

# Children and Families are Priority in Education Budget

The bill appropriating state general fund money to educational institutions and departments has received approval from the joint House and Senate Education Budget subcommittee.

The bill appropriates \$909.8 million for fiscal year 2010 to the Department of Education, Regents universities, the College Aid Commission, Community Colleges, as well as the Department of the Blind, IPTV and other agencies

that receive their funding under this budget.

In passing the budget, committee members noted that this had been a difficult task this year. Most areas in the budget received an 8.33 percent across the board cut from the adjusted funding they received in fiscal year 2009. Some areas received a greater cut with the intent that federal stimulus dollars could be used in those areas.

Priorities of the committee in making their funding decisions included funding areas that directly impact children and families, funding areas that serve all children in Iowa, requiring departments to use unspent funds held in accounts from previous years, and looking at areas where there is the potential that federal stimulus dollars could be used.

This bill will begin debate in the Senate.