

## **What You Should Know about MOE (Maintenance of Effort)**

**(1) What is Maintenance of Effort?**

Maintenance of Effort or MOE is the state law requirement of every local school district to spend at least as much per student as they did the previous year.

**(2) If it is state law, how can counties spend less than they did the previous year?**

Prince George's County has requested a special waiver from the State Board of Education to allow the County the ability to spend less per student next year than they did this year.

**(3) How does a waiver of Maintenance of Effort get approved?**

The County must provide proof that they do not have the funds to meet the Maintenance of Effort requirement. They must provide details of the County's current and projected income and expenditures and provide testimony before the State Board of Education when requesting a waiver.

**(4) What does PGCEA say about this?**

PGCEA believes that the County does not have to slash more from the budget. PGCEA has provided the State Board of Education with written testimony and documentation that details how the County can afford to maintain the budget at its current amount.

**(5) How would a waiver have an impact on Prince George's County Public Schools?**

The County Executive is seeking to strip an additional \$23 million out of a budget that has already been significantly reduced. This would increase class size, eliminate jobs and have a negative impact on the great academic gains made by PGCPs over the past several years.

**(6) Does the Prince George's County Board of Education support this waiver request?**

No. In fact, the Superintendent and the Board of Education have submitted written testimony in opposition to the waiver request.

**(7) Is there a public hearing?**

Yes. It is Monday, April 27, 2009, at the State Board of Education Office in Baltimore.

**(8) What can I do to help?**

Call and e-mail members of the County Council and urge them not to support any further reductions in the Board of Education's budget. You can also show up at the County Council meetings on May 4 (*see our web page for more information*) and May 12.