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MEDIA STATEMENT

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Issue Statement Regarding North Carolina's Supreme Court Decision on the *Leandro* Case

Today, the North Carolina Supreme Court issued its decision in the longstanding *Leandro* case, overturning orders related to the state's comprehensive education improvement plan and dismissing the case with prejudice. The Court concluded that decisions regarding education funding and policy rest with the state's legislative and executive branches.

First and foremost, we want to be clear that there is no immediate operational impact on our schools, classrooms, or employees. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools continues to deliver an exceptional educational experience and provide *Endless Possibilities* for all students.

Superintendent Dr. Crystal Hill states, "To see our students continue to excel despite the lack of adequate state resources for their teachers and classrooms makes me so proud as a superintendent. Our hardworking teachers and students should not have to overcome this challenge, yet they overcome this state-imposed resource barrier every day."

However, the Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools remain concerned that the State of North Carolina does not recognize public education as the foundation of our society.

"By not providing funding to support a sound basic education as *Leandro* requires, North Carolina sends a clear message to our 139,000+ students and their families, and that message is, 'Public education students are not the priority,'" states Board of Education Chair Stephanie Sneed.

That is communicated every time, the North Carolina General Assembly, for example, fails to pay teachers a basic, livable wage, denies resources to special education students, and fails to provide essential wellness services to students. The facts that North Carolina ranks 49th in the nation in per-pupil investment and 43rd in base teacher pay support the premise that the NC General Assembly does not hold our students and teachers in high regard. To echo the words of our State Superintendent, Mo Green, ensuring that our children receive the education they deserve is a moral and economic imperative for the future of our state.

The Board of Education and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools believe our students deserve better and will continue to do everything possible to fill the gap left by the State of North Carolina.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education will work closely with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and state leaders to evaluate any possible future impacts as additional guidance becomes available.

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