

Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA

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Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA strongly believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all students can reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA also believes that specialized instruction in physical education and the arts, such as music, literature, dance, drama, and visual arts are central to learning. Infusion of the arts in elementary, middle and secondary education curricula is key to the development of students and an important element of a well-rounded, high quality education.

Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA also believes that the teaching of the arts and physical education must be done by qualified teachers who are trained in these specialized fields. Students benefit when their environments are diverse and they receive instruction, mentoring and support from a variety of people.

Last year, the NC General Assembly passed its budget with a section that limited class sizes for grades K-3 starting with the 2017-18 school year. Unfortunately, the unintended consequences resulted in an un-funded mandate that would require thousands of new K-3 teachers in public schools across the state, and more than 400 teachers in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) alone.

WCPSS does not currently have the facilities for these 400 new elementary classes, nor do the certified teachers for these classes exist. **To pay for 400 additional classroom teachers, WCPSS may have to eliminate classes like art, music, PE, media, technology and others.**

Also, WCPSS estimates it would need to build more than 20 new elementary schools to house the additional K-3 classes needed to accommodate the 400 additional teachers, further straining the budget for 2017-2018 and future years. Immediately – this impacts students at every school where space is already impossible to find. Children will be taught in gym's, corners of cafeterias or other odd places that a "classroom" can be built.

Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA supports the quick passage of HB13, which would adjust language in the North Carolina budget, giving school districts the ability to exceed class size limits by six students per class in K-3 if needed. The passage of HB13 would allow for the retention of arts, music and other cultural arts programming, as well the retention of qualified educators to teach these classes.

The great state of North Carolina has made substantial progress in both growth and achievement in recent years. We need to remain focused and determined to do the best for our students. On behalf of the ACES PTA - please pass HB13 now.

ACES PTA Board

Voted on: March 29, 2017

Adopted by: Laura M Bowman

Laura Bowman – President, Abbotts Creek Elementary School PTA 2016-2017

