



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

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Carol Studdard, Dist. II

Charles Van Zant, Jr., Dist. III

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David L. Owens, Superintendent

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 as determined by the legislature.
- ◆ 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 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.
- ◆ 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).