2025 Legislative Priorities

Forsyth County Schools is committed to providing a safe, connected, and thriving community for all. Each year, the Board of Education adopts Legislative Priorities that align with the district's vision, mission, and strategic plan, in collaboration with the Forsyth Legislative Delegation.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- **Fully fund the Quality Basic Education (QBE) and capital outlay formulas.** *Full funding allows for effective and efficient financial planning.*
- **Ensure that any legislative actions honor local autonomy, empowering school systems to meet the unique needs of students, staff, and the community.** *Autonomy is vital to meet the needs of all stakeholders and enrich the school-community partnership.*
- **Consider local tax exemptions and reassessment caps when calculating fair share for QBE.** *Exemptions and caps significantly affect the local tax digest by reducing the revenue available for education funding and should be considered when determining a district's fair share.*

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH, SCHOOL SAFETY

- **Reduce student-to-professional ratios for school counselors to meet the nationally-recommended ratio of 250:1 to reflect the increase in student support needs.** *These positions are vital for the proactive health and safety of students.*
- **Provide state funding for school safety to support necessary updates to security, training, mental health support, and crisis prevention and response.** *State investment in school safety demonstrates a shared commitment to protecting students, staff, and communities while addressing the complex challenges schools face today.*
- **Remove barriers for sharing information about student behavior, criminal backgrounds, and records between schools and across communities.** *Timely and accurate information is essential for ensuring the safety of students and staff, as well as providing appropriate interventions and support.*
- **Support policy that strengthens legal requirements and enforces consequences for inaccurate reporting of discipline records during enrollment.** *Strengthening legal requirements and enforcing consequences for inaccuracies ensures that schools have the necessary information to provide appropriate support and maintain a safe environment.*
- **Advocate for funding to support proactive and responsive programs, such as Student Advocacy Specialists (SAS) and School Resource Officers (SRO).** *These programs play a vital role in addressing student needs, building positive relationships, and maintaining safe school climates.*

THE LEARNER EXPERIENCE

- **Consider increased funding for professional development and support to meet state-mandated requirements, ensuring that the costs of effective implementation are fully covered as new mandates are introduced.** *As new state mandates are announced (e.g. dyslexia and literacy requirements), associated costs for effective implementation should be funded.*

Safe ✦ Connected ✦ Thriving