

## SUPPORT SCHOOL SECURITY

Ensuring a safe and secure learning environment is a top priority of the Henry County Board of Education. Students, families, and employees are looking to state and district leaders to take actions that will better safeguard schools. **We urge legislators to...**

- \* **Partner with local boards of education to devise a comprehensive strategy and attain the necessary training and resources to secure schools against a full range of risks.**

## SUPPORT TEACHER/LEADER RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

The Henry County Board of Education recognizes that effective teachers and leaders are the most critical factor in student achievement. Currently, there is an acute need for a deeper pool of prospective teachers and leaders. **We urge legislators to...**

- \* **Reduce the critical shortage of teachers in Georgia by permitting retired educators to return to teaching more flexibly.**
- \* **Establish a service cancellable loan program for students graduating from a teacher education program of the University System of Georgia.**
- \* **Allocate financial resources to ensure competitive salaries and benefits.**

## SUPPORT SCHOOL READINESS

The Henry County Board of Education understands the importance of ensuring that all children are prepared to thrive and excel when they enter school. Currently, we operate a Pre-K program in 9 of 28 elementary schools through a partnership with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL). To advance school readiness, **we urge legislators to devise early learning solutions to include...**

- \* **Increasing access to DECAL Pre-K programs.**
- \* **Supporting district development of early Kindergarten and other Birth-5 learning initiatives.**

## SUPPORT LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE, DISTRICT FLEXIBILITY, & PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

The Henry County Board of Education embraces its responsibility to ensure a high performing environment for all students. To that end, **we urge legislators to...**

- \* **Safeguard the responsibility and authority of local school boards for the direction, advancement, and governance of the public schools in their community.**
- \* **Enable strategic waiver school districts to attain flexibility comparable to charter districts.**
- \* **Establish a single public education accountability system that is clear and reliable.**