

Just the facts

For Alabama educators and classified staff: Drastic changes to your current retirement and health care plan are under discussion.

These are tough economic times and the state of Alabama is looking to make cuts. State Schools Superintendent Joe Morton has proposed:

- Adjusting retirement law so that employees could not collect retirement before 55 and raising how much you pay towards your pension.
- Freezing the state payment at this year's level to Public Education Employees' Health Insurance Plan, (PEEHIP). This would result in a roughly \$250 million dollar shortfall for 2011.

PEEHIP, instead of fighting for more dollars to save benefits, is discussing a plan to cut benefits and raise costs including:

- Raising Premiums for active employees.
- Boosting co-pays on prescription drugs.
- Boosting the co-pay for doctor's visits.
- Imposing surcharges on PEEHIP member's spouses.
- Spending money set aside to guarantee retiree health care.

Who decides?

These are not decisions that should be made behind closed doors, without discussion. Almost 300,000 citizens of the state of Alabama are going to be affected by these potential cuts.

We need to act!

The BAFT is partnering with the national AFT to make sure these decisions are made in a clear and transparent way and that teachers and classified staff are respected. Whether or not you are a member of the BAFT, there is a role for you as we prepare for the next legislative session. We are putting together a team of "member-mobilizers" to work with you to:

- Educate our colleagues about what is happening.
- Gather opinions and ideas.
- Organize a powerful voice, across the state, to advocate for teachers and classified staff.
- Fight for our benefits and the benefits of retirees.

You will be hearing more from BAFT as we roll-out our plan to make sure that teachers and classified staff get the straight story, and have strong representation, in the decisions that affect us. [For more information call 205/252-2631.](#)