

2017 Legislative Positions and Priorities

Henry County Board of Education

Board Member, District 1 - Dr. Pam Nutt
Board Member, District 2 - Josh Hinton
Board Member, District 3 - Holly Cobb

Board Member, District 4 - Dr. Donna McBride
Board Member, District 5 - Annette Edwards
Superintendent of Schools - Rodney Bowler

Maximize Available Funding for Schools

We support the Governor's Education Reform Commission's effort to develop a new K-12 school funding formula. We believe an appropriate and effective funding formula should meet the following criteria:

- The funding program should be **student-based**.
- The funding program should allow **district flexibility** for use of funds.
- The funding program should be **predictable and reliable**.
- The funding program should generate **adequate funding** that is at least equal to the amount that would be allotted by the current QBE formula if it were fully funded.
- The funding program should retain an **equalization grant** to ensure equitable funding for less-wealthy school districts.

Help School Districts with Escalating Costs of Health Benefits

We urge legislators to explore statewide options for managing the rising health benefits costs to local school boards and their employees. This should include strategies to address the rising costs for providing health benefits to non-certificated personnel.

Maintain Funding for Capital Projects

We urge legislators to continue funding the **State Capital Outlay Program** at the 100% funding level for both the Regular Entitlement and the Exceptional Growth categories.

We urge legislators to continue the **State Bond Program** to fund the purchase of school buses.

We urge legislators to provide funding to help districts build and maintain a solid **technology infrastructure**.

Support Teacher Recruitment and Retention

We support the following recommendations of the Governor's Education Reform Commission:

- Increase funding to allow local districts the flexibility to recruit, retain, and reward effective teachers and maintain competitive salaries.
- Modify the Teacher Keys Effectiveness System to allow fewer required classroom observations for effective teachers.
- Consider reinstating the service cancellable loan program for students graduating from a USG teacher education program.

Expand Early Childhood Education

We support efforts to expand prekindergarten access for four-year olds.

Advance *Move on When Ready* Opportunities

We support the following recommendations of the Governor's Education Reform Commission:

- Begin the transition to a **competency-based** education system.
- Increase the opportunity for student advancement or remediation through **flexible Milestones testing windows** (every nine weeks).

Empower Local Districts for Innovation

We are committed to building a culture of **personalized learning** that supports the unique needs and interests of students and empowers them with greater voice and choice in their learning.

We urge legislators to empower local districts with the capacity and autonomy to create innovative and flexible learning options for students and to recognize that legislation which diverts limited resources from public schools is detrimental to this vision.

Henry County Legislative Delegation

State Senator, District 10 - Emanuel Jones
State Senator, District 17 - Rick Jeffares
State Representative, District 73 - Karen Mathiak
State Representative, District 76 - Sandra Scott
State Representative, District 78 - Demetrius Douglas

State Representative, District 90 - Pam Stephenson
State Representative, District 109 - Dale Rutledge
State Representative, District 110 - Andy Welch
State Representative, District 111 - Brian Strickland
State Representative, District 130 - David Knight