

# Do the Right Thing – Part 4

posted – 30 June 2017

I doubt that even the most faithful reader of the Washington Post got to the halfway point of the article about proposed Medicaid cuts and their expected impact for special ed children in the schools...before skipping to another article. Reportedly, that is just how we read. We have the attention span of a gnat. Most of us don't make it to the end of a story. It's like **10 On Your Side**. How many days can they drag out a story before interest is lost? Kind of what I am doing here. I sometimes have a tendency of not getting to the point or attempt to build to it finale. So, here goes. This was the most important part of the Washington Post story that was saved until the end.

The cuts to Medicaid won't hurt the special education classrooms, the impact will be felt in the regular education classrooms.

"Because we'll have to shift dollars from the general education budget."

**The Washington Post**  
**GOP health-care bill could cut funds schools use to help special-ed students**

That's the reality. If funds are diverted from anywhere, it will be from the general education funds. There are **NO** inessential special education services from which to cut. No icing for their cake. Districts could cut the non-credit earning programs if necessary, but they won't. In reality, our school boards, if this occurs, will be requesting additional funds from our cities and states for lost dollars necessary to maintain the current standard of education. Football is safe. Furthermore, necessary funds are a problematic amount. What are the funds?

Let us take Hampton. I, using the Annual School Report – Finance (ASRFIN) that Hampton uses to report school finances, reported the Medicaid reimbursement amounts as follows –

Year	Budgeted Medicaid Revenue	Annual School Report Finance Medicaid Revenue	Students with Disabilities
2009	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 283,213.9300	2,958
2010	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 47,728.0600	2,896
2011	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 165,042.2400	2,942
2012	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 322,632.9600	2,928
2013	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 270,960.6600	2,811
2014	\$ 750,000.00	\$ 951,853.0500	2,694
2015	\$1,100,000.00	<b>\$ 860,834.5700</b>	2,673
2016	\$1,200,000.00	<b>\$ 816,612.6700</b>	2,619
2017	\$1,100,000.00	Not Available	2,625
2018	\$ 900,000.00	Not Available	Not Available

According to Hampton's finance report, Hampton received a total of \$1,677,447.24 in 2015 and 2016. The Daily Press (**PROPOSED MEDICAID CUTS COULD IMPACT HAMPTON ROADS' SCHOOLS**) reported Hampton received a combined total of \$710,661.35 for those years. Nearly a million dollar difference. Where did the Daily Press get that total? Your guess is as good as mine and maybe that is exactly what it must have been...a guess. But by who? Newport News, in their ASRFIN in a single year, was nearly double what was reported by the Daily Press for one year.

Just saying folks...

Dear Editor – Do the Right Thing – Part 3 – Posted June 23, 2017

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Do the Right Thing – Part 2 – Posted May 31, 2017

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