

2018 LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

FUNDING

- Partner with K-12 public school districts by fully restoring “austerity budget cuts” or providing for the equivalent in new state revenue to the State’s education funding formula... thereby empowering local School Boards to address continued student population growth, reducing class sizes and funding continued employer increases in health care premiums and retirement payment ratios.
- Partner with K-12 public school districts by opposing the continuation and/or expansion of existing programs that directly or indirectly use public funds to pay private school tuition for students or provide tax incentives for their parents.



LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

Partner with K-12 public school districts by ensuring proposed legislative initiatives strengthen provisions for the local control and management of schools (including the ability to set its own local school year calendar) . . . thereby empowering local School Boards to fulfill their Constitutional authority and responsibility to involve their local constituency, develop locally-derived educational policy and oversee continued performance improvements among their students.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Partner with K-12 public school districts by developing statutory provisions to further ensure workforce readiness skills and preparation by high school graduates for transitions directly into careers or secondary-level career educational opportunities by providing students in Georgia with an alternative diploma option in the area of Technical/Career Preparation.



DR. BRIAN V. HIGHTOWER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

KYLA CROMER, CHAIR

MIKE CHAPMAN, VICE CHAIR

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: JOHN HARMON, PATSY JORDAN,
CLARK MENARD, KELLY POOLE & ROBERT RECHSTEINER

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FACTS ON FUNDING:

- The Quality Basic Education (QBE) formula for local school districts was fully funded by the Georgia General Assembly its first 15 years (1987-2002). However, from 2002-2017, \$209.2M of funding earned by CCSD was withheld through austerity budget cuts, while CCSD student enrollment increased by more than 53.5% (15,057 students).
- The Teacher Retirement System of Georgia increased the employer (CCSD) contribution rate for 2017-18 from 14.27% to 16.81% (...and it is slated to increase to 20.9% for FY2019).
- While CCSD had approximately 350 fewer non-certified employees participating in SHBP in FY2017 compared to FY2009, CCSD contributions increased over \$8M (from \$3.6M to \$11.7M) during that same time. As a result, CCSD has been forced to privatize custodial and grounds services and increase the use of part-time/temporary workers for non-certified staffing as cost-reduction measures during the past four years.
- The School District's employer contribution toward the annual cost of providing health insurance for a non-certified employee has risen from \$2,000 in 2010 to \$10,000 in 2017... yet another increase effective Jan. 2018 will inflate the cost of providing health insurance for a non-certified employee to \$945 per month, more than \$11,000 per year.
- CCSD benefit costs for non-certified employees are projected to be \$13.9M for 2018; up from \$11.7M in 2017; \$10.7M in 2016; \$8.2M in 2015 and \$7.5M in 2014. Each \$100 monthly increase in the employer contribution rate costs the District \$1.5M annually, thereby potentially impacting funding availability for classroom instructional resources.

FACTS ON GOVERNANCE:

- CCSD and its highly-respected School Board have garnered multiple State and National awards relative to student achievement gains and innovative educational programs.
- More than 76% of residents polled rank CCSD schools as "excellent" or "good" in a recent Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) report.
- The community overwhelmingly voted Nov. 8, 2016 to "Continue One Percent for Cherokee Schools:" 73% (78,796 voters) said "YES"... more than the four previous Education SPLOST successful renewals combined.
- CCSD achieved highly-distinguished ratings during its most recent accreditation visit/renewal by AdvancED.

2018 CHEROKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

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