



# 2009 *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  
Frank Farrell, Dist. IV  
Lisa Graham, Dist. V

*Ben Wortham, Superintendent*

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THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT THE CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR 2009:

## 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:

- ◆ Local capital outlay generation varies greatly across the state. In districts that are "Property Poor/Student Rich", the legislative reduction from 2 mills to 1.75 mills has great impact on these districts. Allow districts that fall into this category to increase the 1.75 mills up to, but not in excess of 2.0 mills in order to generate per student funding equal to the state average.
- ◆ The 2 mill discretionary capital levy for public school districts should be reinstated. No portion of the 2 mill levy should be used as a revenue source for the FEFP.
- ◆ The Legislature should have a goal of meeting or exceeding the national average in per pupil appropriations over the next six (6) years.
- ◆ Identify a fair and stable revenue source, such as the "Streamlined Sales Tax Project" - tax on Internet sales and remote sales.
- ◆ Review the sales tax structure for the purpose of identifying revenue to increase, and not supplant, state funding for K-12 public education.
- ◆ Eliminate selected sales tax exemptions.
- ◆ Identify the costs of and the revenue source for any mandated program.

## CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION

- ◆ Delay the "by classroom" requirement until the 2010-2011 school year or fully fund the impact of the requirement.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

- ◆ Revise professional preparation course rules allowing new teachers more flexibility in enrollment in professional education courses at community 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.

## INSTRUCTIONAL

- ◆ Develop a Reading subject area test to satisfy the Reading Endorsement requirement for Highly Qualified Teachers.
- ◆ Improve alignment of No Child Left Behind with Florida's A++ Accountability System so they are consistent, accommodate individual student needs, and accurately reflect student achievement and progress.
- ◆ Enact no laws affecting public education except for the purpose of making statutory corrections.

## TECHNOLOGY

- ◆ Continue full funding of the Florida Internet Relay Network (FIRN) and delivery through DOE.