

What is going on with our schools? As a result of school reform plan, more school district jobs in Philadelphia are being cut.

Brooks, Mignon

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

"They're losing some very good people," [Chaka Fattah] said. "I just hope they (School Reform Commission) know what they're doing."

"We should see specific demonstrations of efficiencies occurring," [Anthony Hardy Williams] said. "It relates with someone doing an analysis on what they need versus what they have."

"This was a situation where people were aware it was coming," Gov. Mark Schweiker spokesman La Torre said. "It had to be done."

FULL TEXT

As a result of the school reform plan, more school district jobs in Philadelphia are being cut.

Cutting jobs are never easy. But, Congressman Chaka Fattah said, every enterprise has to add or reduce employees from time to time.

"They're losing some very good people," Fattah said. "I just hope they (School Reform Commission) know what they're doing."

With the district suffering from financial problems and asking the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for money, Senator Anthony Hardy Williams said, job reductions were necessary. If you're going to reform, he added, there has to be changes.

"We should see specific demonstrations of efficiencies occurring," Williams said. "It relates with someone doing an analysis on what they need versus what they have."

In an attempt to save \$21.9 million in annual savings, the SRC got rid of 325 positions. Among them were Communications Director Alexis Moore, a couple nurses and 40 elevator operators. None of the school-based staff - principals, teachers, teaching assistants, literacy interns, school security, bus drivers or custodians - were included in the reduction.

"I received a letter that my services are no longer needed," Moore said.

Those who've received letters have been asked to leave by Friday. And they will be paid for the next four weeks.

"While laying off employees is difficult, taking an introspective look at how we have been operating and making fiscally-responsible changes is part of our commitment to the reform process," School Reform Commission Chairman James Nevels said.

When valuable programs are cut and lucrative contracts are made, Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds-Brown said she has to question the priorities of the SRC. But, she added, it's obvious that these reductions were forced upon the district from the state.

Fattah's immediate concern is the elimination of his GEAR-UP program from the district, he said. Especially since the director of the program has also been cut.

"If there's a lack of commitment, we're going to have to look for some other ways to implement our federally funded program," Fattah said.

Meanwhile, Councilman Frank Rizzo said the district couldn't have possibly kept everyone and got themselves out of a bad financial situation. And hopefully these reductions will reduce the problems the district is having.

As much as the governor hates to see anyone lose their job, he feels the SRC had to do what they had to do.

"This was a situation where people were aware it was coming," Gov. Mark Schweiker spokesman La Torre said. "It had to be done."

Article copyright Philadelphia Tribune Company, Inc.

Photograph (Group of people protesting the Edison school plan)

DETAILS

Subject:	Education; Employment; Local government; Politics; Public schools; School systems
Location:	Philadelphia Pennsylvania
Ethnicity:	African American/Caribbean/African
Publication title:	Philadelphia Tribune; Philadelphia, Pa.
Volume:	118
Issue:	64
Pages:	1A
Number of pages:	0

Publication year:	2002
Publication date:	Jun 28, 2002
Publisher:	Philadelphia Tribune
Place of publication:	Philadelphia, Pa.
Country of publication:	United States, Philadelphia, Pa.
Publication subject:	African American/Caribbean/African, Ethnic Interests
ISSN:	0746956X
Source type:	Newspaper
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
Document feature:	Photograph
Accession number:	SFLNSPHIT0802P2DM040000075
ProQuest document ID:	337739513
Document URL:	https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/what-is-going-on-with-our-schools-as-result/docview/337739513/se-2?accountid=53773
Copyright:	Copyright Philadelphia Tribune Jun 28, 2002
Last updated:	2018-11-26
Database:	U.S. Northeast Newsstream

Database copyright © 2025 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)