

## 25 Teaching Assistant Positions Cut from Watauga County Schools

Written by Adam Hicks  
Friday, 17 July 2009 11:48

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Watauga County Schools announced today that because of reductions in state funding for teaching assistant positions, 23 full-time and two part-time teaching assistant positions will be eliminated from Watauga County Schools. Eight teaching assistants have also been forced to transfer from the school system.

In a released statement, WCS Superintendent Dr. Marty Hemric said, "We deeply regret the necessity for these actions. These are good people and valued employees that we would like to have working with our students. However, we have to operate within the limits of our funding and it is clear that state funds for teacher assistants will be substantially reduced for the coming school year."

For Watauga County Schools, the total reduction in state funding for teaching assistants is about \$650,000.

In total, 75 jobs have been cut from Watauga County Schools for the upcoming school year.

School officials will have to wait until the adoption of a state budget to confirm whether more reductions in personnel will be required.

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Hemric said the school system is working to minimize the impact of the reduced funding and explained, “We will continue to seek resource alternatives to support our greatest commitment as educators – the quality of the educational experience for our students.”