Cherokee County School District

Agenda Request Form

Meeting Date	Agenda Item Number
December 11, 2025	Action Item 2

Title

2026 Legislative Priorities Resolution

Requested Action

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

Summary Explanation and Background

Pursuant to the School Board's Legislative Priority that states, "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," the Superintendent recommends the School Board approve the attached Resolution advocating for a limit on the annual growth of the local property digest subject to school tax to a rolling 30-year average, which protects local homeowners from excessive property valuation growth while at the same time shields the school district from severe restrictions on serving students and employing high quality teachers and staff. This methodology also allows both property owners and the School Board a level of consistency relative to annual property tax.

Financial Impact

N/A

Exhibits: (List) — Enter URL below

2026 Legislative Priorities Resolution

Source of Additional Information — Open URL

Mary Elizabeth Davis, PhD 770.479.1871
Mike McGowan 770.479.1871

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Cherokee County Board of Education (Board) is on a mission to become the highest performing school district in the State of Georgia;

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to its core beliefs, core policies, and key priorities with a focus on specific student achievement goals in the areas of Reading, English Language Arts, and Mathematics;

WHEREAS, the Board supported a 2024 referendum to expand the Senior Property Tax Exemption, which reduced the amount of local revenue accruing to Cherokee County School District by an initially estimated $13.9 million annually and was determined to ultimately be more than $21 million;

WHEREAS, the Board reduced the total millage rate by 1.5 mills in 2022 in response to significant increases in property assessments;

WHEREAS, the Board is committed to high-quality education for all students in the Cherokee County Schools which is dependent on quality teachers, leaders and staff, efficient operations, and adequate instructional resources;

WHEREAS, the Board adopted a Legislative Priority that states: "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;" and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 11th day of December 2025, by the Cherokee County Board of Education, that in order to achieve better stability for tax payers/homeowners in Cherokee County and adequately invest in K-12 education for the youth of the county, the Board seeks local legislation to limit the annual growth of the local residential property tax digest by providing for a cap on property tax collections which would be annually established through a rolling 30-year average.

ADOPTED this 11th day of December 2025.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Janet Read Welch, School Board Chair

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Patsy Jordan, District 2 and School Board Vice-Chair

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Kelly Poole, District 1 Board Member

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Chance Beam, District 3 Board Member

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Robert Rechsteiner, District 4 Board Member

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Erin Ragsdale, District 5 Board Member

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Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, District 6 Board Member