

# A 2% Salary Increase Approved for Classified Employees

By: Dr. Charles R. Culver, Superintendent of Hancock County Schools



Hancock County Board of Education approved a 2% raise for all classified employees for the 2017-2018 school year. This salary increase, which will come from local funds, was proposed in response to the 2% salary increase for authorized teachers included in Gov. Nathan Deal's budget proposal for the 2018 fiscal year.

Dr. Charles R. Culver, Superintendent, applauded the Hancock County Board of Education for giving financial support to the cadre of classified school employees, indicating that the school system functions as a whole because of the dedication of its classified school employees.

In addition to the 2% increase in salary, the local board of education will be responsible for absorbing costs for bus drivers' health insurance and other non-teaching staff as well as a portion of the rising retirement costs and increased costs for student transportation

Classified employees are responsible for completing tasks necessary to meet the needs of students as well as parents, teachers, and administrators. Some of these very important classified employees fulfill their responsibilities in making sure the school buildings and grounds are clean, safe, and well-maintained for the school program to progress successfully. Others provide safe and orderly transportation services for students, making sure all students arrive to and from school in a safe, timely, and comfortable manner.

Classified employees are essential to the education of the children and youth of the county. From the time students enter campus or board a school bus in the morning to the time they head home at the end of the day, every aspect of their education experience depend, to some degree, on classified employees. Whether classified employees are in the classroom, on the playground, the school cafeteria, or the financial aid office, classified employees make a difference daily in the lives of students. Just as classified employees are on the front lines working to ensure the safety and care of students, many are working to build better communities.

Most classified employees in Hancock County Schools have worked in the school system for years. During these years, they strengthened the working relationship between the school and the community, which is important for school improvement initiatives. Classified employees are relatives of families who have children in the school system, and many classified employees have children in the schools. They are also involved in the religious, social, and cultural activities of the community. Whether they give their time and energy supporting athletic events, which is a major interest of the people of the community, engaging in major community events, or volunteering in school initiatives, classified employees are valued members of the school system and community.

Dr. Culver said, "Hancock County School System employs more than **55** dedicated classified employees who perform a variety of services to keep our schools operating at a high standard, including school security,

food services, office and clerical staff, school maintenance and operations, academic assistance, transportation, library and media assistance, computer services, and more.”

The 2% salary increase is a part of the local initiative to ensure that all employees of the school system receive a similar raise for the ensuing school year. Whether they are certified or classified, all employees make a difference in the lives of students each day, and I am happy to support the Hancock County Board of Education’s decision to make possible an increase in salary for all employees.