

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

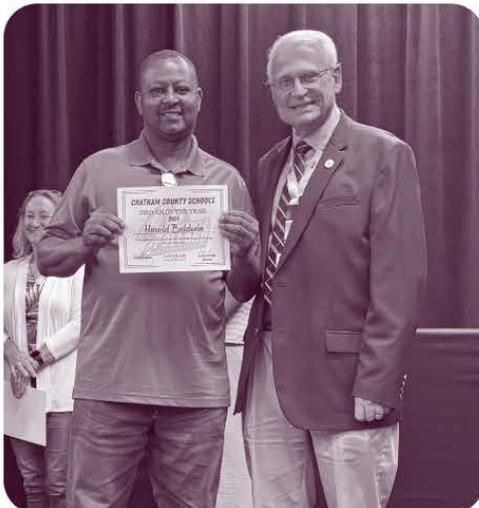
The Chatham County Board of Education is committed to ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality public education that prepares them for success in college, careers, and civic life. Public schools are essential to the strength of our communities, the development of our workforce, and the continued prosperity of North Carolina.

Recent delays in the state budget process and uncertainty surrounding federal education funding have created operational challenges for school districts across North Carolina. School systems must hire staff, plan programs, and open schools on time each year regardless of budget delays. A stable and predictable funding environment is essential for school systems to responsibly plan and operate.



1. STABLE, PREDICTABLE, AND ACCOUNTABLE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

- Adopt state budgets in a timely manner so school districts can responsibly plan staffing and operations
- Provide predictable funding streams that reduce uncertainty for school systems
- Ensure federal education funds are distributed reliably and on time
- Strengthen transparency and accountability for all schools receiving public funds
- Review and reform the charter school funding pass-through structure to improve fiscal transparency



2. RECRUITING, COMPENSATING, AND RETAINING HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATORS

- Increase statewide teacher salaries to remain competitive with neighboring states
- Reinstate master's pay for teachers
- Improve compensation for classified staff including bus drivers, teacher assistants, custodial staff, and child nutrition employees
- Strengthen principal compensation and leadership support
- Expand educator pipeline programs



3. SAFE, HEALTHY, AND SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

- Increase recurring funding for School Resource Officers
- Expand access to school-based mental health professionals
- Maintain permanent funding for the School Safety Grant Program
- Support policies that help schools manage student cell phone and social media use



4. FAIR AND MODERN SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

- Balance student achievement and growth in the school performance grading system
- Develop accountability models that reflect multiple indicators of school success
- Reevaluate the designation of low-performing schools



5. INVESTING IN SCHOOL FACILITIES AND FUTURE READINESS

- Increase state investment in school construction and modernization
- Support funding tools that assist growing communities with capital needs
- Increase funding for students with disabilities
- Provide flexibility in establishing school calendars
- Expand Career and Technical Education and workforce development partnerships





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PARTNERING FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

Strong public schools strengthen North Carolina's workforce, economy, and communities. The Chatham County Board of Education looks forward to working collaboratively with our legislative delegation to support policies that ensure every student has access to the opportunities and resources necessary to succeed.