



**Dr. James Sullivan**  
Director of Schools

## **Rutherford County Board of Education**

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James Joseph Sullivan IV, Ed.D

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Dear Rutherford County Delegation,

Rutherford County is a flourishing community and attracts people from across the nation. With endless job opportunities, affordable living and competitive wages, and a school system that consistently ranks among the best school districts in Tennessee and one that has outpaced national rankings on a number of measures, Rutherford County has experienced exponential growth consistently for the past two decades. Rutherford County has the fourth largest school district and the fastest growing community in the state of Tennessee; in addition, Rutherford County is also ranked #16 for the fastest growth among cities in the United States with a 5-year growth percentage of 19.1%. Rutherford County is the ideal community that has set a high standard that offers only the best to its citizens.

However, this abundant growth has not come without its growing pains. The consistent, copious growth has put a financial strain on the Rutherford County School district. Our school district averages over 1200 new students each school year. This year alone we have added over 1300 new students with half the school year remaining. This growth equals the need of a minimum of one new school every year. The cost to build one high school in Rutherford County would average 153 million and not include the additional revenue needed to employ the additional teachers and staff needed to operate and sustain the building once opened. Our community's growth does not pay for the demands of increased enrollment in our school district.

Rutherford County Schools has a longstanding tradition of setting the precedent for a high standard of public education in Tennessee and nationally. To maintain this quality of excellence, we must ensure our students are in learning environments that are conducive to learning, deliver innovative technology, and offer a variety of opportunities for our students to develop the whole child to generate productive citizens. In our growing community, this takes increased funding. Simply put, we cannot maintain the extraordinary success of our schools without an increase in revenue to meet the demands of growth. I ask for your support in allowing Rutherford County government the same ability to generate revenue afforded to the four municipalities within Rutherford County and other counties in Tennessee. Local control should be afforded to best meet the needs of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James Sullivan IV'.

James Sullivan IV, Ed.D  
Director of Schools  
Rutherford County Schools

***"Investing in Our Students for Tomorrow's Possibilities"***