

professional education courses at junior colleges rather than senior level institutions.

- Increase categories presently allowed by the DOE for critical teacher shortage reimbursement and loan forgiveness through the Florida Student Financial Aid Program.
- Enact a comprehensive set of teacher recruitment and retention incentives (i.e. moving and signing bonus, housing, reciprocity).
- Develop a Reading subject area test to satisfy the Reading Endorsement requirement for Highly Qualified Teachers.

## **READING INITIATIVE**

- Fully fund the required Florida Department of Education's District K-12 Reading Plan.
- Develop a common definition of school capacity to be utilized statewide in the implementation of school concurrency.
- The State Facility Inventory of School Houses (F.I.S.H.) must be modified to accurately identify districts with high exceptional education students. The current F.I.S.H. capacity for Clay County is over stated and penalizes this county without warrant because exceptional student classrooms are not recognized accurately.
- Simplify the state required Educational Facilities Plan to a less burdensome process that includes information that is utilized and necessary.

## **FACILITIES**

## **RETIREMENT**

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

## **THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT THE CLAY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD'S PRIORITIES FOR 2007:**

### **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 more equitable funding formula by combining the two General Fund discretionary mill levies (.51 and .25) into a .750 mill levy and set the funding base at the state average based on revenue generated from the two discretionary levies.
- 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.
- Develop a consistent capital outlay funding source. State funding is inconsistent and funding projections are not available.
- Fully fund class-size reduction capital outlay requirements with a fund source that can be counted upon and projected for planning purposes.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

- Revise professional preparation course rules allowing new teachers more flexibility in enrollment in