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Dear Freedom Area School District Community,

Governor Tom Corbett has proposed a state budget for school year 2011-2012 that reduces state funding for all public education by \$1 billion. This means a reduction of \$1.5 million to the District's 2011-2012 \$19 million preliminary budget. Historically, approximately 62% of the District's operating revenues came from the state. Governor Corbett's proposed reduction will require all of us to come together (School Board, administrators, teachers, parents and community residents) to determine how best to address this financial challenge and still provide a quality education that our community can afford.

Governor Corbett also proposed in his budget address that all school districts and their employees agree to a one year pay freeze to help address the lack of currently proposed state revenues to pay for the operation of our public schools.

Given these extraordinary conditions, the Freedom Area School District is reaching out to everyone with a request to offer ideas on how we can economize/contain costs or stimulate growth to effectively and creatively develop Freedom's plan to maintain a quality and affordable education for all students.

A special e-mail address, budget@freedom.k12.pa.us, has been established for interested individuals to offer constructive suggestions/ideas. Also, you may forward written suggestions/ideas to the attention of Noriene Plate or Ron Sofo via inter-office mail or U.S. postal service (Freedom Area School District, 1701 8th Avenue, Freedom, PA 15042). Your initial responses are requested by Monday, March 28th.

Together we will successfully address these challenges.

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