

## Our children deserve more



**From** Carol Sawyer, CMS Board of Education - D4 <carole.sawyer@cms.k12.nc.us>  
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## Our Students Deserve More

The County Manager's proposed budget funds less than half of the \$41 M in new funds requested by CMS. A \$20 M increase will ONLY allow CMS to pay for required expenses. We will not be able increase pay of our teachers and teacher assistants.

CMS has \$21 M in new required expenses - matching state pay raises for locally funded staff + health/retirement increases, charter payments, and new facility operations.

To retain and attract teachers and teacher assistants CMS needs \$14 M to raise the local supplement and increase teacher assistant pay to a minimum of \$16.50/hr. Maintenance costs have skyrocketed, CMS has requested \$4.9 M for preventive maintenance.

BTW - The County Manager's budget proposal raises County employee minimum wage to \$20/hr.

The County Commission public hearing on the budget is May 25, 6 pm. Deadline to register to speak is TODAY, 5 pm. Here's the signup link:

<https://mecknc.seamlessdocs.com/f/clerk>

## Funding Requirements

<b>Investments in Our Employees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estimated state-driven salary increase           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.7% average for certified staff (teachers and APs); 2.5% for principals</li> <li>2.5% for non-certified staff</li> </ul> </li> <li>Retirement and health insurance rate increases</li> </ul>	\$10.8M
<b>Charter Pass-through Payments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charter school enrollment growth           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in charter school pass-through payments—1,563 new students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	\$5.5M
<b>New schools and additional facility space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New elementary school and new high school</li> <li>Staffing, maintenance and operating costs for new schools and added square footage</li> </ul>	\$4.6M
<b>TOTAL REQUIRED BUDGET INCREASES</b>	<b>\$20.9M</b>

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## Key Investment Requests

<b>County pay increase for teachers and certified staff</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% increase in county supplement for all teachers and certified staff</li> </ul>	\$7.9M
<b>County pay increase for teacher assistants (phase I of market study adjustments)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum pay to \$16.50/hour for all teacher assistants</li> <li>Adjust experienced staff in accordance with new market rates</li> </ul>	\$6.0M
<b>School resource officers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional resource officers (4) and contract increases</li> </ul>	\$0.7M
<b>Preventative maintenance (net of budget realignment of \$.1M)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To maintain equipment in optimal operating condition, reduce the risk of system breakdowns and emergency repairs, and minimize operating and longer term repair costs (i.e. HVAC, generators, cameras, sprinkler systems, fire alarms, pest treatment)</li> </ul>	\$4.9M
<b>TOTAL KEY REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$19.5M</b>

Please forward this email to friends.

If you can't make it to the Public Hearing on the budget, please email members of the County Commission to support full CMS funding:

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[elaine.powell@mecklenburgcountync.gov](mailto:elaine.powell@mecklenburgcountync.gov)

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