

Anna C. C. School District No.37
Press Release
March 23, 2010

For the current school year, the State of Illinois owes Anna C C School District #37 over \$126,000 that has not been released by the Comptroller. In addition, the district is anticipating not receiving the remaining fiscal year's mandated categorical funds in the amount of \$153,000. Therefore, it is possible that Anna District #37 will not receive \$279,000 of anticipated funds for the current fiscal year.

Based on the numbers projected by the Governor Quinn's 2011 budget proposal, Anna District #37 anticipates a loss of \$780,000 in revenue. This includes a cut in the per pupil foundation level, not receiving the hold harmless base amount, cuts in the poverty grant, cuts in specialty grants, such as Reading Improvement, and cuts in the mandated categorical funds, such as transportation and special education. The loss of revenue is compounded by the fact that the district is held under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) and therefore is a "Tax Capped" government entity that is limited on how much it can levy in personal property taxes for education.

Therefore, as part of a cost reduction plan, the School Board of Anna District #37 has found it necessary to reduce both certified staff and educational support personnel. Staff reductions include the non-renewal of 6 first year probationary teachers, 5 part time teachers, and 23 full or part time educational support personnel. Some of these employees may be called back to service, depending upon enrollment, student needs, and a clearer understanding of the State of Illinois' Budget for Fiscal Year 2011. The Board has reviewed cuts that will save the district approximately \$650,000. The Anna District #37's School Board will continue to look for ways to cut expenditures to remain fiscally sound including an option to sell Working Cash Bonds if necessary.

Anna District #37's school board, administration, teachers and staff are committed to giving students the highest quality of education possible. Having received recognition as Spotlight Schools from the State of Illinois this year and in the past, the educational methods being used in the district are working and students are achieving. It is imperative for the district to keep the integrity of the programs and activities that have made the district so successful. The Anna Community can be assured that everything will be done to maintain the outstanding programs and educational opportunities that parents and students have come to expect and should continue to receive. It is disheartening that the State of Illinois cannot seem to come up with a solution to the devastating fiscal situation that the State currently faces. It is a sad day for the entire Anna Community when the district has to make such drastic cuts, but an even greater tragedy for the future generation throughout the state.