

EDUCATE YOUR CHILD. EDUCATE YOURSELF. A Fact Sheet on State & County School Budgets

To ensure that your child receives the education he or she deserves and that you expect, all parents of public school students within Mecklenburg County and North Carolina need to educate themselves on the current budget situation. And in fact, the general populace has a stake in this discussion as well because the future rests in the hands of today's students. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, *"Educate and inform the whole mass of the people... They are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty."*

GET THE FACTS on the Current State of Education Funding

The State of North Carolina	The County of Mecklenburg
46: National rank for average teacher salaries 48: National rank for starting teacher salaries 48: National rank in per-pupil spending (39 th 5 years ago) 15%: Decrease in teacher salaries since 2002-03 (inflation adjusted)	1: Number of raises CMS teachers have received in the last five years (3% in 2012) 1: State rank in property taxes generated, and yet... 12: State rank for county appropriations and supplemental taxes earmarked for education, resulting in... 53: State rank of total school funding as a % of property taxes (far behind Wake at 4 and Guilford at 7) 13: State rank in total school funding per pupil (trailing Wake at 9 and Guilford at 10)

K-12 Education as a % of Total Corresponding Budget – A Decade Ago versus Today

	2002-03 School Year	2013-14 School Year	% Decline	\$ Impact of that % Decline this Year
North Carolina	41.5%	38.1%	3.4%	\$680M Decline in State Funds
Mecklenburg County	37.1%	32.6%	4.5%	\$48M Decline in County Funds

KNOW THE IMPACT of Current Budget Proposals

	At the State Level, there are currently two budget proposals being discussed		At the County Level CMS requested \$46.2M to make up for recent spate of state budget cuts
	Governor McCrory's Proposal	State Senate Proposal	
Key Facts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Biggest salary increase to newest teachers ⌚ Principals/APs (10-36 yrs) avg 2% increase ⌚ Other staff & newer Principals/APs \$1000 bump (combined salary & benefits) ⌚ Master's Degree Salary Reinstated ⌚ Approx. \$2M in textbook funding for CMS ⌚ Allocations for Career Pathway and Cooperative Innovative High Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ \$469M in teacher raises to help attract and retain the best for our students ⌚ Increases range from 1-20% depending on teacher's length of experience ⌚ On average, an 11% raise for teachers who choose to give up tenure <p><i>Note: Last year the Senate budget prevailed</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ County Manager recommended approving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$26.8M in operating funds for CMS, a much needed and appreciated 7% increase over 2013-14 ○ \$5M in one-time funding for technology and/or capital improvements
Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ No raise for most experienced teachers ⌚ Local boards of education handle all worker's comp claims for school employees and assume all liability for tort claims and pay with non-state funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Ties increase to loss of tenure ⌚ Increase paid for with significant cuts in other K-12 spending, resulting in: fewer teachers & assistants (2nd year of TAs cut), bigger class sizes, fewer buses & longer rides 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌚ Proposed funding is 58% of CMS request, leaving a \$19.4 million deficit ⌚ Proposal excludes any money for a purely county-funded increase for all employees, making it difficult to attract and retain they best educators and staff

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD by Those in Power

General State and County Leadership				State and County Leaders Representing Matthews Elementary District		
Pat McCrory NC Governor 919-814-2000	Thom Tillis, House Speaker 919-733-3451 Thom.tillis@ncleg.net	Phil Berger, Senate President Pro Tem 919-733-5708 Phil.berger@ncleg.net	Dena Diorio Mecklenburg County Manager 704-336-2472	Bill Brawley N.C. House Rep 919-733-5800 Bill.brawley@ncleg.net	Jeff Tarte NC Senator 919-715-3050 Jeff.tarte@ncleg.net	Bill James Meck Cty Commissioner 704-336-2472 wjames@carolina.rr.com