



EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Post Office Box 206, Edenton, NC 27932
Telephone: (252) 482-4436 Fax: (252)482-7309
www.ecps.k12.nc.us

*Ricky Browder
Paul Clifton
Joan White*

*Jean Bunch
Glorious Elliott
Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent*

*Gil Burroughs
Gene Jordan*

Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education Resolution on K - 3 Class Size Ratios

WHEREAS, local school districts receive state funding for classroom teacher salaries based on funding ratios of one position per a specified number of students at each grade level; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have traditionally been afforded flexibility to allow class sizes in kindergarten through third grade to exceed the classroom teacher funding ratios within set limits; and

WHEREAS, this approach has provided local school districts with crucial flexibility to fund teaching positions in art, music, and physical education – none of which receive separate funding allotments – by setting aside some teacher allotments to cover salaries for those positions; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 115C-301, as amended by Section 8.33 of the 2016 Budget Bill, codifies funding ratios by statute and precludes these past practices; and

WHEREAS, the loss of flexibility in this area would have immediate and negative effects on school districts throughout the state, including one or more of the following: (i) drastic cuts in art, music, and physical education teaching positions in kindergarten through third grade; (ii) a dramatic increase in class sizes in grades four through twelve to free up state teacher allotments to fund those positions; and/or (iii) sudden new financial burdens on local governments to provide the funding for those same positions, which could necessitate property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, if the issue is not addressed legislatively in the near future, school districts and counties will be forced to develop their 2017-18 budgets in the spring on the assumption and understanding that large increases in local funding may be needed to preserve art, music, and physical education positions in kindergarten through third grade and to meet sudden new demands on school facilities; and

WHEREAS, a lack of legislative action in the near future will locally cause the loss of seven out of seventeen art, music, and physical education positions, equating to 41% of these positions currently in the school system; or a requirement for \$451,234 in new funding to fund the new required K - 3 teaching positions, equating to 12.7% of the current local current expense allotment; or the loss of teaching positions in grades four through twelve resulting in larger class sizes in those grades; and

WHEREAS, legislative action is urgently needed to avoid the serious, statewide, negative impacts described above; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the General Assembly pass legislation as early as possible in the 2017 session to provide

local school districts with the class size and funding flexibility needed to avoid the severe negative impacts described above.

Adopted by the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education this 7th day of February, 2017.

Gene Jordan
Chairman

Rob Jackson, Ed. D.
Secretary