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**School boards association thankful governor's budget cuts spare K-12 education**

COLUMBUS — The state of Ohio is tightening its belt, following the lead of many school districts that have cut their budgets over the last few years. More than 300 Ohio school districts did not receive an increase in state funding from House Bill 119, the biennial budget bill.

“The Ohio School Boards Association (OSBA) is thankful that Gov. Ted Strickland and his administration consider K-12 education a top priority,” said Fred Pausch, OSBA director of legislative services, “and have currently spared it from the chopping block. Cutting funds to Ohio’s 1.8 million schoolchildren should be a last resort when it comes to balancing Ohio’s budget.

“The downturn in the economy hurts everyone; that’s why Ohio has a rainy day fund. The governor has said that if conditions worsen, then the state may have to turn to that fund.”

Pausch said OSBA also is encouraged because the governor has said there will be no reductions to school districts’ payments from the newly implemented homestead reduction act for senior citizens.

The Ohio School Boards Association is in its 53rd year of service to public education and represents the state’s public school boards’ members. OSBA’s services include management consulting, continuing education through training programs and workshops, policy development, legal services, legislative initiatives, management services, superintendent and other executive searches, information, technology, employee relations and communications.