



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Forum to discuss how state budget cuts will affect education in Baytown

Curtailed services; teacher layoffs; larger classes; tax increases and tuition hikes. As the 2011 Texas Legislature grapples with projected shortfalls ranging from \$2 billion to \$27 billion, the impacts of proposed cuts continue to dominate local, regional and national headlines. On Tuesday, March 29, leaders from the education and community services sectors will help area residents gain insight into the effects of proposed legislation at an open community conversation entitled, How State Budget Cuts will Affect Education in Baytown.

Sponsored by Lee College, the Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD), the Black Educational Access Committee (BEAC), and the Hispanic Educational Access Committee (HEAC), and hosted on the Lee College campus, the event will feature a 45-minute panel discussion followed by a question and answer session.

Confirmed panelists include Dr. Michal Murphy, Lee College president, Dr. Byron Terrier, GCCISD assistant superintendent for Administrative Services, and David Mohlman, executive director for the United Way of Baytown Area. Mike Wilson, executive director for Communities in Schools – Baytown, will facilitate the event.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to host this important event," Dr. Murphy said. "As the overall funding situation continues to evolve, it is important that local educators work together to keep the community informed."

As Lee College's featured panelist, Dr. Murphy says he intends to discuss the effects of budget shortfalls on student services.

"A reduction in community college appropriations will have far reaching effects on the accessibility and affordability of education," he said. "Potential impacts include reduced class offerings, changes in curriculum, and tuition increases. We are facing several very difficult decisions and need the community's input."

Speaking on behalf of Goose Creek CISD, Dr. Terrier intends to discuss the ways in which the district is streamlining services in response to the proposed shortfalls.

"Goose Creek CISD will do everything possible to protect our current level of service to students," he said. "With 82 percent of our budget being in personnel, we are looking carefully at our current administrative and operational staffing levels and have already implemented cost-saving measures."

"For example, we have capped the 2010-2011 budget at 90 percent, eliminated block scheduling, reduced our work force through attrition, and reduced employee travel. We will propose further cuts to department budgets for the next school year."



## HELP US BE HEARD

Our parents and community have a long history of extraordinary support to the schools, but we need your help more than ever before.

It is urgent that we all educate ourselves about the plight of Texas school districts.

Legislators listen to voters. Be an advocate for schools in Goose Creek CISD and keep up with the Texas Legislature!

See list of lawmakers [here](#).

"Ultimately, whatever the Legislature decides, Goose Creek CISD will continue to make the most effective use of our more-limited resources," he said.

As the panel representative the United Way of Baytown Area, Mr. Mohlman will build on the remarks presented by Drs. Murphy and Terrier and discuss the broader implications for the community.

"I look forward to offering input on effects of possible decreases to health & human services funding," Mohlman said. "Health and human services support people of all ages in all aspects of their lives – education, interpersonal relationships, work, and more."

"Most important is the opportunity provided by this event to identify and to express priorities. There simply isn't enough money to preserve everything already being done in education, or to preserve everything already being done in health and human services. What would help our state legislators and our community the most is to consider the difficult task of attempting to prioritize what is most important in these broad areas."

"We hope students, parents, teachers, and area residents will join us in discussing the future of education in Baytown," Dr. Murphy added. "I also encourage those community members unable to attend the event to visit our website, [www.lee.edu](http://www.lee.edu), for a live broadcast of the conversation."

How State Budget Cuts will Affect Education in Baytown will be held from 7- 9 p.m. in Tucker Hall on the Lee College campus. Admission is free and open to the public.

Seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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