

## ***Why the CMS Budget Matters to Everyone***

The Superintendent's 2014-15 CMS Operating Budget Recommendation supports strong public education by providing: more competitive pay to retain and attract the best educators and support staff, greater academic choice and personalization to meet the unique needs of our students and better prepare them for the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce, more school and student support services to address socio-economic challenges that can impede academic success, and increased literacy supports for young learners. Whether you have children in CMS or not, we all benefit from good public schools. Here's how:

- **Workforce development.** By educating all children – economically disadvantaged children, affluent children, children with disabilities and children who show great academic promise – strong K-12 public education helps build the local and regional workforce needed to attract and retain businesses that spur economic growth.
- **Economic growth.** Education is the best opportunity to break the cycle of poverty that plagues many areas of our Mecklenburg community. A high school diploma is an economic stimulus. People who graduate from high school earn more and spend more, contributing to individual prosperity and Charlotte-Mecklenburg's economic growth.

Research example: The Alliance for Excellent Education, in a study funded by State Farm Insurance, examined the economic impact of the 53,800 students who didn't graduate high school in North Carolina in 2010. The study found that if half of those students had graduated high school, North Carolina's economy would have benefited by:

- \$211 million in increased earnings and \$168 million in increased spending
- \$412 million in increased home sales and \$25 million in increased auto sales
- 1,900 new jobs

*If those same students had graduated from high school and earned a college credential or degree, North Carolina's economy would have benefited even more:*

- \$339 million in increased earnings and \$251 million in increased spending
- \$784 million in increased home sales and \$34 million in increased auto sales
- 3,050 new jobs

- **Better housing values.** Strong public schools can positively impact housing values.

