



Legislative Agenda and Guiding Principles

The Cabarrus County Chamber supports legislative action that promotes a **strong quality of life** by fostering a **growing economy** for our county, region and state. We believe that the state must focus on **developing a skilled workforce** in order to strengthen business and improve the lives of our residents. To that end, we encourage the General Assembly to:

1. **Support career readiness** for high school students by removing barriers to apprenticeships and strengthening the connection between our high schools and community colleges. Examples include:
 - a. Continued funding for students who are dually enrolled.
 - b. Investment in state-of-the art training equipment.
 - c. Promoting manufacturing and trade careers as part of K-12 education.
2. **Revise the school report card system** to recognize both achievement and growth so that businesses have a better understanding of the performance of their local schools.

In addition to these workforce initiatives, the Cabarrus Chamber follows the following guiding principles in evaluating legislation:

1. We support **investment in infrastructure**. Specifically, the state must **invest in transportation systems** that allow businesses to move people, goods and products, **education systems** that improve our workforce, and **technology platforms** that allow businesses to seamlessly interact with government.
2. We support legislation that **recognizes the needs of both our growing communities and those that are economically challenged** and that both communities can exist within the same county.
3. We **oppose unfunded mandates** on local governments or the creation of programs without recurring funding.
4. We recognize that **the current health insurance system is unaffordable for many small businesses** and support efforts at all levels of government to address this burden on our small businesses.
5. Regulation on the business community must have a clearly articulated policy objective, must be fairly enforced, and should be a cost-effective means of achieving the objective.