



2025 Legislative Priorities

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Areas of Focus

Priority 1. Funding and Resources

Priority 2. Teaching and Learning

Priority 3. Mental Health and Well-Being

Priority 4. Safety and Security

Priority 5. Fortifying Public Education



Funding and Resources

Newton County Schools supports legislation and corresponding advocacy efforts that provides adequate resources toward the effort of advancing public education.

- Prioritize an equitable funding formula that ensures resource distribution consistent with school district's unique needs.
- Modernize the QBE formula to account for: 1. Safety and Security funding 2. Poverty, and 3. Updated funding weights for classified employees and mental health support personnel (i.e. school psychologists, social workers, and school counselors)

Teaching and Learning

Newton County Schools supports legislation and advocacy efforts that promote and protect teacher needs while also fairly evaluating student performance.

- Advance legislation that enables a balanced accountability system and prioritizes growth/progress model for student achievement using multiple measures for student and teacher performance.
 - **Note:** *The accountability system must recognize the complexities of each school system and community (i.e. special populations, socioeconomics).*
- Advocate for legislation that advances digital equity; providing resources that guarantee high-speed internet access for all students. This includes funding for infrastructure improvements in underserved areas.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

Newton County Schools supports legislation that better positions schools and school districts to respond to the full-range of student's mental and emotional needs.

- Advocate for measures that expand access to mental healthcare, including training for teachers and other education professionals to better support student needs.



Safety and Security

Newton County Schools supports legislative efforts that result in safety improvements that protect the learning environment.

- Introduce and/or advocate for legislation that strengthens penalties for threatening conduct directed towards students, school-based personnel, or conduct that may otherwise result in substantial disruption to normal school related operations.
- Advocate for the allocation of resources to school districts to assist with identifying and thwarting cyber threats.



Fortify Public Education

Newton County Schools supports legislation that strengthens the ability to provide quality public education.

- Prioritize legislation that empowers local school districts to make decisions that best meet the needs of their local communities.
- Implement comprehensive accountability systems for voucher programming.



Newton County Schools Legislative Delegation, 2025

State

- State Senator Tonya Anderson
- State Senator Brian Strickland
- Representative Clint Crowe
- Representative Tim Fleming
- Representative Sharon Henderson

Federal

- US Senator John Ossoff
- US Senator Raphael Warnock
- US Congressman Mike Collins
- US Congressman Hank Johnson
- US Congressman David Scott

