



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

February 2, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

On behalf of Governor Ed Rendell, I am writing to let you know about a difficult budget decision affecting Scotland School for Veterans' Children. Pennsylvania, like many states across the nation, is facing an unprecedented shortfall in revenues this year. For next fiscal year, the financial picture also looks grim, despite the possibility of federal aid to the states. This budget crisis has required the Governor to make major cuts in current year spending and propose even more cuts for next fiscal year.

The Governor's budget includes no funding for Scotland School after June 30, and we will close the School after the graduation of the Class of 2009 in June. We expect that Scotland School will remain in full operation for the remainder of this school year, and we are calling on parents, students, faculty, house parents and staff to continue to work hard to build a solid record of accomplishment for this school year.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, we will work closely with you over the coming months to ensure a successful transition for your child into a local public school in your community. Every student in Pennsylvania has access to quality public education provided through local school districts, and we will help you find the right school that expands your child's academic opportunities.

Scotland School has a proud history, which dates back to 1895 when it was established to serve the orphans of Soldiers and Veterans. Today's fiscal situation required us to evaluate the cost effectiveness of all programs based on how many citizens they served at what cost and whether alternative services are available.

Scotland School is the only school of its kind in the state and in the Nation. In Pennsylvania, the state is not in the business of operating elementary and secondary schools. The costs of operating Scotland School are well in excess of those at other schools. Indeed, the average cost per student at Scotland School is about \$45,000 per year, which is about four times greater than the average cost per student at public schools. We all know that Scotland School differs from local schools in that it offers a range of quality services and experiences, including residential life. These additional services simply cannot justify the high costs at this time of cutbacks in so many state programs.

I'm sure you have many questions about the future transition of your child from Scotland School to a local school. The Departments of Education and Military and Veterans Affairs have arranged a briefing for parents of Scotland School students from the Philadelphia School District on Saturday, February 7, 2009, from 10 a.m. until noon at the School District of Philadelphia Education Center, 440 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19130-40155. Parking is available at the Education Center, with additional parking at the Stoddard Fleischer Building, 540 N. 13th St., (one block east of the Education Center). Parents from the Philadelphia School District are asked to call or e-mail Nafia Shafi, (phone: 215-400-6015; [nshafi@philasd.org](mailto:nshafi@philasd.org)) to indicate whether they will attend.

For parents with students from other school districts, representatives of the Departments of Education and Military and Veterans Affairs will meet with you from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Parents' Day at Scotland School on Friday, February 13. If you have questions or need more information at this time, please call the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at 1-800-645-8924 or 717-861-8900.

The Rendell Administration is committed to working with parents and families in assisting with the re-integration of Scotland School students back into their home school districts to help them receive a quality public education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Scott Roy".

K. Scott Roy  
Deputy Chief of Staff