



# 2008 *Legislative Priorities*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*The School District of Clay County, in partnership with the entire community, is dedicated to providing a quality education in a safe, inviting environment so that all students learn and become successful, responsible citizens.*



*School District of Clay County*

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## School Board Members

Carol Vallencourt, Dist. I  
Carol Studdard, Dist. II  
Charles Van Zant, Jr., Dist. III  
Wayne Bolla, Dist. IV  
Lisa Graham, Dist. V

*David L. Owens, Superintendent*

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT THE CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR 2008:



## FUNDING

Enforce the Florida Constitution as it relates to the provision of adequate and equitable funding for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools. In order to adhere to the intent of the State Constitution to guarantee equal education opportunities for all students, the Clay County School Board requests the following:

- ◆ Create a specific supplement for “property poor/student rich” school districts to assist with operational costs, similar to those provided for sparsity, etc.
- ◆ Due to the extreme difference in 2 mill generation across the state, and because it has become the primary District capital outlay fund source, the Legislature must find a way to equalize this fund source for growing counties.
- ◆ Fully fund class-size reduction capital outlay requirements with a fund source that can be counted upon and projected for planning purposes.
- ◆ The Legislature should have a goal of meeting or exceeding the national average in per pupil appropriations over the next six (6) years.

## CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION

- ◆ Delay the “by classroom” requirement until the 2009-2010 school year.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ Revise professional preparation course rules allowing new teachers more flexibility in enrollment in professional education courses at junior colleges rather than senior level institutions and include tuition reimbursement for professional preparation courses.
- ◆ Increase categories presently allowed by the DOE for critical teacher shortage reimbursements and loan forgiveness through the Florida Student Financial Aid Program.
- ◆ Enact a comprehensive set of teacher recruitment and retention incentives.

## READING INITIATIVES

- ◆ Fully fund the required Florida Department of Education’s District K-12 Reading Plan.
- ◆ Develop a Reading subject area test to satisfy the Reading Endorsement requirement for Highly Qualified Teachers.

## TRANSPORTATION

- ◆ Fully fund district transportation costs to include increased fuel costs and school choice.

## RETIREMENT

- ◆ Increase employee benefit to the FRS Health Insurance Subsidy Program (from \$150 monthly maximum).