

# Newton County BOE Legislative Priorities 2014

## VISION PROJECT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Newton County School Board of Education supports the *Vision Project* as the vehicle to raise awareness, address issues and enhance public education in the state of Georgia.

[www.visionforpubliced.org](http://www.visionforpubliced.org)

## LOCAL BOARD AUTHORITY

The board supports the authority of local boards of education to manage and control the operation of local public schools, opposing any legislation that attempts to override the constitutional authority of locally-elected boards to make educational decisions for the communities.

## PROGRAM FUNDING

The State of Georgia has continued to decrease the amount of funds available for public pre-k-12 education. The board supports ceasing state austerity reductions and restoring full funding to public education. **Austerity cuts have caused NCSS to lose nearly \$86,716,647 since 2003.**

The board supports the funding of the state's employee health benefits program so as to provide state employees with flexible plan options.

## POLICY AND IMPACT

The board supports requiring a clear, timely, and complete description of the potential impact of state education legislation on the fiscal budget, operations and programs of local schools and school districts.

The board also supports the revision and finalization of the flexibility options (Charter, IE2, etc.), to include a school system's ability to waive requirements, when choice options and other innovations are successfully implemented.

The board supports legislation to provide local educational agencies options to implement flexibility in order to increase student achievement and operations effectiveness.

## FEDERAL LEGISLATION

The board urges Congress to eliminate unnecessary mandates and regulations on schools. The board also supports requiring a clear and complete description of the potential impact of education legislation on the fiscal budget, operations and programs of local schools and school districts.