

Knox County Schools

Key Educational Investment Proposal FY13-17



Instructional Technology

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$7.2m ***

Smart boards, tablets, wireless, e-books and other established and emerging technologies can help make student learning more efficient, challenging, and engaging. Within the next five years, the Knox County Schools will provide each student with a robust technology device to be used as a learning tool.

Expanded Performance Pay

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$5.4m**

Our average teacher salary is ranked 37th in the state. In order to retain and recruit the very best educators and support strong student learning outcomes, we will need to build on APEX, our strategic compensation initiative, and provide our most effective teachers with additional compensation.

More Instructional Time

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$4.6m**

Whether through balanced calendar, extended school day / school year, or tutorial programs, our student achievement outcomes could be greatly enhanced, particularly for young people who are struggling or in our high needs schools, by students having more time exposed high quality instruction.

Enhanced Instructional Support for Teachers

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$4.6m**

As our teachers are experiencing additional accountability, we must make sure that they have access to the resources and supports that will help them to successfully meet our much more rigorous expectations. More lead teachers, instructional coaches, and more high quality professional development experiences will make a profoundly positive impact on the quality of education we provide.

Student Supports

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$1.5m**

Additional interventions for struggling students and enrichment opportunities for excelling students will ensure that every student will be challenged, supported academically, and ultimately will be successful.

Consistently Excellent Magnet Programs

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$1.4m**

We believe a strong portfolio of magnet schools will both increase educational opportunity for all students, and help drive instructional excellence.

Community Schools

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$1.0m**

The concept of making the school the center of the community has been the focus of an innovative pilot program at Pond Gap Elementary School. This idea has proven successful in many schools across the country, and should be expanded to more schools, ensuring a broader opportunity for student success.

Full Day Kindergarten

Research shows that full day Kindergarten can help set a strong foundation for future learning and literacy. This change, which would be largely budget neutral, would give us more than 300 additional hours of instruction per child.

Capital Improvements

Avg. Annual Investment: **\$8.6m ^**

For our students to be successful, we must provide a safe, healthy, inviting learning environment in all of our schools. Significant and targeted investments in our facilities will help to achieve this important goal.

* Includes potential Operating and Capital investments

^ Not including technology investments