



NEWS RELEASE

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Alabama's K-12 funding decline since 2008 among nation's worst, report finds

Failure to restore education cuts harms future of Alabama workforce and communities, Arise's Forrister says

Alabama has the nation's second worst decline in state formula funding for K-12 schools since before the Great Recession, according to [a report released Thursday by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(CBPP\)](#), a nonpartisan policy research organization based in Washington, D.C.

K-12 schools in Alabama will receive 14.2 percent less through state formula funding this year than they did in 2008, adjusted for inflation. Only Oklahoma has cut its formula funding more deeply since 2008, the CBPP finds. Alabama's K-12 funding increase this year restored only a fraction of the support that was cut during and after the recession.

"Alabama needs to invest more in education now to enjoy broad prosperity and thriving communities in the future," Arise Citizens' Policy Project executive director Kimble Forrister said. "Our children and grandchildren deserve the opportunity to succeed in life and be able to compete for highly skilled jobs in a fast-paced economy."

The erosion in support for K-12 education will have damaging economic consequences for Alabama both now and in the future, Forrister said. The cuts undermine promising education reforms such as reducing class sizes, improving teacher quality and expanding early childhood education, he said.

Greater investment in education would allow Alabama to increase learning time and hire more teachers to reduce class sizes, especially during the critical middle-school years. Those steps would help children build a stronger foundation to succeed in college and the workplace.

"At a time when the nation is trying to produce workers with the skills to master new technologies and adapt to the complexities of a global economy, states should be investing more – not less – so our kids get a strong education," said Michael Leachman, CBPP's director of state fiscal research and a co-author of the new report.

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[Arise Citizens' Policy Project](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition of congregations, organizations and individuals promoting public policies to improve the lives of low-income Alabamians.