salaries from districts by the end of December 2009. On Tuesday, July 28, 2009, the State board of Education voted to amend, for one year, *State Board Rule 160-5-1-.01 School Year* to allow local school districts the authority to reduce the number of minimum days required for school employees to work. The reason for the action is the economic emergency experienced by the State of Georgia.

Due to this fiscal emergency, the governor advised he would withhold three (3) days of personnel funds, provided to the Muscogee County School District, totaling approximately \$2,045,523 dollars. In addition to that cut, Quality Basic Education (QBE) funds and educational equalization funding will be cut three (3) percent while pupil transportation and nursing services funding will be cut five (5) percent. The amount of these cuts would be approximately \$5,321,769 dollars to the district.

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Even though district funds for the furlough days will be cut between now and December 2009, district administrators have decided cuts will be spread over each employee's contract period.

As a result, employees **will not report to work** and **will not receive pay** on the following furlough days:

Furlough Days for Year Round Schools

October 23, 2009
December 18, 2009
March 15, 2010

Furlough Days for Regular Schools

December 21, 2009
December 22, 2009
December 23, 2009

*Furlough days do not apply to security, crossing guards, school-based food service staff, or bus drivers.

For more information, please e-mail communications@mcsdga.net , or call (706) 748-2034.

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