

HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Henry County Board of Education believes that all students can achieve at high levels when they are provided with the supports and resources necessary to pursue their goals.

Through the following 2026 legislative priorities, we collectively advocate for policies that directly improve the school experience for students, enhance the work environment for education professionals, and safeguard and advance the system of public education in Henry County, Georgia.

SAFE HENRY

SAFETY AND SECURITY

- Revise the QBE allotment to fund school safety personnel at each school to include campus safety monitors, school resource officers, and school crossing guards.
- Increase funding that enables districts to invest in and sustain enhanced technologies to increase school safety measures, such as campus alert systems, weapons detection technology, security cameras, and structural reinforcements.
- Increase funding that enables districts to invest in and sustain enhanced technologies to monitor and prevent cybersecurity threats.
- Develop policies and resources that support timely and effective inter-agency communications between school systems, behavioral health professionals, and law enforcement.

HENRY CARES

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Revise the QBE allotment formula to fund critical positions for student supports at every school, to include mental health and wellness facilitators, behavior coaches, social workers, counselors, psychologists, and nurses.
- Expand state initiatives to provide funding for school-based mental health services through collaboration with local health care providers.



EDUCATOR COMPENSATION AND TEACHER PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT

- Increase the QBE allotment to advance competitive teacher and support staff compensation.
- Increase the state's contribution within the bus driver funding formula; increase compensation and ensure a more competitive retirement incentive.
- Expand return-to-work options for retirees in HB 385 by extending the applicable effective date indefinitely, removing the eligibility requirement of one (1) full year of retirement, and allowing local school districts to determine areas of need.
- Incentivize teacher pipeline development initiatives to include paraprofessional-to-teacher programs, create an apprentice certificate for aspiring educators, and provide funding to support certification for non-traditional teachers.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Support districts in offsetting the increasing costs of the employer portion of non-certified employee health insurance.
- Support efforts to fully fund and modernize the Quality Basic Education (QBE) Act to more accurately reflect the cost of public education, inflation, and limitations of local funding.



LEARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Expand the dual enrollment program by increasing the allowable credits from 30 to 60 and adding courses aligned to critical workforce fields (e.g., educator preparation, nursing, and public safety).
- Promote local control and ensure that school choice proposals include comparable accountability, reporting requirements, and Code of Conduct processes, with defined annual enrollment and transfer/withdrawal windows for students receiving public funds for private education.
- Maintain current funding caps for school choice initiatives to minimize financial impact on local school systems.