



# HENRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Henry County Board of Education believes that all students can achieve at high levels when they are provided with the supports and resources necessary to pursue their goals and ambitions.

Through the following 2024 legislative priorities, we collectively advocate for policies that directly improve the school experience for students, improve the work environment for education professionals, and safeguard and advance the system of public education in Henry County, Georgia.

### To support STUDENT AND STAFF WELLNESS, we urge legislators to:

- Revise the QBE allotment formula to fund positions allocated for a professional in every school for the purpose of mental health and wellness supports.
- Incentivize collaboration with local health care providers for school-based mental health services.

### To ensure SUPPORTIVE, SAFE, AND SECURE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS, we urge legislators to:

- Revise the QBE allotment to support individual school district safety personnel needs (e.g. School Resource Officers, Crossing Guards, Security Associates, etc.).
- Increase funding that enables districts to invest in and sustain enhanced technologies to monitor potential safety threats (e.g. ransomware, weapons detection systems, structural reinforcements).

### To advance EDUCATOR COMPENSATION and promote TEACHER PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT we urge legislators to:

- Increase the QBE allotment to advance competitive teacher and support staff compensation.
- Increase the state's contribution within the bus driver funding formula; enhance compensation; and ensure a more competitive retirement incentive.
- Introduce flexibility for return-to-work models by lowering the 30-year retirement requirement to a 25-year minimum.
- Incentivize teacher pipeline development initiatives and create an apprentice certificate for aspiring educators.

### To ensure LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS and SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES, we urge legislators to:

- Permit dual enrollment program expansion by adding courses aligned to critical workforce fields (e.g. educator preparation, nursing, and public safety).
- Promote local control and ensure that school choice proposals include comparable accountability, enrollment requirements, and Code of Conduct processes.