

August 12, 2024

Senator Phil Berger  
NC Senate President Pro Tempore  
16 W Jones Street, Rm. 2007 LB  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Representative Tim Moore  
NC Speaker of the House  
16 W Jones Street, Rm. 2304 LB  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Dear Senator Berger and Speaker Moore:

Over the past year, inflation has profoundly impacted both our nation and our state. According to the North Carolina Commerce Department, the median PCE inflation rate for North Carolina over the past year stands at approximately 3.8%. Numerous media reports and statements from members of the General Assembly have highlighted this significant issue.

As you know, the North Carolina General Assembly did not enact any modifications to the provisions of the education budget passed in the 2023 biennium budget (Session Law 2023-134) during your recently concluded short session. This decision has led to an unfortunate reality: most teachers across our state are experiencing a reduction in their real pay when inflation is taken into account.

With the state's inflation rate surpassing the 3.0% average raise provided to certified staff and the 3.0% raise granted to non-certified staff, the North Carolina General Assembly is effectively reducing teacher pay in real terms. These same teachers, who work tirelessly on behalf of the approximately 1.4 million students in our schools, should not be penalized with a pay cut due to circumstances beyond their control.

On behalf of the Chatham County Board of Education, we urge you to pass a modified education budget with a pay increase for both certified and non-certified staff of at least 5.0% at your upcoming session beginning on September 9th, 2024.

We are proud of the exceptional job our teachers are doing to ensure that all students in Chatham County receive a high-quality education. Their dedication is reflected in the successes of our students and the continued progress of our schools. We are also grateful for the strong support we receive from the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, who consistently prioritize education as a cornerstone of our community's future.

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS  
468 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312 • (919) 542-3626

Chair – Mr. Gary Leonard, District 5 • Vice-Chair – Ms. Del Turner, District 3 • Ms. Julie Bridenstine, District 1  
Mr. David Hamm, District 2 • Ms. Jane Allen Wilson, District 4 • Dr. Anthony Jackson, Superintendent



We respectfully request that serious consideration be given to substantially increasing teacher compensation through actions during the next session of the North Carolina General Assembly. Our teachers deserve this acknowledgment of their invaluable work, our staff deserves this support for their tireless efforts, and most importantly, our students deserve the best possible education that can only be delivered by well-supported and fairly compensated educators.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Gary Leonard, Chair

Del Turner, Vice Chair

David Hamm, Member

Jane Allen Wilson, Member

Julie Bridenstine, Member

C: Honorable Members of the NCGA  
16 W Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Chatham County Board of County Commissioners  
PO Box 1809  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS**

468 Renaissance Drive, Pittsboro, NC 27312 • (919) 542-3626

Chair – Mr. Gary Leonard, District 5 • Vice-Chair – Ms. Del Turner, District 3 • Ms. Julie Bridenstine, District 1  
Mr. David Hamm, District 2 • Ms. Jane Allen Wilson, District 4 • Dr. Anthony Jackson, Superintendent