



## ***NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION***

### ***2012 Legislative Priorities***

#### **1) 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)

#### **2) LOCAL BOARD AUTHORITY**

The Newton County School Board of Education supports the concept that curriculum determination is the domain of state and local boards of education. Thus, NCBOE encourages the General Assembly to resist legislative attempts to mandate curriculum.

#### **3) OPTING OUT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS USING PUBLIC FUNDS**

The Newton County Board of Education is opposed to vouchers, tuition tax credits, or scholarships whose purpose is to allocate public funds to private schools, home study or charter schools. Furthermore, the NCBOE wants to oppose legislation enacting the Charter Commission.

#### **4) PROGRAM FUNDING**

- a) The Newton County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to sufficiently fund the actual costs of textbooks, including texts and instructional materials on-line and/or other electronic forms.
- b) The Newton County Board of Education supports legislative proposals which appropriate funds needed for a quality basic education on weighted FTE student cost basis.
- c) The Newton County Board of Education believes that any program, project, or requirement mandated by state government should be funded by the state in such a manner that operation or implementation of the mandate does not impose financial or other burdens on local school systems.
- d) The Newton County Board of Education urges the General Assembly to increase the funding for maintenance, operation and transportation. There now exists a drastic difference in the level of state funding for these areas and their actual costs, causing increases in local property taxes as the only source local boards have for making up the difference.

#### **5) POLICY AND IMPACT**

- a) The Newton County Board of Education supports establishing a mandatory, minimum 12-month waiting period prior to implementation of state education legislation.
- b) The Newton County Board of Education also supports requiring a clear and complete description of the potential impact of state education legislation on the fiscal budget, operations and programs of local schools and school districts.