Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
November 20, 2025	Action Item 2

Title

2026 Legislative Priorities

Requested Action

School Board Consideration of Superintendent's Recommendation for Approval of 2026 Legislative Priorities

Summary Explanation and Background

Based upon discussion, feedback and input from School Board Members, the Superintendent recommends the attached 2026 Legislative Partnership Priorities for the School Board's consideration and approval.

The Priorities include: Prioritizing Educational Funding and Strengthening the Teacher Pipeline; Enhancing Academics and Accountability, Educational Workforce Opportunities, and Fortifying Local Control.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

2026 Legislative Priorities

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

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2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PRIORITIZE EDUCATION FUNDING and STRENGTHEN TEACHER PIPELINE

- Support local legislation that would stabilize the tax digest growth for homeowners in Cherokee County by establishing a cap to annual residential property value growth derived from the historical/30-year tax digest data that has been essential to delivering a quality education to students in Cherokee
- Establish comparable academic and financial accountability and reporting transparency for schools accepting public funds through vouchers
- Consider making safety/security grants and funding for strengthening cybersecurity a permanent, formula-based categorical grant in QBE
- Continue and expand the new investments in lowering counselor and school psychologist ratios
- Continue and expand the new investments in transportation to close the gap between state and local expenditures
- Support expansion of existing and emerging statewide teacher pipeline initiatives and preserve continued investment in TRS to attract and retain high quality teachers in Georgia
- Increase teacher compensation, allowing local revenue to offset State-required employer health premium increases
- Maintain local School Board responsibility and authority as denoted in the State Constitution (e.g., establishing appropriate millage rates)
- Maintain existing requirements relative to Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) expenditures

ENHANCE ACCOUNTABILITY, WORKFORCE OPPORTUNITIES, and FORTIFY LOCAL CONTROL

- Maintain strong accountability systems for effective schools and refrain from requiring additional unfunded academic investments at the local level
- Provide high school students with diploma choices and allow completion special schools to admit students under the age of 18
- Support legislation which promotes local School Board control of local district decisions
- Eliminate schools as polling places
- Maintain sovereign immunity provisions for School Boards/school districts

Cherokee County School District

Summary of categorical gaps in State funding vs. cost to deliver services FY2025

CATEGORY	STATE FUNDS	LOCAL FUNDS	TOTAL
Student Transportation	$10,996,881	$21,326,613	**$32,323,494**
School Nurses	$997,440*	$2,556,980*	**$3,554,420***
Safety and Security	$2,398,861	$3,811,989	**$6,210,850**
Teacher Compensation	$142,503,230*	$77,761,626*	**$220,264,856***
Pre-K	$2,143,561	$4,994,005	**$7,158,676**
Benefits	$100,493,480	$76,826,877	**$177,341,467**
Special Education	$53,053,923	$29,811,963	**$82,865,886**
Technology/Hardware/Software	$2,746,557	$20,273,639	**$23,020,196**
TOTALS	**$315,333,933**	**$237,363,692**	**$552,739,845**

** Does not include benefits, training or materials. Salary figures only are represented.*

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Cherokee County School District

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