

Education Reform

As part of our Education Reform, we are requesting a Pilot Program in order to evaluate future graduation results.

Pilot Program

Change Drop-Out Age to 18

- **We are requesting a Pilot Program to change the drop-out age from 16 to required attendance through the school year of their 18th birthday.**

School Systems

- **Hickory Public Schools**
- Total Students 4,392

- **Newton-Conover City Schools**
- Total Students 2,985

Culture

The culture created by grandparents and parents, dropping out of school, results in...

If they dropped out, why can't I?

Culture

- Our Congressional District
- At one time, more people were employed in manufacturing in our Congressional District than any other district in the US.
- This encouraged young men/women to drop out of school at age 16 and go to work.

Culture

- Good jobs were available with good pay and benefits.
 - Textiles
 - Hosiery
 - Furniture
- Companies actually recruited in our high schools.

Culture

- That was then, this is now!
- A drop-out, today, will have a bleak future. Welfare, prison, and social services are becoming the norm.
- A drop-out cannot join the military.
- 79.5% of State Prison inmates did not graduate from high school.
- 73% of Federal Prison inmates did not graduate from high school.

Culture

- Why test this in Hickory and Newton-Conover?
- Our MSA (Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba) is last in NC with % of adults without a high school degree.

Education Reform

- Create opportunities for all high school students
- We are building a new Vocational High School.
- Improve opportunities by changing the drop out-age to 18

Resources

- We will need the following additional funding (block grants) to support the necessary changes to ensure the success of our students, especially for at-risk students.
- Hickory Public Schools \$220,000
- Newton-Conover City Schools \$200,000

Pilot Program for Education Reform

- Drop-out age becomes effective in the 2014-2015 school year.
- Funding efforts to become effective in the 2013-2014 school year for purposes of planning and implementation

Young Men and Women

Everything we have said today is about improving the lives of young men and women in making better decisions in their quality of life.



Supporters

- Governor-Elect Pat McCrory
- June Atkinson, Superintendent - DPI
- Bill Harrison, Chairman - SBE
- Sheriff Coy Reid, Catawba County
- Chief Tom Adkins, Hickory Police Dept.
- Centro Latino
- Andy Wells, NC House of Rep - Elect
- Widespread Support in Hickory & Newton-Conover

Among Those Who Care

- Dean Proctor – CFO United Beverages
- Andy Wells – NC House Representative - Elect
- George Moretz – Chairman of Board Carolina Mills
- Jerry Phillips – Retired VP Infocel - Raleigh
- Eddie Bradford – Retired Marketing Agency
- Glenn Barger – Retired Superintendent Catawba County Schools, Catawba County Commissioners

Our Request

- Include this Pilot Program in your Educational Reform Package to be considered by the General Assembly.
- For you to provide legislation for this Pilot Program.