

**THE CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG BOARD OF EDUCATION
2012 STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education (the “Board”) hereby adopts as its priorities and requests that, as appropriate, either the North Carolina Legislature or appropriate arm of local government take action on the following items:

Legislative Items

- 1. Providing adequate funding and budget flexibility to local school districts.**
 - Minimize funding cuts to pre-K-12 education.
 - 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.

- 2. 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 human capital decisions.
 - Clarify evaluation standards and give local school districts the flexibility to adopt additional evaluation standards suited to their local realities.
 - Examine and implement effective alternative compensation models which reward teacher performance.

- 3. Providing flexibility to local school districts in reforming low-performing schools.**
 - Remove existing impediments to implementing creative solutions to reform low-performing schools.
 - Ensure a level regulatory playing field for public and charter schools.

- 4. Providing flexibility to local school districts with regard to establishing school calendars best-suited for their local environments.**
 - Repeal 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.

- 5. Providing taxing authority for local school districts.**
 - 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 localities to make desired electoral adjustments.

Local Items

- 6. Funding capital requests in accordance with the priorities established and communicated by the Board of Education.**

- 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.
- 7. Continuing to provide sworn law enforcement officers to provide services at designated schools on the same terms as in the 2010-2011 budget year.**
- Do not increase amount charged or the formula for calculating the amount charged for law enforcement personnel provided by municipalities to the local school district.
- 8. Continuing and expanding partnerships with community organizations to ensure that there are appropriate and accessible afterschool programs during times when schools are not in session for children of Mecklenburg County.**
- Look for opportunities to partner to establish, support or maintain programs which provide services to children whether academic or extracurricular in nature.