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Lenora Shipp, At-Large  
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Rhonda Cheek, District 1  
Thelma Byers-Bailey, District 2  
Dr. Ruby M. Jones, District 3  
Carol Sawyer, District 4  
Margaret Marshall, District 5  
Sean Strain, District 6

Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore, North Carolina Senate

Tim Moore, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives

Eric C. Davis, Chairman, North Carolina State Board of Education

Mark Johnson, North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Dear Sirs:

As we navigate through the nationwide health crisis caused by the COVID-19 virus, we are planning for an abbreviated school year because of the closure of schools. The situation is fluid and we expect more changes will be coming quickly.

We need your help in addressing this crisis. We are requesting some unprecedented changes for these unprecedented times. These requests will benefit our students, our staff and our district, as well as other districts in North Carolina.

Specifically, we are requesting four things:

- A waiver of the minimum number of days/hours of instruction for the 2019-2020 school year as required by the state school calendar laws;
- A waiver of End-of-Course and End-of-Grade state tests for the 2019-2020 school year;
- The authority to award emergency leave pay to all public school employees who are unable to work because their job duties cannot be performed remotely and reasonable alternate work is not feasible or productive; and
- The authority to award emergency leave pay to all public school employees who are sick due to COVID-19 or who are caring for a dependent with COVID-19.

We recognize that these are significant changes to the established operating framework for public schools. However, the COVID-19 health crisis is far from over. In addition, even if students return at the end of March, we will face huge obstacles in catching them up and preparing them for the end-of-year testing, as well as meeting current requirements for seat hours. Finally, we are concerned that our non-exempt employees will experience severe and adverse financial impacts as a result of this extended closure.

All of us are in uncharted territory now because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Granting our requests will help us to continue educational and district operations and give us much-needed flexibility.

Sincerely,

Elyse Dashew, Chair

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

Earnest Winston, Superintendent

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education