

## MOORE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION ON K-3 CLASS SIZE RATIOS

WHEREAS, local school districts receive state funding for classroom teacher salaries based on funding ratios of one position per a specified number of students at each grade level; and

WHEREAS, local school districts have traditionally been afforded flexibility to allow class sizes in kindergarten through third grade to exceed the classroom teacher funding ratios within set limits; and

WHEREAS, this approach has provided local school districts with crucial flexibility to fund teaching positions in art, music, and physical education – none of which receive separate funding allotments – by setting aside some teacher allotments to cover salaries for those positions; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 115C-301, as amended by Session Law 2017-9, House Bill 13 and approved by the North Carolina General Assembly on April 27, 2017, codifies funding ratios by statute and precludes these past practices beginning with the 2018-2019 school year; and

WHEREAS, the loss of flexibility in this area would have immediate and negative effects on school districts throughout the state, including one or more of the following: (i) drastic cuts in art, music, and physical education teaching positions in kindergarten through third grade; (ii) a dramatic increase in class sizes in grades four through twelve to free up state teacher allotments to fund those positions; (iii) sudden and significant disparity between the supply of and demand for certified K-3 teachers; and/or (iv) sudden new financial burdens on local governments to provide the funding for those same positions, which could necessitate property tax increases; and

WHEREAS, the loss of flexibility in this area would require an immediate reduction in class sizes in kindergarten through third grade, which in turn would increase the number of physical classrooms required at these grade levels, thereby putting additional strains on crowded school facilities and in many cases requiring the purchase of modular classrooms at substantial additional costs; and

WHEREAS, if the issue is not addressed legislatively in the near future, school districts and counties will be forced to develop their 2018-19 budgets in the spring of 2018 on the assumption and understanding that large increases in local funding may be needed to preserve art, music, and physical education positions in kindergarten through third grade and/or positions in all grades four through twelve content areas, and to meet sudden new demands on school facilities; and

WHEREAS, legislative action is urgently needed to avoid the serious, statewide, negative impacts described above; and

WHEREAS, the attachment to this resolution describes the extraordinary negative impacts on the Moore County Schools if this problem is not addressed legislatively in the near future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Moore County Board of Education respectfully requests that the General Assembly pass legislation as early as possible in the 2018 session to provide local school districts with the class size and funding flexibility and/or the additional state funding for program enhancement teachers needed to avoid the severe negative impacts described above; and

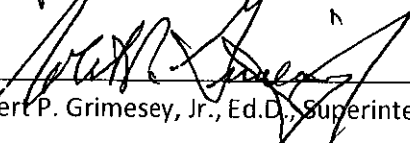
BE IT THEREFORE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Moore County Board of Education respectfully requests that such new legislation achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

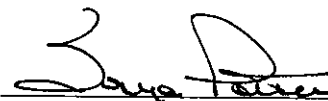
1. Sustain flexibility for K-3 class size assignments as provided by G.S. 115C-301, as amended by Session Law 2017-9, House Bill 13 and applied to the current 2017-18 school year; and/or
2. Establish a state allotment for program enhancement teachers, particularly for art, music and physical education; and/or
3. Delay full implementation of G.S. 115C-301 until the beginning of the 2020-2021 school for districts that meet annual benchmarks intended to demonstrate progress toward full compliance with the statute.

Approved this 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

The Moore County Board of Education

By:   
Helena Wallin-Miller, Chair

By:   
Robert P. Grimesey, Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent

Attest:   
Sonya Potter, Board Clerk