



# 2020 CCSD LEGISLATIVE PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

## LOCAL CONTROL & GOVERNANCE

- Ensure proposed legislative initiatives strengthen provisions for the local control and management of schools (including the ability for a School Board to set its own local school year calendar and scheduling of daily recess) . . . 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.
- 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 students, staff and buildings.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Provide high school graduates in Georgia with flexible diploma requirement options regarding Career/Technical Pathways . . . thereby further ensuring students' workforce readiness skills and preparation for transitions directly into careers or secondary-level career educational opportunities.
- Support student assessment platforms which maximize flexibility and require no more testing than mandated under federal provisions.

## FUNDING

- Consider modifications and update of the QBE formula to accurately reflect inflation, true costs of transportation; and, to include a funding weight for economically disadvantaged students, funding for safety and security and increased allocations for counselors, social workers, psychologists and nurses . . . thereby providing support for critically-needed student services functions.
- Oppose proposals which would allow for the utilization of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds for maintenance and operations expenditures . . . which would result in serious financial and human capital inequities amongst local school districts.
- Continue to incorporate any teacher compensation increases into the State teacher salary schedule . . . thereby communicating the State's long-term commitment to providing competitive compensation for teachers and allowing local school districts to concentrate local revenues on offsetting State-required employer rate increases in health care premiums, local share of 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.
- Preserve investment in Georgia's Teacher's Retirement System (TRS) in order to ensure the longevity of the defined benefit plan.



Cherokee County  
School District

**DR. BRIAN V. HIGHTOWER**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

### CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

KYLA CROMER, CHAIR  
KELLY POOLE, VICE CHAIR  
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:  
MIKE CHAPMAN, JOHN HARMON,  
PATSY JORDAN, CLARK MENARD &  
ROBERT RECHSTEINER

# FACTS ON FUNDING PRESSURES

→ *impacting funding availability for classroom instruction*

## EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

The Teacher Retirement System of Georgia has increased the employer (CCSD) contribution rate from 14.27% (FY17) to an expected 19.06% in FY21. CCSD's annual payment to TRS on behalf of its employees for FY20 is expected to exceed \$43.6M (\$7.9M paid via local funds). Due to the vision and commitment of Georgia leaders over the decades, the TRS system:

- Ranks in the top third of pension systems in the U.S., is actuarially sound, and has a proven record of sustainability.
- Provides a compelling recruitment and retention incentive for the education industry, supporting a life-long career path for high-quality teachers in Georgia schools.
- Positively impacts Georgia's economy and the economic success of our state, as pensions for over 128,000 TRS retirees are reinvested in local communities across the state each year.
- Affords a defined benefit plan as the last, best benefit for Georgia's dedicated teachers, who are diligently preparing the next generation of Georgia citizens.

As Georgia is recognized to be the #1 place to do business, it must also seek to be the #1 place to teach. Supporting TRS today ensures success for Georgia tomorrow.

## STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

CCSD will receive \$2.2M in QBE funds for student transportation for FY20. The total budgeted cost for student transportation during this budget cycle is \$22.7M.

## 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 and continuing for FY20... this cost, nearing \$1,000 per month/per participating employee, represents a 467% increase in just eight years.

CCSD's health insurance costs for non-certified employees are projected to be \$14.4M for FY20 far exceeding and almost doubling the \$7.5M cost in FY14. The extraordinary financial impact of continuing exorbitant 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.

## 2020 CHEROKEE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

### State Representative, District 20

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

### State Representative, District 22

Wes Cantrell  
1044 Meadow Brook Drive  
Woodstock, GA 30188  
[wes@cantrellforhouse.com](mailto:wes@cantrellforhouse.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 21

Brandon Beach  
303-B Coverdell Legis. Office Bldg  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[brandon.beach@senate.ga.gov](mailto:brandon.beach@senate.ga.gov)

### 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 23

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

### State Senator, District 14

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

### State Senator, District 56

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