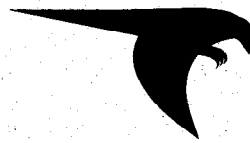


FLORENCE CITY SCHOOLS

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Superintendent:
Janet S. Womack, Ph.D.

Futures Take Flight

January 3, 2011

Dear Florence City Schools' Parents and Guardians:

Every day we strive to serve your children by providing the best education possible. This education includes joining hands with all faculty, staff, and administrators to add enrichment for every child in the form of academic excellence, fine arts engagement, career exploration studies, athletic opportunities, and healthy nutrition. To do this, we must continue to be able to fund our programs as well as expand opportunities so that our students can reach beyond the ordinary. Hence, the problem. Education across the state and nation will be faced with the largest budget cuts in decades in the years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. We already have lost over **\$4,256,793.00 since 2009** in funding for Florence City Schools, and we stand to lose **\$992,000.00 in the coming year**. That is almost 10% of our budget, with **no** finances from the State of Alabama to replace that lost funding. We have always been good stewards of our reserves and, up to this point, have been able to continue to provide 5-Star Service for your children.

But now we must ask for your help. Florence Utilities has joined us to implement a program to enable you, our Parents, Guardians and Supporters of Florence City Schools, to help make up some of the lost funds to keep teachers in the classrooms and programs going that will take your child to the next level of excellence. Please read the enclosed brochure carefully and decide upon an amount that you might donate each month to Florence City Schools by designating that on your utilities bill. This will be completely private. The form will be sent directly to Florence Utilities Department when you return to your child's school. You may also mail it with your next payment to the address on the brochure or drop it off at the Florence Utilities Department.

Please join hands with us as we walk through these financially bleak times so that we can continue to provide the best education for your children. **REMEMBER, A DOLLAR MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

Sincerely,

Janet S. Womack, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Education

/bjd

Enclosure