



CHATHAM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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A Resolution of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners Regarding Impacts of K-3 Class Size Reduction

WHEREAS, S.L. 2017-9 requires local school districts to take action in 2018-19 to set class size averages in grades K-3 equal to state classroom teacher funding ratios, which means mandated class size caps in K-3 grades; and

WHEREAS, the short timeframe of this new mandate means that LEAs will have a very hard time finding enough licensed and qualified teachers by FY 2018-19, with the potential of more classroom vacancies led by long-term substitute teachers; and

WHEREAS, this legislation also will result in the loss of flexibility to generate State funding for teaching positions in program enhancement courses like art, music, physical education; and

WHEREAS, in Section 2.1 of S.L. 2017-197, the General Assembly declared its intent to create a new funding stream for program enhancement teachers starting in 2018-19, which is essential for a sound and basic education; and

WHEREAS, even with new legislative funding, Chatham County could still face major classroom space and staffing challenges in implementing the new K-3 class size requirements; and

WHEREAS, the new requirements in individual class size maximums in grades K-3 would, in turn, increase the number of physical spaces required at each grade level, coming at a time that Chatham County is already challenged to build new schools to meet our rapidly-growing student enrollment rate; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County Public Schools estimates that in order to comply, it would need approximately 26 additional teachers and classroom spaces which may require more modular units for 2018-19; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County lacks additional capital funding to build new classrooms or to purchase additional modular classrooms, which require at least one full year to put into place; and

WHEREAS, we did not have sufficient notice to include the new class size mandate in our Seven-Year Capital Improvement Plan nor to identify funds to cover such substantial, unexpected facility needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Chatham County Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the General Assembly fully fund any additional costs incurred to implement the new requirements and phase in its implementation over several years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NC General Assembly provide full funding for all program enhancement teachers and approve HB 866, the Public School Building Bond Act of 2017, so that LEAs can better meet their school facility needs associated with class size reduction and growth.

Adopted by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners on December 18, 2017.

Diana Hales, Chairperson
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Lindsay K. Ray, Clerk to the Board
Chatham County Board of Commissioners

