

2017 CMS Legislative Agenda

The Legislative Principles of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

1. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all Local Education Agencies (LEAs), with greater local flexibility in and from state regulations
2. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all LEAs, with greater local flexibility and control in how to appropriate funds that CMS receives from the State
3. CMS supports legislation that provides CMS, and all LEAs, additional financial resources for early childhood and Pre-K through 12th-grade education (including 13th grade classes taught as part of CMS), provided funding is augmenting current funding levels and is not supplanting them
4. CMS opposes legislation that requires CMS, and all LEAs, additional requirements and mandates but does not provide new revenues to fund said programs

Specific Legislative Requests

C 1 - Eliminate Mandatory Stop/Start Dates

Category: Calendar Flexibility

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request would allow CMS to have complete control over setting the start and stop dates for all schools within the school system

C 2 – School Days for State of Emergency Declaration

Category: Calendar Flexibility

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request would allow CMS to reduce the required number of instruction days by five days without NCGA approval should Mecklenburg County be subject to a State of Emergency that causes more allotted make-up days to be exhausted.

B 1 – Transfer Funds Within Budget Codes

Category: Budget Flexibility

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request would grant CMS (or local boards of education) maximum flexibility to transfer funds between state funding allotment categories, including transfers to or from the teacher assistant category, to best meet student needs and support district priorities. Special provisions to ensure compliance with federal laws and grants conditions may remain as outlined in current budget flexibility law.

B 2 - Class Size

Category: Budget Flexibility

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request would allow CMS greater flexibility in setting K-3rd class sizes based on varying needs for different educational environments and curriculum

G 1 - School Grading

Category: Operational Oversight

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request would adjust current school grading metrics so that growth and proficiency are equally weighted (50% - 50%)

F 1 – Increase State Pay Levels

Category: Funding

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request is a four pronged approach to increase state salary schedules for the following classifications...

F 1.A – Non-Instructional Staff – Increase base salary compensation by 3% - 5% in recurring monies

F 1.B – Principals / Assistant Principals – Increase base salary compensation to match national average within (5) five years

F 1.C – Teachers – Increase base salary compensation to match national average within (5) five years

F 1.D – Teacher Assistants – Increase base salary compensation by 3% - 5% in recurring monies

F 2 – Eliminate Pre-K Waiting List in Mecklenburg County

Category: Funding

Requestor: CMS

Description: This is a request that the NCGA provide full funding for Pre-K Education to ensure all applicants are provided access

D 1 – Educational Wi-Fi Access

Category: Digital Education

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request is for legislation that will remove any and all restrictions and/or regulations that inhibit community-wide access for Wi-Fi service so that children may have access to the digital learning technology that is being used in the classroom

E 1 – Raise the Age

Category: Community Education

Requestor: CMS

Description: This request is for legislation that raises the minimum age for trying individuals in criminal cases as adults from 16 to 18 years old, except as recommended by the Mecklenburg County Chief Justice Commission

Z 1 - UNCC - Capital Request

Category: Outside Entity Affirmation

Requestor: UNC-Charlotte

Description: UNCC is requesting capital funding to construct a new campus building to house the Charlotte Early College Engineering and the Early College for Teachers that are associated with CMS