

# ***2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION***

***Board of Education of Frederick County***

***Legislative Principles for Advocacy***



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**I. ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE FUNDING TO PREPARE ALL STUDENTS TO BE GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE IN COLLEGE AND CAREERS**

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** an aggressive level of school funding in the FY 2016 state budget, including maintaining and/or mandating the Geographic Cost of Education Index (GCEI) and an inflation factor.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County acknowledges the importance of quality pre-kindergarten programs for students and the role they play in building school readiness and the future success of students and **supports** a per pupil funding allocation for students attending prekindergarten, without any off-setting reduction in compensatory funding.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** additional funding for English Language Learning.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** funding for implementation of initiatives and mandates now required in implementation of Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards (MCCRS), such as investments in curriculum, assessments, evaluation systems, professional development and technology.
- ✓ The Board of Education **supports** adequate funding for the expansion and growth of dual enrollment programs.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** the requirement that local governments provide a consistent funding source.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** any new unfunded or underfunded mandates.

**II. ADEQUATE FUNDING TO IMPROVE SCHOOL FACILITIES AND CREATE CAPACITY**

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** a state funding level of at least \$350 million for school construction and renovation projects for FY 2016 to provide the state's share of approved projects to build, renovate and improve school facilities. This is essential in light of the 2014 legislation requiring prevailing wage rates apply to school construction and major renovation projects receiving 25% or more in state funding.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** the development of innovative funding policies and strategies, including the expansion of the state's bonding capacity, to meet increasing school facility needs.

PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR STATE FUNDING  
 Frederick County Public Schools FY16 CIP Request to State  
 (Includes request for State funds only in \$000 )

	PROJECT	REQUEST	FY 16 STATE REQUEST
1	Frederick HS Replacement: Construction	Construction Funding	\$39,997
2	Urbana ES Renovation/Replacement	Local Planning	\$0
3	Myersville ES HVAC	Systemic Construction Funding	\$512
4	Lincoln ES "A" Roof Replacement	Systemic Construction Funding	\$272
5	New Market MS Boiler Replacement/Oil Tank Removal	Systemic Construction Funding	\$380
6	Valley ES Roof Replacement	Systemic Construction Funding	\$551
7	Twin Ridge ES Chiller Replacement	Systemic Construction Funding	\$166
8	Green Valley ES Chiller Replacement and Generator	Systemic Construction Funding	\$253
9	Emmitsburg ES Roof Replacement - Ph 1	Systemic Construction Funding	\$317
TOTAL			\$42,448

### III. LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

Continued Governance Authority for Local Boards of Education

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** continued autonomy for all local boards of education to adopt education policies that promote high standards for academic and fiscal accountability. Students are best served by having an independent local board of education that is engaged with its superintendent and the school community to discuss and to debate important issues that directly impact the quality of education. The widely recognized success of Maryland schools is a testament to the effectiveness of this governance model.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** any legislation or regulatory initiatives that would have the effect of reducing local board governance or budgetary authority.

Curriculum and Testing

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** local decision-making authority in developing curriculum and assessments, in conjunction with the Maryland State Board of Education.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** adequate state funding to support any mandated assessment program, including the computer-based Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** at least a two-year delay in using the new PARCC High School Assessments in English 10 and Algebra I as “high stakes” graduation requirements.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** any efforts by the General Assembly to legislate curriculum or testing matters inconsistent with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education’s positions.

#### School Calendar and Start Time

- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County has a calendar committee which has widespread representation from the school community. The school calendar is designated to provide students with as many instructional days as possible to better prepare students for assessments. The local board of education, in consultation with its stakeholders, should determine the school calendar. Accordingly, the Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** legislation that would mandate that all school systems commence the school year on a certain date.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County has surveyed the community in the past regarding start times, as well as bell schedules. We believe that local boards of education are best positioned to determine the optimal balance of educational practices, inclusive of school start times and bell schedules for students that reflect the academic needs of students, community interest, and available funding and resources. As such, the Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** legislation that would mandate that all school systems commence school after, before or at a specified time.

#### Charter Schools

- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** legislation which would diminish the local board's role as primary chartering authority, or otherwise weaken the local board's academic or fiscal accountability oversight.

#### Student Discipline

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** local flexibility to create and enforce consistent and fair disciplinary standards in order to respond to infractions of the rules committed by individual students.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** legislation or regulations that would unduly limit the authority or ability of school administrators and local boards of education to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

### Public School Labor Relations Board (PSLRB)

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** legislation or action by the PSLRB to adopt re-negotiation procedures and a balancing test to determine whether the impact of a negotiated matter on the school system as a whole outweighs the direct impact on the teachers or employees.
- ✗ The Board of Education of Frederick County **opposes** legislation or decisions of the PSLRB that compromise the authority and responsibility of the Maryland State Board of Education and local boards to establish educational policy in collaboration with all key stakeholders including parents, students, teachers and the community.

## **IV. STUDENT HEALTH AND SCHOOL SAFETY**

- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** local board discretion to adopt policies and allocate resources to support improvements in student mental and physical health and well-being.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** federal, state and local government funding for local public school safety programs, and the wide array of mental health and public safety services provided by other public and private entities, which are essential to maintaining safe schools and access to a quality education for all students.
- ✓ The Board of Education of Frederick County **supports** local discretion to adopt programs and policies to maintain and improve school safety, including positive behavior intervention strategies to prevent and mitigate disruptions, and emergency plans to deal with any crisis which may occur in the school.