

FY 2025-26 Recommended Legislative Priorities and Government Affairs Updates

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NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Upcoming Legislative Deadlines

- NCGA 2025 Long Session first convened on **Wednesday, January 8**, and reconvened on **Wednesday, January 29**.
- **Upcoming Legislative Deadlines**
 - ❖ **February 27:** Senate Bill *Drafting* Deadline
 - ❖ **March 6:** House Bill *Drafting* Deadline
 - ❖ **March 25:** Senate Bill *Filing* Deadline
 - ❖ **April 3:** House Bill *Filing* Deadline
 - ❖ **May 8: Bill Crossover Deadline**
 - *Note: Finance and Appropriations bills are excepted from crossover deadline, among other exceptions*



NCGA Education Committee Leadership

HOUSE

- **Education Appropriations**
 - **Chairs:** Reps. Tricia Cotham, David Willis, Brian Biggs
- **K-12 Education**
 - **Chairs:** Reps. Tricia Cotham, David Willis, Brian Biggs
- **Appropriations (Base Budget)**
 - **Senior Chairs:** Reps. Donny Lambeth, Dean Arp, Kyle Hall, Larry Strickland
 - **Chairs:** Reps. Erin Paré, Hugh Blackwell, William Brisson



NCGA Education Committee Leadership

SENATE

- **Education/ Higher Education Appropriations**
 - **Chairs:** Sens. Paul Newton, Kevin Corbin, Brad Overcash
- **Education/ Higher Education**
 - **Chairs:** Sens. Michael V. Lee, Kevin Corbin, Brad Overcash
- **Appropriations (Base Budget)**
 - **Chairs:** Sens. Brent Jackson, Ralph Hise, Michael V. Lee



FY 2025-26 Recommended Legislative Priorities

Recommended legislative priorities are aligned with the Superintendent's vision for our public school system to *Achieve Educational Excellence* and the six pillars he has laid out to guide our work:

- Prepare each student for their next phase of life.
- Invest in public schools by fully funding public education.
- Revere public school educators.
- Enhance parent and community support.
- Ensure safe, secure learning environments.
- Celebrate the good in public education.



FY 2025-26 Recommended Legislative Priorities

Overall priorities to strengthen our public schools:

- Support students in Western North Carolina recover from the impacts of Hurricane Helene, including providing an additional \$100 million to address school facility needs in impacted districts
- Invest in raising teacher and educator pay so that North Carolina has the highest teacher salaries in the Southeast and restore master's pay for all educators
- Reform the principal pay plan
- Help address the nearly \$13 billion in school construction needs across the state



Teacher Salaries Across Southeast

Average Teacher Salary, 2022-23

	Avg. Teacher Salary, 2022-23
Georgia	\$64,461
Virginia	\$63,103
Alabama	\$60,441
South Carolina	\$57,778
North Carolina	\$56,559
Kentucky	\$56,296
Tennessee	\$55,369
Arkansas	\$54,309
Louisiana	\$54,248
Mississippi	\$53,354
Florida	\$53,098
West Virginia	\$52,870

Source: National Education Association, *Rankings of States 2023 and Estimate of School Statistics 2024*

Starting Teacher Salary, 2022-23

	Starting Teacher Salary, 2022-23
Florida	\$ 47,178
Virginia	\$ 46,250
Louisiana	\$ 45,593
Alabama	\$ 43,679
Mississippi	\$ 42,336
Tennessee	\$ 42,164
South Carolina	\$ 42,026
Georgia	\$ 41,148
West Virginia	\$ 40,339
North Carolina	\$ 40,136
Kentucky	\$ 39,204
Arkansas	\$ 37,907

Source: National Education Association, *2022-2023 Teacher Salary Benchmark Report*



Student and School Support

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Increase in School Health Personnel Allotment	R	\$65,490,706
Implement Exceptional Children Weighted Funding Formula	R	\$229,800,000
Student Transportation Information Management (TIMS)	R	\$140,500
New Cooperative Innovative High Schools (Martin County Schools, Moore County Schools, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools)	R	\$635,000
School Breakfast and Lunch at No Cost to Students	R	\$377,000,000
Convert SRO Grants into an Appropriation Based on Formula for Elementary and Middle Schools	R	\$120,000,000
Charter School Review Board Operating, Travel Expenses, and Legal Counsel	R	\$82,100



School Health Personnel Staff-to-Student Ratios

School Counselors	2022	1:361	Recommended	1:250	<p>72%</p>
	2023	1:346			
School Nurses	2022	1:833	Recommended	1 per school	<p>69%</p>
	2023	1:809			
School Social Workers	2022	1:1,033	Recommended	1:250	<p>26%</p>
	2023	1:969			
School Psychologists	2022	1:1,979	Recommended	1:500	<p>27%</p>
	2023	1:1,855			

Source: NC Healthy Schools, NCDPI

Academic Support and Coaching

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Support for Low Performing Districts	R	\$4,500,000
Expand DIBELS Diagnostic to Grades 4-5	R NR	\$1,390,800 \$966,508
Expand Literacy Professional Development and Support to Grades 6-8 (9 FTE)	R NR	\$14,000,000 \$25,002,000
K-8 Math Screener	R	\$44,000,000
Beginning Teacher Support Program Regional Convenings	R	\$500,000
Beginning Teacher Support Program Evaluation (FY27)	NR	\$750,000
Professional Misconduct Investigator (1 FTE)	R	\$120,000
Rulemaking Coordinator (1 FTE)	R	\$120,630



Technology

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
One-to-One Device Refresh	R	\$152,620,000
Additional State Funds for Federal E-Rate Match	R	\$2,500,000
School Cybersecurity Support	R	\$6,910,000
School Business Systems Modernization	NR	\$45,000,000
Uniform Education Reporting System (UERS)	R	\$17,500,000
State Dept. of Information Technology (DIT) Billing Requirements	R	\$1,140,000
M365/Google Backup Server Requirements for State DIT Policy	R	\$720,000



Compensation Pathways

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Salary Supplements (\$20.1m in FY27)	R	\$14,100,000
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Grants Expansion	R	\$2,000,000



Non-Budget Legislative Requests

- School calendar flexibility
- PSU dollar allotment reversions for use in purchasing technology
- Portfolio requirement for individuals seeking principal licensure
- DPI flexibility for placement of early literacy specialists
- Eliminate Praxis Core requirement for admission to EPP
- ADM hold harmless for Helene-impacted PSUs
- Eliminate DPI/SBE school and district accreditation



Non-Budget Legislative Requests

- Revise provisions for the CEP Meal Program Incentive program
- Study how to eliminate or consolidate required DPI and State Board of Education legislative reports
- Sunset the Textbook Commission
- Allow charter schools to establish an account with the State Treasurer and require them to use those accounts for cash management of funds administered by DPI



Questions and Discussion





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