

## Administration

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## Board of Education

Kathie Russell  
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Norman Clark  
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Holly Duncan  
Deb McManus  
Gerald Totten

October 8, 2008

The Honorable Joe Hackney  
N. C. House of Representatives  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2304  
Raleigh, NC 27601-1096

Dear Representative Hackney:

You may have recently read that Judge Manning of Wake County Superior Court ruled that various state agencies owe \$747 million to local school systems across North Carolina. The judge's ruling was a follow-up to a 2005 unanimous decision of the North Carolina Supreme Court that those agencies had wrongly kept administrative fines that belonged to the public schools under the State Constitution.

The Court ordered that the funds be distributed on each public school system's percentage of the overall student enrollment in North Carolina. In addition the ruling requires that the funds be used to improve technology in our schools.

Our county, like most others in North Carolina is woefully behind in providing our students the technologically based education that will be critical to helping them compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The funds designated by Judge Manning would help us close that gap.

Our board and the N.C. School Boards Association looks forward to working with the General Assembly to devise a fair way for those funds to be repaid within a reasonable timetable so they can be put to work for our school children in every classroom.

The Chatham County Board of Education strongly desires to work with our State leaders to improve educational services for our children. Furthermore, we understand and respect your prudent position on this matter. Simply, it is our goal to advance the educational opportunities for our youth through all possible means.

Please find enclosed a statement made on behalf of our N.C. School Boards Association about the ruling. It includes some background on the issue. We would look forward to the opportunity to talk with you further about this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Logan, Superintendent  
Chatham County Schools

Kathie Russell, Chairwoman  
Chatham County Board of Education

Norman Clark, Vice-Chairman  
Chatham County Board of Education

Holly Duncan, Board Member  
Chatham County Board of Education

Deb McManus, Board Member  
Chatham County Board of Education

Col. Gerald Totten, Board Member  
Chatham County Board of Education

Enclosure