**1-20-10 GSCS Emailnet Heads Up FYI**

**GSCS homepage at** [**www.gscschools.org**](http://www.gscschools.org)

**1-20-10 Governor Christie signs executive orders, and looks to excess school surplus to fill additional $1B budget gap for this year**
Star Ledger - "...The text of the eight executive orders was not immediately released, leaving advocates scrambling to interpret the new landscape.
Christie said they included fulfilling campaign pledges to halt unfunded mandates on towns, freeze new regulations on business and broaden state pay-to-play prohibitions to limit donations by labor unions -- a key Democratic constituency.

(Also)"...Christie criticized outgoing Gov. Jon Corzine for leaving a "final parting gift" of an undisclosed $1 billion shortfall in the current budget, which runs through June. The Republican said he learned of the deficit at 2 p.m. Tuesday, two hours after he took the oath of office, and would begin to tackle it by meeting with economic advisors on Thursday.

"It's my responsibility now, not his," Christie said at a late-morning press conference.

**Christie would not say how he would close the gap, other than to rule out raising taxes. He said he would try to implement a Corzine cost-cutting proposal to require school districts with excess surplus to use the money in place of state aid beginning next month..."**

**1-20-10 NJ School Boards Cancels Atlantic City Fall Workshop for 2011**

**1-20-10 Assembly Democrats release Committee Assignments for 214th Legislature**
"...Patrick Diegnan (D-South Plainfield) will chair the Education Committee, which
Joseph Cryan (D-Union) gave up to become Majority Leader. Assembly Democratic Committee Assignments 2010-2011 Session" follow...

**1-20-10 'N.J. files application for federal Race to the Top education money'**
"N.J. completed its application today for a share of $4.35 billion in federal Race to the Top education funding with 378 of the state’s 591 school districts signing on to the bid — but without the support of most of the state’s teachers unions...Only 21 of the state’s local teachers unions backed the effort to win up to $400 million in the competitive grant, according to a spokesman for the state DOE..."