

**THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
2013 STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (the “Board”) hereby adopts as its priorities and requests that either the North Carolina General Assembly or the appropriate arm of local government take action on the items listed below. The Board emphasizes that these priorities are specific to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. As such, the Board does not speak on behalf of other school districts, but does encourage other districts and their governing boards to join with this Board for the purpose of collaborating and advocating for shared priorities:

State Items

- 1. Improve school performance grading by implementing a sensible, multi-measure approach that balances student proficiency with student growth.**
 - Add a student growth measure that is equal to the student proficiency measure so that schools are more fully and accurately assessed.

- 2. Providing adequate funding and budget flexibility.**
 - Provide sustainable funding to pre-K programs.
 - To the extent there are funding cuts, let local school districts decide how to implement those cuts (e.g. limit state-mandated line item cuts).
 - Grant more flexibility in allowing local school districts to determine how resources are used in pre-K-12 education.
 - Provide financial incentives to local school districts to be efficient with their allotted funds, such as allowing districts to find creative efficiencies with funds, including but not limited to transportation, so that savings can be channeled back into the classroom.
 - Find a solution to the major budget calendar challenges that districts experience every summer when they are allotted funds in late June, so that districts have more time to optimize their decision-making with regard to their allotted funds.

- 3. Elevating and enhancing the teaching profession through reforms in evaluation, compensation and career status.**
 - Review and reform tenure laws to ensure an appropriate balance between due process rights and the ability of local school districts to be flexible in making personnel decisions.
 - Clarify definitions of teacher tenure reforms found within all proposed tenure legislation.
 - Allow teachers who have earned and continue to maintain career status to retain such status, while providing other teachers with at-will employment contracts not to exceed four years.
 - Find a solution to the major Human Resources calendar challenges that districts experience every summer, so that more time can be invested in making better personnel decisions.
 - Clarify evaluation standards and give local school districts the flexibility to adopt additional evaluation standards suited to their local realities.
 - Examine, evaluate and implement sustainable alternative compensation models which reward teacher performance.
 - Establish funding plan that ensures that compensation is secure throughout various economic cycles, particularly with regard to pay for performance plans.

- Implement a phased, multi-year approach to raise teacher base pay to the national average, and implement a pay-for-performance compensation structure that attracts, keeps, and provides opportunities for teachers to earn above the national average.
 - Provide relief to superintendents by allowing a superintendent's designee to act on his/her behalf in the personnel appeals process.
- 4. Providing flexibility for Project L.I.F.T. schools so that they become a zone of innovation.**
- Modify funding from positions to dollars for Project L.I.F.T. schools.
 - Grant more flexibility in allowing CMS to determine how resources are used in pre-K-12 education at Project L.I.F.T. schools.
 - Examine, evaluate and implement sustainable alternative compensation models which reward teacher performance at Project L.I.F.T. schools
 - Allow teachers who have already earned and continue to maintain career status to retain such status, while providing other teachers with at-will employment contracts not to exceed four years.
 - Partner with the State to develop sustainable solutions to funding an extra 20 school days for Project L.I.F.T. schools.
- 5. Ensure a level regulatory playing field for public and charter schools.**
- Establish one set of rules for both charters and traditional public schools to follow.
 - Provide final chartering authority to local boards of education so that local boards become the chartering authorities, while allowing charter applicants who have been denied charter status to appeal to the State Board of Education.
- 6. Providing flexibility with regard to establishing school calendars best-suited for their local environments.**
- Repeal school calendar law.
 - Enable local districts to construct school calendars governed only by state constitution parameters.
 - To the extent a 185-day school calendar is implemented, provide the funding to cover the extra expenses incurred.
- 7. Providing taxing authority.**
- Empower local boards of education to set tax rate for the local portion of public pre-K-12 education spending.
 - Allow phase-in period for LEAs to make desired electoral adjustments.

Local Items

- 8. Establish joint effort to advocate for shared priorities in Raleigh.**
- Find and advocate for joint solutions to shared budget calendar challenges, including a solution to the State's annual May 15th deadline that requires school districts to submit their budgets to their respective county commissions without knowing their respective funding levels for the year ahead.

9. Improve the working relationship between the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education through a series of meetings and interactions to discuss shared priorities and impacts, since each elected body's decision-making impacts the other elected body and their shared constituents.

- Find a solution to the major Budget calendar challenges that CMS experiences every summer when it is allotted funds in late June to provide CMS with more time to invest in making optimal student-centered decisions with its allotted funds.
- To the extent the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners establishes that there are funds available to fund capital projects for the local school district, those resources should be allocated solely in accordance with the priorities established and communicated by the Board of Education.

10. Partnering with Mecklenburg County's seven municipalities to provide sworn law enforcement officer services at designated schools.

- Request that the City of Charlotte revert to its 2010-2011 level of law enforcement services that it provided to CMS.
- Partner with the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville, so that neither the amount charged nor the formula for calculating the amount charged increases with regard to law enforcement personnel provided to CMS by these municipalities.

11. Encouraging Mecklenburg County and the seven municipalities to work with CMS to promote and develop safe, stable neighborhoods, more job opportunities, affordable housing, and sustainable economic conditions for the benefit of CMS students, their families, and the communities in which they live.

- Convene the seven local municipalities in Mecklenburg County and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to discuss shared priorities and impacts.
- Establish, support, and maintain programs that provide services to CMS students and support CMS's overarching educational goals.
- Work to identify the most effective and efficient social services agencies for CMS students and families.