



The New Hanover County Board of Education

SUPERINTENDENT
DR. TIM MARKLEY

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March 13, 2017

North Carolina State Senators

Dear Senators:

On the behalf of the New Hanover County Board of Education (Board), I write to express our appreciation for your support of our school system and ask that you continue to support our students by **ratifying House Bill 13**. The North Carolina House of Representative unanimously approved HB 13, which limits Grades K-3 class size average to three above the state's allotment and the individual class size max to six above the allotted amount. In addition, I am sharing information pertaining to our current formulas.

The Board and the citizens of New Hanover County are greatly concerned regarding the projected impact of legislated changes (NCGS 115C-301) to the K-3 class size maximums. **We believe if House Bill 13 or a similar bill isn't ratified by the Senate** it would be necessary for the New Hanover County Schools System to:

- Reduce the number of Art, Music and PE teachers in our county. (This would impact 25 or more of our current teachers and their families.);
- Hire an approximately 47 additional Grade K-3 classroom teachers.; and
- Provide additional classroom space after converting art rooms, music rooms, computer labs and any other spaces larger than 300 sq. feet as regular classrooms. (Thirteen of our elementary schools **do not have space** for 30 of the 47 additional Grade K-3 classrooms required under the new formula.)

New Hanover County Schools Grade K-3 local formulas are two student higher than the current state formula in Grades K-3 and one higher in Grades 4-5. The local differential funds for Grades K-3 supports 50 of the 72 Art, Music and PE Teachers. Grades 4-5 local differential funds supports seven or more Art, Music and PE Teachers.

The New Hanover County Board of Education appreciates your continued support of our students and ask you to support House Bill 13.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Higgins, Jr., Chairman
New Hanover County Board of Education