The House Appropriations Committee voted Tuesday to eliminate $10.7 million in remedial instruction funding from the state budget in place next year's budget. The alternative, he said, would be to "What's the problem with eliminating salary support for supervisors and of an earlier decision to cut back state instructional supervisors, visiting teachers and other administrators.

The committee had proposed that the local systems pay the costs rather than the state but dropped its mind and voted to make other cuts instead.

As it wrestled with finding ways to cut a balanced budget, the committee heard from state Superintendent of Education Tom Clausen, who told the panel his department has "several hundred" too many employees that he could cut from the payroll if he were freed from Civil Service rules.

Since taking office in 1984, Clausen repeatedly said he could cut the department employment by hundreds but has yet to identify what jobs he would cut.

The House Appropriations Committee voted Tuesday to eliminate $10.7 million in remedial instruction funding from the state budget. The committee was considering ways to trim education spending without having to touch the Minimum Foundation - the almost $1 billion "When you cut the money dedicated to remedial instruction and learning, you are cutting positions. For example, he said, the supervisors and teacher aides could.

Clauses told the committee: "The Minimum Foundation is the must that must not be cut." Instead, he said, aid to private schools should be the first to go. "When you cut the money dedicated to public education in lieu of support to private education, we must take a stand and say no,"

Analysts in the Legislative Fiscal Office have said about $21 million in state support goes to private schools.

After legislators complained that the task force and Clausen had not come up with any new ideas for trimming the education budget, Clausen began talking about cutting employees.

Rep. Francis Thompson, D-Delhi, asked why the superintendent couldn't cut the employees.

"What's the problem with eliminating Civil Service rules?" Thompson asked, drawing applause from the many teachers and school superintendents assembled for the meeting.

Administrative budget officer Ralph Perlman said the problem is not in cutting positions.

"It's a question of who will be the ones to remain," Perlman said.

Thompson then "challenged" Clausen to come back with a list of employees who could be cut, saying that if civil service couldn't do something about it, then the Legislature and governor could.

"I'm sure the governor knows there are some because some of them are his," Clausen answered.

He said he would not want to make such a list public because if the employees were not fired, then he would have "500 angry employees."

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