

**THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
2015 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (the “Board”) hereby adopts as its priorities and requests that the North Carolina General Assembly, Mecklenburg County, and all municipalities in Mecklenburg County 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

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

- 1. Provide school boards with authority over their local calendars for the benefit of their students and staff.**
 - In the alternative, allow school boards to open at least three weeks earlier than the current school calendar law allows so that students can take their exams prior to winter break.

- 2. Raise North Carolina’s average teacher pay to the national average.**
 - The 2014 teacher pay increases were a positive first step and we need to keep moving towards the national average to stay as competitive as possible.
 - Assess how N.C.’s new six-step teacher pay plan compares to other states’ pay plans and their impacts on teacher recruitment and retention.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

- 3. Ensure that local boards of education are vested with local control over local dollars for optimal fiscal accountability.**
 - Provide local boards of education with complete control over local funds.
 - Provide local boards of education with the authority to generate revenue in their local communities.

- 4. Restore a state-funded growth formula for LEAs that reflects actual student population increases and declines, including changes in ESL and special education students.**

- 5. Provide funding to LEAs to conduct Driver’s Education programs so that LEAs are not faced with unfunded mandates.**
 - In the alternative, release public schools from mandated Driver’s Ed programs.
 - If required Driver’s Ed programs continue, allow LEAs to charge participants the full cost of the program.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

- 6. Provide traditional public schools with charter-like flexibilities.**
 - Allow LEAs to start their own charter schools.
 - Allow LEAs to serve as the initial chartering authority for charter candidates, with a right of appeal to the state for candidates who are denied.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

- Establish an April 1 enrollment date by which families must enroll their children in charter schools.

7. Oppose mandated inter-county and intra-county student transfer legislation.

8. Fully Fund North Carolina's Pre-K program so that all eligible students may participate.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

9. Re-examine the school performance grades to give parents the most accurate picture of how their children's public schools are performing.

10. Restore funding for the NC Teaching Fellows program to strengthen the teacher pipeline across the state.

- Teaching Fellows is still a strong professional pipeline for future teachers from our state.
- Teaching Fellows saves \$14,000 per fellow compared with the NC Teachers Corps.

Local Items

1. Restore City of Charlotte funding for school resource officers in CMS.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

2. Establish a collaborative inter-governmental committee that meets regularly to identify, prioritize, plan, and fund operating and capital budgets.

NO
FISCAL
IMPACT

3. Establish a collaborative intergovernmental committee of city and county area experts to examine development patterns relating to municipal and county planning priorities and regulations and analyze developmental impacts on CMS.