

April 21, 2009

Dear PTA/PTSA Stakeholder,

We are facing a very difficult uphill climb this week and need your help. Over the past 6 months, the Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs has worked diligently to hold education harmless from any further budget cuts. We have coordinated rallies, town hall meetings, letter writing campaigns, visits to legislators' offices, and visits to Tallahassee to capture our legislators' attention regarding our number one legislative priority – No More Cuts to Education. Over the next week and a half, our legislators will be deciding upon our State's budget. Currently both the House and Senate budgets include a shift of a .25 mill from construction to operating costs. This policy adjustment may be beneficial for other school districts in the State of Florida, but if this passes, Miami-Dade County Public Schools will face a \$100 million budget cut next year. This WILL impact the classroom. These decisions do not hold education harmless.

We need to let our legislators know how we feel about the decisions they are considering. I ask that all student governments, student clubs, and PTAs/PTSAs ban together and stand against any further budget cuts to education. It is our hope that a "Rally for Education" be held at each school site on Friday, April 24th, 2009 as the school day ends. What will a "Rally for Education" look like? That is up to you. It can be as simple as making some signs and standing in the traffic lane informing citizens about how you feel, or it can be an actual event in your community. We can no longer stand quiet as budget decisions are made that will impact our schools. Please let me know that your school will be represented by emailing me at MindyGouldPTA@aol.com. Now is the time. We can't remain quiet. Let's stand together for our schools and for the children.

Sincerely,

Mindy Gould

Mindy Gould
President