

FY 2026-27 Recommended Legislative Priorities Updates

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NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

FY 2026-27 Recommended Legislative Priorities

Overall priorities to strengthen our public schools:

- *Invest in raising the pay for all public school employees (i.e., teachers, administrators and all other certified and non-certified staff), raising the pay for teachers **by at least 8%** so that North Carolina has the highest teacher salaries in the Southeast and restoring master's pay for all educators.*
- Reform the principal pay plan
- Help address the ~\$13 billion in school construction needs across the state
- Place a moratorium on expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship program and offer no new awards to students beginning in the 2026-27 fiscal year.
 - Redirect the funding appropriated for new Opportunity Scholarships for the 2026-27 fiscal year to addressing needs in our public schools.
 - Future funding increases for the Opportunity Scholarship program should be limited to the annual percentage increase in funding for the State Public School Fund.



Short Session Priorities

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Expand DIBELS Diagnostic to Grades 4-5	R NR	\$1,427,000 \$966,508
Expand Literacy Professional Development and Support to Grades 6-8 (9 FTE)	R NR	\$15,380,000 \$25,002,000
Implement Exceptional Children Weighted Funding Formula	R NR	\$92,600,000 \$27,200,000
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Salary Supplements	R	\$25,966,000
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Grants Expansion	R	\$2,000,000
Increase in School Health Personnel Allotment	R	\$64,269,353



Short Session Priorities

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Additional State Funds for Federal E-Rate Match	R	\$2,500,000
Beginning Teacher Support Program	R	\$500,000
	NR	\$750,000
Revised Limited English Proficient (LEP) Funding Formula	NR	\$200,000
Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF)	R	\$117,000,000
Public School Repair and Renovation Fund (PSBRRF)	R	\$25,000,000
New Cooperative Innovative High Schools (Durham Public Schools, Asheville City Schools, and Hertford County Public Schools)**	R	\$655,000

**Pending approval of the three CIHS by the State Board



Ongoing Priorities

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Student Transportation Information Management (TIMS)	R	\$140,500
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
Support for Low Performing Districts	R	\$4,500,000
K-8 Math Screener	R	\$44,000,000
High-impact tutoring support for school districts	R NR	\$23,200,000 \$875,000
Professional Misconduct Investigator and Rulemaking Coordinator (2 FTE)	R	\$240,630



Ongoing Priorities

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
One-to-One Device Refresh for all K-12 students (over 4 years)	R	\$150,678,300
School Cybersecurity Support	R	\$3,350,000
School Business Systems Modernization	NR	\$45,000,000
Single Sign-On Upgrades for Infinite Campus and other Shared IT Services	R	\$8,100,000
State Dept. of Information Technology (DIT) Billing Requirements	R	\$1,140,000
M365/Google Backup Server Requirements for State DIT Policy	R	\$520,000



One-to-One Device Refresh Update

- DPI annually administers the Digital Learning and Media Inventory (DLMI) to PSUs to collect information to support state and local digital learning efforts
- The 2024-25 DLMI included two key questions about device refresh:
 - Approximately how many STUDENT devices in your PSU will need to be replaced for the next school year?
 - Do you have sufficient funding in place to maintain your refresh cycle going forward without ESSER Funds?



One-to-One Device Refresh Update

- Based on data from the DLMI:
 - PSUs indicated that just over 384,000 student devices needed to be replaced for the 2025-26 school year
 - At a \$400 replacement cost, the total needed would be just over \$153 million to replace those devices
 - 23.5% of school districts and 55.7% of independent schools (charter schools, lab schools, and residential schools) indicated they had sufficient funding and a plan in place to refresh devices on their refresh cycle moving forward
 - However, those PSUs combined had sufficient funding to replace only 13.5% of the devices (52,000) that needed to be replaced





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