

## Carol DeSoto

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**From:** Gwen Todd <info@email.actionnetwork.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 9:27 AM  
**To:** Public Record  
**Subject:** Fully Fund CCPS!

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County Commissioner,

I am a resident of Charles County, a parent of two CCPS children, and an 18 year employee of the school system. I realize that tough economic times are ahead. However, I also know - without a doubt - that if we do not pay our teachers that those times will be tougher. Why? Charles County is built on the premise that our county provides a strong alternative for housing and education without sacrificing time commuting to work. I have watched over the last 3 years as colleague after colleague left the school system in search of better pay and opportunities elsewhere. Our school system is suffering and struggling to hire replacements due to our lack of competitive pay.

As a parent, I am appalled at the number of provisional certificates (and therefore under educated) teachers my daughter is encountering at the middle school level. As a high school teacher, I know that her outlook - without your funding - is stark when she arrives in 9th grade. When I talk to colleagues who leave and former students who are teaching in other counties, their reasons are the lack of respect given in Charles County. That is reflected in our pay scale in comparison to our competitors for qualified candidates. If you want to strengthen Charles County's appeals to new residents so they live here and spend their money here, our school are your first line of defense. Underfunding them is equal to undervaluing your your community to potential residents.

I ask that you fully fund the Superintendent's budget request for the upcoming fiscal year. Now, more than ever, we've seen the impact that public education has on our community, and we need to make sure that every resource is at our disposal to maximize the education and services we provide to the students and residents of Charles County.

I know that the current times are challenging for many, but I also know that the longer-term vision of what Charles County is, and can be, is important in moving through – and beyond – the current crisis. We start to fulfill a positive vision, together, when we put resources where they are most needed. Fully fund CCPS to show that you, too, are for our students.

#EACC4OurStudents

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