

Henderson County Schools

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To: Marganna Stanley, Superintendent
and School Board Members

From: Cindy Cloutier
Director of Finance *Cloutier*

Date: August 19, 2019

Re: 2019-2020 Tax Rates

I would first like to thank each of you for trusting me and allowing me to do what I do with the finances of Henderson County Schools. My job is to do what is best for the students and staff of Henderson County Schools. Part of this includes asking for the 4% tax increase each year. This is not something that I like to do, but something that I believe is necessary so that we may provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

We have made tremendous strides in the last few years in instruction, facilities, and school safety. The 1:1 Technology Initiative is now in grades 2-12 and will require anywhere from \$500,000 to \$1.3 million dollars a year in order to keep those devices refreshed. The unfunded half-day of kindergarten carries a cost of nearly \$1 million dollars each year. Transportation includes an unfunded proration of \$1.5 million dollars. These and other unfunded mandates are devastating to a budget but they continue to be passed down to school districts across the state.

We have been good stewards of taxpayer dollars and will continue to be conservative while continuing to offer class sizes below cap, a safe environment for our staff and students, and technology to keep pace with 21st century learning. We will continue to put our money toward renovating our facilities into state-of-the art facilities that our community will be proud of.

With all of this said, I would respectfully ask that you consider passing the 4% tax rate for the 2019-2020 school year affording us the opportunity to continue to reach our goals and expand our horizons.