

✓ **Maintenance, Operation, and Transportation (MOT) Funding**

We support the increase of funding for maintenance and operation and transportation. There now exists a drastic difference in the level of state funding for these areas and there actual costs, causing increases in local property taxes as the only source local boards have for making up the difference.

Expenditures for	Source of Funding	
	State	Local
Maintenance and Operations	\$4,803,320	\$8,688,984
Transportation	\$1,593,456	\$6,899,754
Nurses	\$299,636	\$709,130
School Safety Officers	\$0	\$920,633

✓ **Waivers for Acreage**

We support the General Assembly in its efforts to endorse waivers of the State Board of Education rules outlining minimum acreage requirements for school construction.

✓ **Charter Schools Commission**

We oppose the existence and actions of the Commission on Charter Schools (CSS). The Newton County Board of Education believes that the Commission on Charter Schools' authority and actions are in conflict with the constitutional authority of local boards of education to make decisions regarding approval or rejection and subsequent financial support of a charter school to be located in its own county.

✓ **HB 251 Opposition**

We oppose any additions/amendments to HB 251 that will restrict the Newton County Board of Education's control in defining space in schools available for granting school choice.

Contact your legislators and tell them you support Newton County School System's Legislative Priorities!

**Senator John Douglas**

R-District 17  
302-A Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[John.Douglas@senate.ga.gov](mailto:John.Douglas@senate.ga.gov)

**Representative Doug Holt**

R-District 112  
401 Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[Doug.Holt@house.ga.gov](mailto:Doug.Holt@house.ga.gov)

**Representative John Lunsford**

R-District 110  
401 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[john.lunsford@house.ga.gov](mailto:john.lunsford@house.ga.gov)

**Representative Toney Collins**

D- District 95  
604-B Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
[toneycollins95@gmail.com](mailto:toneycollins95@gmail.com)

**NEWTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Dr. C.C. Bates  
Board Chair & District 5

Ms. Cathy Dobbs  
Vice Chair & District 3

Mr. Eddie Johnson  
District 2

Mr. Johnny Smith  
District 1

Mr. Almond Turner  
District 4

Dr. Steve Whatley  
Superintendent

**Newton County Schools**

2109 Newton Drive NE  
Covington, Georgia 30014  
Phone: 770.787.1330  
Fax: 770.784.2950

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

2010  
Legislative  
Priorities

Newton County Schools



Our mission is to provide educational excellence for all students.

**A Message From the Newton County Board of Education...**



Standing: Mr. Eddie Johnson, Mr. Almond Turner, & Mr. Johnny Smith. Seated: Ms. Cathy Dobbs & Dr. C.C. Bates

The Georgia State Constitution, article 8, section 5, paragraph 2, grants responsibility for “control and management” of schools to an elected local board of education. However, the State, too, plays a critical role in matters of public education, thus forming an essential partnership, especially during the educational and economic challenges of 2010 and upcoming years.

Each year, as the Georgia General Assembly addresses matters critically important to the operation of the schools in the State of Georgia, the Newton County Board of Education develops a list of legislative priorities to be considered by our local Senator and Representatives of Newton County in the General Assembly. We view these priorities, especially in these tough economic times, as a means of keeping a focus on providing quality educational services for our students through that critical partnership.

**--Newton County Board of Education**

✓ **Tax Reform, Policy and Impact**

The Newton County Board of Education supports the General Assembly’s developing a state tax policy which addresses the continued erosion of the State Revenue Base. Until such measures are developed, we support a moratorium on changes in taxes which reduces the state revenue base and does not consider the state’s ability to adequately fund education and other state government operations.

**History of Reductions in State Funding for Quality Base Education in Newton County**

Fiscal Year	Description	State Revenue Reductions
FY 2006	Austerity Reduction Noted on Allotment	\$ 2,848,138
FY 2007	Amended Formula Adjustment Noted on Allotment	\$ 1,729,297
FY 2008	Formula Adjustment Noted on Allotment	\$ 1,528,941
FY 2009	Formula Adjustment Noted on Allotment* * Supplemented by \$1,862,555 ARRA funds	\$ 5,730,443
FY 2010	Formula Adjustment Noted on Allotment** Includes Reduction in Equalization Funding **Supplemented by \$4,995,547 ARRA funds	\$ 9,234,249
<b>Total Revenue Lost Due to State Cuts</b>		<b>\$ 21,071,068</b>

**Source of 2009-2010 Revenues**

	Amount	% of Revenue
From State Sources	\$90,294,080	59.5
From Local Sources	\$61,356,654	40.5

✓ **Revenue Shortfalls**

Given the state’s revenue shortfalls and their effects in the 2010 budget, further cuts to the school district or furloughs need to be known by the Newton County Schools by January 28, 2010 so that the school and work calendars can be adjusted.

✓ **Continuation of Waivers of Selected Title 20 and Title 50 Laws**

We support legislation and/or State Board of Education rule changes which would allow the continuation of waivers of class sizes for 2011-2012.

✓ **Capital Outlay-Regular and Exceptional Growth Entitlements**

We support the continuing of state dollars for capital outlay projects for school construction at the \$200 million level; further we support the funding of exceptional growth needs at the \$150 million level. The Newton County School System, an exceptional growth school system, would lose growth dollars due to the sunseting of the law.

**Average Capital Outlay Share for School Construction**

	Amount	Percent of Share
State	\$25,830,100	41%
Local	\$36,579,312	59%

✓ **Local Authority of Board of Education**

We support the authorization of a legislative subcommittee to examine governance issues for Georgia public education related specifically to supporting the constitutional requirement that “each school system shall be under the management and control of a board of education...”

✓ **Appropriation of Funds for Education Resources and Textbooks**

We support the funding of the state’s QBE—Quality Basic Education—formula allocations to cover actual costs of textbooks, media materials, instructional materials, including materials in electronic formats.