

# 2019 CCSD LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

## LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- Ensure 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 mandate and corresponding responsibility to involve their local constituency, develop locally-derived educational policy and oversee continued performance improvements among their students.
- Allow for internet/electronic publication of legal advertisements by newspapers selected as the County's "Legal Organ" . . . thereby providing timely, comprehensive advertisement of important, legally-mandated notice/information to citizens.
- Oppose any effort to eliminate limited sovereign and official immunity . . . thereby protecting K-12 public school districts from lawsuits over day-to-day school operations (e.g., grades, discipline, classroom placements, etc.).
- Eliminate State-mandated use of schools as public polling locations during regular school days . . . thereby increasing safety and security for its students, staffs and buildings.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Provide high school graduates in Georgia with an alternative diploma option in the area of Career/Technical Preparation . . . thereby further ensuring students' workforce readiness skills and preparation for transitions directly into careers or secondary-level career educational opportunities.



**Cherokee County  
School District**

**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**

## FUNDING

- Consider modification and update of the QBE formula to accurately reflect inflation, true costs of transportation; and, to include a funding weight for poverty, funding for safety and security and increased allocations for counselors, social workers, psychologists and nurses . . . thereby providing services for critically-needed student support functions.
- Include any teacher compensation increases into the State teacher salary schedule . . . thereby communicating the State's long-term commitment toward providing competitive compensation to teachers and allowing local school districts to concentrate local revenues on offsetting State-required employer rate increases in health care premiums, retirement plan contributions and locally-determined benefit plans (e.g., disability, life, dental, etc.).
- Oppose 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 . . . thereby ensuring a solid revenue base for state funding of public education.

## **FACTS ON FUNDING PRESSURES: (impacting funding availability for classroom instruction)**

### **Student Transportation:**

CCSD will receive \$2.1M in QBE funds for student transportation for FY19. The total cost for student transportation during this budget cycle is \$21M.

### **Employee Retirement:**

The Teacher Retirement System of Georgia has increased the employer (CCSD) contribution rate in each of the past three years, from 14.27% (FY17) to 16.81% (FY18) to 20.9% (in FY19) ... and has announced a rate of 21.14% for FY20. CCSD's annual payment to TRS on behalf of its employees for FY19 is expected to exceed \$46.9M (local share will be \$8.45M), up from \$37.8M in FY18 (local share was \$6.8M).

### **Employee Health Insurance:**

- Beginning in FY08, the State's contribution for non-certified employee health insurance premiums was reduced and then eliminated by FY12 (from over \$500M to \$0), requiring local school districts to fully absorb the additional costs since that time. CCSD's employer contribution toward the annual cost of providing health insurance for a non-certified employee has risen from \$2,000 in FY10 to \$11,340 in FY19... this cost, nearing \$1,000 per month/per participating employee, represents a 467% increase in just eight years.
- CCSD's total benefit costs for non-certified employees are projected to be

\$15.9M for FY19, rising incrementally and ultimately doubling the required \$7.5M cost in FY14. The extraordinary financial impact of continuing increases in employer contributions rates for State mandated benefits without corresponding State funding continues to be of great concern. As such, CCSD was forced to privatize custodial and grounds services and increase the use of part-time/temporary workers for non-certified staffing as cost-reduction measures.

**Cherokee County School District**  
**PO Box 769**  
**Canton, GA 30169**  
**770.479.1871**  
<https://www.cherokeek12.net/>

## **2019 CHEROKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION**

### **State Representative, District 20**

Michael Caldwell  
3044 Lexington Avenue  
Woodstock, GA 30189  
[michael@caldwellforhouse.com](mailto:michael@caldwellforhouse.com)

### **State Representative, District 21**

Scot Turner  
508 Blue Ridge Terrace  
Canton, GA 30114  
[scot.turner@house.ga.gov](mailto:scot.turner@house.ga.gov)

### **State Representative, District 22**

Wes Cantrell  
1044 Meadow Brook Drive  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
[wes@cantrellforhouse.com](mailto:wes@cantrellforhouse.com)

### **State Representative, District 23**

Mandi Ballinger  
P.O. Box 5123  
Canton, GA 30114  
[mandiballinger23@gmail.com](mailto:mandiballinger23@gmail.com)

### **State Representative, District 46**

John Carson  
3605 Sandy Plains Rd Suite 240-123  
Marietta, GA 30006  
[john.carson@house.ga.gov](mailto:john.carson@house.ga.gov)

### **State Senator, District 14**

Bruce Thompson  
25 Hawks Branch Lane  
White, GA 30184  
[brucethompsonforsenate@gmail.com](mailto:brucethompsonforsenate@gmail.com)

### **State Senator, District 21**

Brandon Beach  
303-B Coverdell Legis. Office Bldg  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[Brandon@beachforsenate.com](mailto:Brandon@beachforsenate.com)

### **State Senator, District 56**

John Albers  
530 Junction Pt  
Roswell, GA 30075-3007  
[john@votealbers.com](mailto:john@votealbers.com)