

**THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
2014 SHORT SESSION LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (the “Board”) hereby adopts as its priorities and requests that the North Carolina General Assembly 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. Raise teacher pay and make North Carolina nationally competitive.

- Make North Carolina the leading Southeastern state for starting teacher pay.
- Commit to moving North Carolina to the national average within four years.
- Honor the commitment that North Carolina made with current advanced degree candidates in their field of teaching.
- Provide pay supplements to teachers who, in the future, earn advanced degrees in their field of teaching.

2. Provide funding for three new early and middle college programs.

- Help expand early and middle college opportunities for students within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools by funding Charlotte STEM Early College, Middle College at Harper, and Middle College at Levine.

3. Delay the 25 percent provision of the Appropriations Act of 2013 for all LEAs.

- Grant districts the authority to develop and adopt short- and long-term relationships with their teachers that do not exceed four years, but which include and are not limited to performance evaluations, teacher compensation, career development, and career progression.
- Reserve the funds appropriated alongside the 25 percent provision for future implementation of these plans by local school districts.

4. Empower local boards of education with the authority to provide their districts with essential flexibilities.

- Expand the 5-10 day end-of-course testing window by 5 days to avoid federal and state compliance issues for school districts across the state.
- Identify flexibilities that ultimately benefit student performance and apply them to traditional public schools, including but not limited to Read to Achieve summer reading camp flexibility and local flexibility over the school calendar.
- Consolidate overly burdensome state-mandated assessments to maximize instructional time and student learning.