



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

2025 - 2026 Legislative Agenda

February 1, 2025

The Legislative Principles of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

1. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all Local Education Agencies (LEAs), with greater local flexibility in and from state regulations.
2. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all LEAs, with greater local flexibility and control in how to appropriate funds that CMS receives from the State.
3. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all LEAs, additional financial resources for early childhood and Pre-K through 12th-grade education (including 13th grade classes taught as part of CMS), provided funding is augmenting current funding levels and is not supplanting them.
4. CMS opposes legislation that requires CMS, and all LEAs, additional requirements and mandates but does not provide new revenues to fund said programs.

Standalone Legislation Requests

1. **School Performance Grades** – Adjust current grade calculation from 80% Proficiency / 20% Growth to 51% Proficiency / 49% Growth
2. **Calendar Flexibility** – Allow LEAs the ability to start the school year in conjunction with their local community college.
3. **Eliminate Economic Tier System in Education** – Elimination of the use of the county-tiered system created for economic programs in education funding.
4. **Retirees** – Allow retirees to return to workforce full time after 30 days (LGERS).
5. **Limit Early Voting at Schools** – Require an LEA agreement for the use of schools as early voting locations.
6. **Open Zoning for Schools** – Make public school construction a by-right development classification in all zoning codes throughout North Carolina.
7. **AI Literacy and Curriculum Development** – Require inclusion of AI literacy and coding in the K-12 curriculum, develop state-approved AI ethics guidelines to teach students the responsible use of AI, and provide the necessary funding for implementation.
8. **Dental, Hearing, Vision Screenings** – Return parental consent on these screenings to the Opt-Out rule.



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9. **Federal Holidays** – Recognize and fund all federal holidays.
10. **Bus Driver Licensure** – Begin studying the option of creating a new licensure for school bus drivers.
11. **Increase Advanced Teacher Roles (ATR) with Increased Flexibility** – Eliminate restrictions in G.S. 115C-312 salary supplements for teachers in Advanced Teaching Roles schools that make it difficult to fully utilize this funding within the current ATR framework.

State Budgetary Requests

1. **Pay Increase for all staff:**
 - **Certified Staff – Increase of at least 8%**
 - **Non-Certified Staff – Increase of at least 8%**
2. **Retirement Benefits** – Reinstate full retirement benefits to all employees hired since Jan. 1, 2021.
3. **Master's Pay** – Reinstate Master's Pay benefit for staff on the 'A' Salary scale who receive a master's degree in relevant subject matters.
4. **Longevity Payments** – Restore longevity payments for all LEA staff.
5. **Include ALL LEAs in the State Teacher Supplement** – Provide all districts the supplemental teacher funds that currently exclude Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools, Guilford County Schools, Durham Public Schools, and Wake County Public Schools.
6. **School Supplies** – Provide \$200 per teacher for classroom supplies.
7. **Free/Reduced Lunch** – Provide free lunches for all students.
8. **Background Checks** – Provide funding for pre-employment background checks and drug and alcohol screenings.
9. **Adjust Pay Bands for Superintendent and Principals** – Create a principal pay band to capture schools that exceed 2,000 students, 2,500 students, and 3,000 students. Create a superintendent pay band to capture LEAs that exceed 75,000 students, 100,000 students, and 125,000 students.
10. **Expansion of Early Childhood Education** – Include Pre-K ADM in the total funding allocation from the State.
11. **Mental Health Services** – Provide funding for school-based mental health professionals, such as counselors and psychologists at the private sector state average.



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12. **Technology** – State funding for 1:1 devices and hotspots for students
13. **Lift the Funding Cap on Multilingual Learner Teachers** – Remove the 10.6% cap used in the current formula that funds multilingual teachers in a district.
14. **Funding Cyber Security** – Provide funding for cyber security to safeguard against attacks and be in compliance with state and federal regulations.
15. **Funding for Exceptional Child Services** – Change the funding model for EC services to a per pupil basis.
16. **Increase Funding for SRO/Safety with Increased Flexibility** – Eliminate the cap for school resource officer funding, which would allow campus security associates to be eligible for state funding.
17. **Leandro** – Fully fund the court-ordered Comprehensive Remediation Plan without supplanting existing funding levels.