

## **Letter to the Editor #1**

The legislature is at it again. The ink isn't even dry yet on the new Education Jobs Act and already I'm hearing lawmakers talking about how schools are now flush with cash and how they should be happy to give up the \$250 million "surplus" so they can balance the budget without making tough decisions.

We need to set the record straight. Michigan's schools are still \$154 per pupil BELOW where they were in FY 2008-09. The Ed Jobs stimulus money will help, but we should not rob Peter to pay Paul. Address the state's structural deficit by extending the sales tax to non-essential services, initiating a graduated income tax to help middle and low income people, and closing tax loopholes. Keep the school's money where it belongs - - the schools.

## **Letter to the Editor #2**

I have two words for the Michigan legislature: HANDS OFF! Keep your hands off School Aid Fund dollars that should be flowing into our classrooms and paying to educate our kids.

Lawmakers would have you believe that schools are flush with cash and that there is a \$250 million surplus sitting out there. They are wrong.

The \$250 million that is sitting unspent in the School Aid Fund is revenue that should have flowed into school coffers last year when schools were taking a \$165 per pupil cut in the middle of the school year. Instead, lawmakers in Lansing have restored \$11 of that cut (leaving schools still \$154 per pupil in the hole) and pretending that the rest of the money is extra. Worse, now they want to take this money away from kids.

It's time Lansing stepped up and addressed the state's structural deficit by extending the sales tax to non-essential services, initiating a graduated income tax to help middle and lower income, and closing tax loopholes.