



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Acting Commissioner

March 2, 2006

TO: Chief School Administrators
School Business Administrators

FROM: Lucille E. Davy *L.E.D.*
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: 2006-07 Budget Calendar

On Tuesday, the Governor signed into law A-2288 (S-1253), which extends the date of the Governor's 2006-07 Budget Message to on or before March 23. The Governor's Budget Message is scheduled for March 21. As required under N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5, final state aid numbers will be provided within two days following the message (on or about March 23).

Given the expected delay in the release of final state aid, we recommend that all districts continue to develop their 2006-07 budgets using current year state aid amounts with the understanding that final numbers could in fact be lower than the current year amounts. We recommend that you plan conservatively.

We hope to be able to provide a preliminary update on the 2006-07 numbers prior to the release of final state aid. Any additional budget related information specific to Abbott districts will be provided separately. In all cases, public hearings may be used to revise and adopt final budgets upon release of final state aid numbers on or about March 23.

Due to the compressed schedule and advertisement of budgets prior to the Governor's Budget Message, all districts must include a statement in their advertised budget that indicates the proposed budget and tax levy is based on tentative state aid. Districts are also allowed to advertise prior to County Superintendent approval and if so,

must also include that disclosure in the advertised budget. Below is a sample statement to include in your advertised budget:

“This budget is being presented prior to County Superintendent approval and is based on current year state aid pending the Governor’s Budget Message and final release of 2006-07 state aid. The budget will be revised, if necessary, following release of final state aid at the public hearing.”

Pursuant to the authority provided by N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5c, attached is a summary of the key budget calendar adjustments that have been made due to the enactment of S-1253/A-2288. The schedule compresses the public hearing period to four days to provide additional time for districts to submit their budgets and county offices to review. Budgets will be due to the county offices on March 14 and public hearings may be held between March 27 and March 30. The full calendar is posted on the department’s web-site at <http://www.nj.gov/njded/finance/fp/dwb.shtml>.

We appreciate your continued cooperation throughout this process. Please contact your County Superintendent if you have any questions. Abbott districts can contact the Assistant Commissioner for Abbott Implementation for any additional information as necessary.

LED/KA/06-07csacalendarmonth2.doc

Attachment

c: State Board Members
Isaac Bryant
Penelope Lattimer
Gordon MacInnes
Albert Monillas
William King
Yut’se Thomas
Katie Attwood
Erika Leak
County Superintendents
County School Business Administrators
LEE Group
Garden State Coalition