

# Vilsack Announces 4.3% Cut in Spending

## DMEA Monitors Effects on DMPS

Governor Tom Vilsack has announced that the proposed 4.3% across-the-board cuts will go into effect on November 1<sup>st</sup>. In the same statement he also announced that a special legislative session will convene on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Earlier this month the Revenue Estimating Committee announced that state revenues have declined by \$157.5 million dollars for the current fiscal year. The Governor's 4.3% cut will slash the state budget by \$200 million. This leaves some hope that funding may be restored in certain areas.

The budget cuts mean that schools across the state will need to trim \$85 million from the current year's budget. Based upon figures provided by ISEA, the Des Moines Public Schools will receive \$5,927,785 less funding from the state. This represents a 4% cut in regular program spending. This is one of the largest percentage cuts in the state.

In an effort to trim the budget DMPS has implemented a hiring freeze and is cutting the equipment and supply budget by 25%. Several members have already contacted DMEA to voice their concerns.

State revenue projections for next year have been decreased. The state budget is projected to grow at only a 1.9% rate compared to the previously expected 4.9%. This will of course have an effect on the amount of new money the state will provide schools for next year, which will in turn have an effect on salary increases and hiring.

During the Special Session, the Governor hopes to restore some of the funding for K-12 education. However, that will be difficult because of other priorities. The Governor and legislative leaders have agreed that the Public Safety budget will not be slashed given the current state of

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## DMEA Membership Ratifies Contract Changes

The DMEA membership overwhelmingly voted to ratify the proposed changes to the master agreement by a vote of 704-281.

Despite the approval, much work remains to be done on the contract language. The issues of Bereavement Leave and Religious Leave generated a great deal of controversy due to the vague wording in the

agreement. The Bargaining Team will be working with the district to try to clarify this language so that it will be equitable to all parties.

If you have ideas on these issues or others please do not hesitate to contact the members of the Bargaining Committee. A complete list of the members of that committee can be found on page four.

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"Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Teachers have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives."

Andy Rooney  
American Journalist

# Vilsack Announces 4.3% Budget Cut

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affairs in this country.

The Governor has publicly stated that he hopes to restore public school funding during the special session. Speaker of the House Brent Siegrist, however, has publicly stated that, "There isn't a lot of hope that it is going to be restored."

The Department of Education has contacted each district and told them how the cuts will be enacted. They will take place as follows:

- Regular school aide payments to districts will proceed as planned with reductions.
- The state will delay payment of the

Class Size/Early Intervention Block Grants and the School Technology appropriations until the amount of the reductions are known and then will provide this funding to districts at the new (reduced) levels.

- Phase I and Phase III are normally paid on October 15<sup>th</sup>. This money will be held up by the state until a final teacher count is made state wide. Phase I will be given to the districts in full. Phase III is expected to take heavy cuts,

Teacher compensation monies will not be effected since this is funded from the state tobacco settlement. Teachers should still expect to receive the two

\$400 payments.

Districts can use their cash reserves to maintain funding. Since Des Moines has a sizable cash reserve this would be possible in our district.

At this time DMEA members should not be concerned about reductions in staff due to the budget crunch. The situation may change by next year as the situation worsens. Many districts are considering reducing associate staff in an attempt to save money.

## In The Spotlight



As educators we are continually subjected to all of the negative press about education, but, as we all know, there are many good things going on in our schools. DMEA plans to use this column to put those DMEA members who have received recognition "in the spotlight." To do this we need your help. If you know of a member who has received education-related recognition please let us know so that we can acknowledge their achievement.

**Karen Stiles**, Marine Biology instructor at Central Campus, has been selected as one of the 35 winners of the Disney American Teacher Award. Stiles was one of 110,000 teachers who were nominated for the award. The award carries with it a \$10,000 honorarium to the teacher and an additional \$5000 award to the school. Stiles and the other recipients will be honored during ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles.

**Linda Kuiken**, Central Academy, and **Jodi Osthus**, Meredith Middle School have been recognized as state finalists in the 2001 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. They are among 600 teachers recognized nationwide.

Congratulations to these members on their outstanding accomplishments!

## Calendar of Events



- November 1, 2001  
DMEA Executive Board  
4:15 p.m.
- November 6, 2001  
School Board Meeting  
5:00 P.M. Public Forum  
6:00 Board Meeting
- November 6, 2001  
Election Day
- November 8, 2001  
Faculty Rep Assembly  
North High School Cafeteria  
4:15 p.m.
- November 9-10, 2001  
Educational Support Professional Fall Conference  
Hotel Fort Des Moines
- November 15, 2001  
DMEA Executive Board  
4:15 p.m.

# Make Your Voice Heard!!! Contact Your Legislators About the Effects of the Budget Cuts

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With a special session of the legislature looming in the near future, educators have little time to convince lawmakers of the necessity of restoring education funding.

DMEA members need to begin contacting their legislators about the impact of the recently announced budget cuts on students and programs in the Des Moines Public Schools. Please follow these simple guidelines when writing to your representatives or senators:

1. Keep the letter short and limit the number of issues you address to one or two.
2. Be polite and respectful.
3. Use actual anecdotes from your classroom. Tell your legislators how budget cuts will effect students.
4. Watch carefully for spelling errors. Let someone proofread your letter for typos and spelling errors before you send it.
5. Ask for a response.

Please contact your legislator and urge them to restore education funding during the upcoming special session. The legislators listed on this page represent the city of Des Moines. When contacting elected officials **do not** use school e-mail.

When writing to your legislators use the following format and address:

**To a State Senator:**  
The Honorable (Full Name)  
Iowa Senate  
Iowa State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Senator (Last Name)

**To a State Representative:**  
The Honorable (Full Name)  
Iowa State Capitol  
Des Moines, IA 50319

Dear Representative (Last Name)

You can also visit the Legislative Action Center web site to get more information on the issue and to e-mail your legislators. It can be reached by visiting <http://congress.nw.dc.us/cgi-bin/stateindex.pl?dir=nea&state=ia>

## House of Representatives

### **District 67**

#### **Frank Chiodo**

**Home Address:**417 E. Burnham Ave.,  
Des Moines, IA 50315

**Home Telephone:** (515) 287-5245

**Office Telephone:** (515) 778-5245

**E-mail:** frank\_chiodo@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 68**

#### **Jack Hatch**

**Home Address:**1623 Woodland Ave.,  
Des Moines, IA 50309

**Home Telephone:** (515) 243-2033

**E-mail:** jack\_hatch@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 69**

#### **John Connors**

**Home Address:**1316 E. 22nd St., Des  
Moines, IA 50317

**Home Telephone:** (515) 262-3345

**E-mail:** john\_connors@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 70**

#### **Ed Fallon**

**Home Address:**1321 8th St., Des  
Moines, IA 50314

**Home Telephone:** (515) 243-8828

**E-mail:** ed\_fallon@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 71**

#### **Wayne Ford**

**Home Address:**3108 36th St., Des  
Moines, IA 50310

**Home Telephone:** (515) 274-3942

**Office Telephone:** (515) 288-4742

**E-mail:** wayne\_ford@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 72**

#### **Janet Petersen**

**Home Address:**1346 47th St., Des  
Moines, IA 50311

**Home Telephone:** (515) 279-9063

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### **District 73**

#### **Betty Grundberg**

**Home Address:**224 Foster Dr., Des  
Moines, IA 50312

**Home Telephone:** (515) 277-8760

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betty\_grundberg@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 76**

#### **Scott Raecker**

**Home Address:**9011 Iltis Dr., Urban-  
dale, IA 50322

**Home Telephone:** (515) 276-5987

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## Senate

### **District 34**

#### **Matt McCoy**

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Moines, IA 50315

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**Office Telephone:** (515) 287-3860

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### **District 35**

#### **Dick Dearden**

**Home Address:**3113 Kinsey, Des  
Moines, IA 50317

**Home Telephone:** (515) 262-1203

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### **District 36**

#### **Jack Holveck**

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Moines, IA 50310

**Home Telephone:** (515) 277-5064

**Office Telephone:** (515) 245-3860

**E-mail:** jack\_holveck@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 37**

#### **Mary Kramer**

**Home Address:**1209 Ashworth, West  
Des Moines, IA 50265

**Home Telephone:** (515) 224-7613

**E-mail:** mary\_kramer@legis.state.ia.us

### **District 38**

#### **O. Gene Maddox**

**Home Address:**9759 Elmcrest Drive,  
Clive, IA 50325

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## Des Moines Education Association

206 Center Street  
Des Moines, IA 50309

Phone: 515-471-8040  
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Randy Richardson, Executive Director  
RRichardson@isea.org

Chris Miller, President  
christopher.miller@dmps.k12.ia.us

Sharon Nelson, Office Manager  
SNelson@isea.org



American Education Week will be celebrated November 11-17, 2001. Our theme for is 'Together: Making Public Schools Great for Every Child.' This theme reflects the cooperation and hard work of all education staff and the many parents, community and business members involved in helping students achieve. If you would like more information about the celebration please visit the NEA's American Education Week website at <http://www.nea.org/aew/>.

## Apply Now For Galvin Scholarship

The 2001-02 Walt Galvin Scholarship applications are now available in the DMEA office. Members may call the office (471-8040) to have an application sent to them. Two scholarships will be awarded. Applicants must be the son, daughter, step-child, grandchild, or claimed dependent, if living in the home of an active DMEA member or an active ESP DMEA member. Applicants must have completed 90 semester hours of college course work in a pre-service education program. ESP DMEA members are eligible if they meet the criteria. Applications are due December 10, 2001.

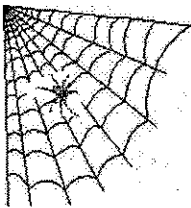
The DMEA Web Page is  
coming soon!

## Negotiations Committee to Begin Preparations

The DMEA Negotiations Committee will hold its initial meeting on November to begin preparation for the upcoming bargaining season.

Randy Richardson, DMEA Executive Director will serve as Chief Negotiator. Other members of the team include:

- Cindy Roerig (Greenwood), Committee Chair;
- Rhonda Anderson (East)
- Paul Wallendal (Tech Services)
- Janice Redshaw (McKee)
- Phyllis Sutte (Garton)
- Becky McNew (Granger)
- Travis Jacobs (McKinley)
- Pat Papenheim, Ex officio (Hiatt)
- Janice Weiberg (Greenwood)
- Hance Throckmorton (McKinley)
- Sue Case-Card (Goodrell)
- Jim Van Tuyl (East)
- Chris Miller, Ex officio (Goodrell)



## Caught in the Web Help for New Teachers

The Des Moines Public Schools welcomed over 300 new teachers into the system this year. Now it's our turn to help them survive. The following sites will provide new teachers with some sound advise, good lesson plans and will help answer some of those classroom management questions.

**New-Teacher.com**  
<http://www.new-teacher.com>

**Survival Guide for New Teachers**  
<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/survivalguide/>

**What to Expect Your First Year of Teaching**  
<http://ed.gov/pubs/FirstYear/index.html>

**Adprima**  
<http://www.adprima.com/ideamenu.htm>

**TeachersFirst**  
<http://www.teachersfirst.com/new-tch.shtml>

**TeachersNetwork**  
<http://209.35.112.241/docs/ntol/index.htm>