

Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform

Dr. Tim Markey, Superintendent
New Hanover County Schools • Wilmington, NC



New Hanover County Schools
Engaging Students, Achieving Excellence



GENERAL THOUGHTS



- **Maintain position allotments:** To ensure school districts have the ability to hire the most qualified teacher rather than the least expensive teacher.
- **Exceptional Children:** Consider adopting the recommendations of the EC Funding Stakeholders group to remove the funding cap and differentiate funding based on student disability.
- **At-Risk & Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (DSSF):** Consider combining.



GENERAL THOUGHTS



- **Limited English Proficiency:**
 - ▷ Restore prior allotment flexibility;
 - ▷ Eliminate funding cap; and
 - ▷ Consider simplifying the formula by replacing the concentration factor with a new factor based on the number of languages primarily spoken by a district's English language learners.
- **Academically/Intellectually Gifted (AIG):** Restore prior allotment flexibility.
- **Textbooks & Supplies:** Consider combining and restoring prior allotment flexibility



GENERAL THOUGHTS



- **Charter Schools:** Fund new and growing charters via a direct allotment.
- **Adequacy Study:** Engage with independent experts to estimate adequate per-student funding levels and develop a consensus funding goal for the state.
- **Central Office:** Develop a new formula that provides a base level of funding to each district with additional amounts distributed on the basis of district size.

Central Office Allotment



Central Office in New Hanover County Schools



- Currently, NHCS receives just over \$1 million for Central Office support from the state.
- This represents *less* than 0.5% of our Operating Budget.



Central Office Allotment



- Central Office Administration often has a negative public perception, but most people do not realize that those funds provide direct support to students and teachers.
- The formula was frozen to 2002-03 levels, and subsequently, it was reduced by the Legislature. NHCS has seen a 5,000 student increase since 2002-03.
- The remainder provides critical support services needed for the operations of our system, which is the 2nd largest employer in New Hanover County.



Central Office Task



- Instructional Services
- Professional Development
- Testing and Accountability
- Human Resources
 - ▷ Staff Evaluation
 - ▷ Teacher Recruitment/Hiring
- Student Services
 - ▷ EC Services *(12% of the budget)*
 - ▷ Mental Health
- Finance
 - ▷ Budgeting
- Federal Programs
 - ▷ Title 1
 - ▷ CTE
 - ▷ Head Start
 - ▷ McKinney-Vento
- Operations:
 - ▷ Facility Planning
 - ▷ Maintenance
 - ▷ Transportation
 - ▷ Child Nutrition
- Public Information
- Technology Support



Recommendations



- Develop a comprehensive budget plan with enough time for school districts to adjust rather than a piecemeal approach to funding formula adjustments.
- Develop a base formula with sufficient funding to successfully operate a small system, with additional amounts allotted on the basis of LEA size to meet the needs of larger systems.
- Include maximum flexibility for use of funds outside the positions allotments.