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PTA, Knoxville Chamber endorse school budget

The [Knox County Council PTA](#) Board of Managers and the Board of Directors for the [Knoxville Chamber of Commerce](#) has unanimously endorsed the Knox County Schools FY2013 budget. The Knox County Board of Education passed the Knox County Schools' budget at its April 4 meeting. The budget allows for a \$35 million structural revenue increase over expected natural revenue growth, and is designed to sustain the Knox County Schools' critical instructional efforts, and

support several key initiatives that will accelerate the solid academic progress that has been made in student learning and academic success.

"Knox County Council Board of Managers fully supports the School Board's proposed budget as sent to County Commission," said Shannon Sumner, President of the Knox County Council PTA. "This budget will set a foundation for improving education of all Knox County School students. This budget will allow a plan to be in place and fund to completion. We urge the community to support this plan."

"The community with the best schools wins," said Mitch Steenrod, chairman of the Knoxville Chamber Board. "A highly skilled workforce makes the difference in a local company's ability to grow, provide good, high-paying jobs, and contribute to the community. It is also the key differentiator when companies decide to relocate or expand. This will be the preferred location for new jobs if we make Knox County Schools the Best in the Southeast – a goal adopted by the School Board and Knox County Commission."

"While Knox County's unemployment rate is the lowest among the state's metro areas, it is too high and there are too many people underemployed," said Mike Edwards, the Knoxville Chamber's President and CEO. "At the same time, there are companies in the region that have job openings they cannot fill because available workers do not have the needed skills. That's an indictment of our education system and it means we all need to focus on ensuring that students are getting the proper problem-solving skills. We must do a better job of preparing students for the jobs of the future – jobs that will require high-tech skills and the mental agility to identify problems and find solutions."



The \$35 million structural includes investing in several specific, proven strategies to significantly enhance student learning and success, including:

- Instructional Technology
- Expanded Performance Pay for Teachers
- More Instructional Time
- Enhanced Instructional Support for Teachers
- Student Supports
- Consistently Excellent Magnet Programs
- Community Schools
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Capital Improvements

Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett will present his budget on May 1, 2012, while the Knox County Commission will vote on the overall county budget on May 30, 2012.