

## Carol DeSoto

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**From:** Patrick James <pjames@ccboe.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 8, 2020 7:48 PM  
**To:** Public Record  
**Subject:** Fact: Investing in Education Works

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County Commissioner,

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Patrick James and I am teacher at Thomas Stone High School. Obviously, I am messaging you in support of the Superintendent's approved budget plan for the next school year. I understand the difficult times we are currently experiencing and the uncertainty that lies ahead. However, I would like to briefly talk about the benefits of investing in education. Coincidentally, I am currently enrolled in a Education Economics course for grad school. What I have learned, from pouring through countless data and studies, is that investing in education works. Increasing teacher salary directly correlates with higher student test scores. Higher performing teacher produce higher performing students. These are facts - not opinions. Investing more into education is a long-term plan. If you throw some money towards the schools this year but reduce funding next year, it won't make a difference. But if you commit to dedicating more funding each and every year. If you be come a leader in Southern Maryland and the rest of the state in investing in education, we will see the long-term benefits. With a better educational system, our county's citizens will have a higher average salary. They will produce more of an economic output. This would provide more local opportunity and require less involvement and stimulation from the Charles Co. government. You will have to spend less on public safety and court systems. You will spend less on social safety nets. These are all facts. There is endless data to support what I am saying. Will the change happen overnight? Obviously not, but if we can start the movement now, you can say you helped start something special in Charles County. Please make this school system that people are proud to work for. Thank you for the your time!

Patrick James

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