

**Resolution to Uphold the Constitutional Right to a Sound Basic Education and to Fund
the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Constitution, affirmed by the landmark *Leandro v. State of North Carolina* (1997) and reinforced through multiple rulings including the 2020 Consent Order, guarantees every child the right to a sound, basic education; and

WHEREAS, the New Hanover County Board of Education, as directed by N.C. Statute §115C-47, bears the duty to ensure students receive this constitutional right through responsible policy and budgetary decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Leandro rulings have repeatedly found that systemic underfunding deprives thousands of students across North Carolina—especially those who are economically disadvantaged—of the education they are entitled to, and that the \$5.54 billion Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan provides a detailed and achievable roadmap to rectify these deficiencies; and

WHEREAS, persistent underinvestment in public education has contributed to poor academic outcomes, economic stagnation, health disparities, and generational poverty, while only 31% of students in grades 3–8 are meeting reading benchmarks—a crisis that demands urgent intervention; and

WHEREAS, the state has ample financial capacity to fully fund the Leandro Plan, with billions in reserves and surplus revenue, and yet only a fraction of the plan has been funded, while public funds are increasingly diverted to unregulated private school voucher programs; and

WHEREAS, a robust public education system—with high-quality teachers, principals, early education, aligned career pathways, and equitable funding—is essential for democracy, economic strength, and social cohesion in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, business leaders, education experts, and courts have consistently affirmed the value of fully funding the Leandro Plan as a necessary investment in the state’s present and future prosperity;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hanover County Board of Education supports the immediate and full implementation of the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan and calls upon the General Assembly, Governor Stein, and all state officials to:

- Uphold their constitutional duty to provide every child a sound basic education;
- Ensure that public school funding is not undermined by expanding private school voucher programs;
- Release without further delay the funds required to implement the Leandro Plan in accordance with the 2020 Consent Order and the 2022 NC Supreme Court decision.

Adopted this day, _____, by the New Hanover County Board of Education.