



# Muscofee County School District

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget**

**(Columbus, GA)**-The proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 budget for the Muscofee County School District (MCSD) matches additional state funding to award teachers a permanent raise. Governor Nathan Deal's state budget increase came with a challenge to Georgia's school districts to end furlough days and raise teacher pay. The district is meeting that challenge and applauds Governor Deal for challenging Georgia's school districts to raise teacher pay.

"We were ahead of the curve last year when the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget gave additional pay to its teachers with the longest service and support staff including, but not limited to bus drivers, secretaries, and paraprofessionals," said Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent. "The long-service bonus for teachers in last year's budget was the *first* phase of a long-term strategy to increase MCSD employees' pay. We have the best teachers and support staff in the state, and I am committed to increasing their pay without raising taxes."

The district's proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget continues the trend using state and local funds to increase pay for teachers and support staff across the board. This year, the State budget included a total increase in funding of \$1.7 million dollars over last year's budget. *Every* penny of the additional \$1.7 million dollars is proposed to fund pay increases for teachers and support staff. The district also proposes to contribute \$1.9 million in additional local funds. The Superintendent says it is money well spent.

"We appreciate what the State committed in funding and we are using all of the increase to recognize the hard work and dedication of our teachers and support staff," added Lewis. "It is well deserved and long overdue."

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While the district was allocated an additional \$5.7 million in State dollars, the increase was *offset* by a loss of \$4 million dollars in State funding. As a result, the district only received an additional \$1.7 million in State funds, which was allocated to increase pay for teachers and support staff.

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