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STATE UPDATE

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The Legislature continues to demonstrate an inability to agree to reforms as work on the budget has slowed while negotiations continue on the Governor's early-out retirement proposal for public school employees. The Governor proposed an early-out retirement incentive proposal for public school employees as part of her fiscal year 2011 budget proposal back in February. The Governor originally set an April 1st deadline for the Legislature to pass the measure, but that obviously did not happen. Negotiations between the House and Senate continued this week but once again they were unable to reach agreement on a final version of the proposal. Local school administrators are growing increasingly frustrated as they are running out of time to plan accordingly for next school year with the uncertainty surrounding the retirement proposal.

Individual budget bills continue to move through the process, but with no consensus developing around reforms, the real decisions and negotiations that will be necessary to actually agree to a fiscal year 2011 budget are still some time off. With Star Power 2010 fast approaching on May 19th, it is imperative that we get ready to ramp up our advocacy efforts. We have pre-registered a record number of participants already and Star Power will be an excellent opportunity to kick off our budget advocacy efforts. The record turnout at Star Power will certainly leave an



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impression on legislators, but it is critical that we continue our advocacy efforts after the event as the budget negotiations continue.



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