

North Carolina School Boards Association's (NCSBA) Board of Directors Resolution Urging Budget Passage

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 143C-4-1 states the General Assembly shall create a budget for two fiscal years beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 143C-5-4(a) states the General Assembly shall enact the Current Operations Appropriations Act by June 15 of odd-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, it is nine months into Fiscal Year 2026, and the Current Operations Appropriations Act for Fiscal Years 2025-2027 has not yet been enacted by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the only state in the nation that has not adopted a state budget for this fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, most local school districts receive the largest share of their funding from State appropriations and build their budgets accordingly; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 115C-429 states local boards shall submit their budgets to county commissioners not later than May 15 each year and the county commission shall complete action on the school budget on or before July 1 each year; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Short Session convenes on April 21, less than one month before local boards must submit their budgets to county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, budget planning for Fiscal Year 2027 is well underway without knowledge of State appropriations for the current fiscal year, let alone the next one; and

WHEREAS, the amount of State appropriations impacts the allocation of Federal and Local funds as well as the requests made of Local governments within the budget process for expenditures such as capital projects and teacher supplements; and

WHEREAS, the absence of a biennial budget has forced local school districts to adopt interim budget resolutions, which have delayed planned expenditures, restricted hiring, and prevented districts from committing funds for capital projects and other operational needs; and

WHEREAS, despite allowances for step increases, without passage of an appropriations act, salaries of many school district employees are frozen at 2024-2025 levels, which are among the lowest in the country; and

WHEREAS, premiums for district employees participating in the North Carolina State Health Plan have risen, meaning the lack of a budget has resulted in a net pay decrease for teachers and school employees; and

WHEREAS, approximately three out of four local school districts have exceptional children enrollment that exceeds the state funding cap of 13 percent of allotted ADM, requiring those districts to use local funds to cover the difference; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina falls significantly below nationally recommended staffing ratios for school nurses, school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers, limiting districts' ability to address the health needs of students; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the North Carolina School Boards Association does hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly immediately pass a 2026 Appropriations Act that:

- Mirrors the House proposal for all school employee salaries in the second year of their proposed budget (SB 257, Version 6), includes step increases at every level, and provides education-based salary supplements;
- Increases the Public School Repair & Renovation fund from \$50 million to \$70 million as proposed in both the 2025 Senate and House budget plans;
- Allocates \$27.9 million in recurring funds for 320 additional school health personnel positions; and
- Implements a weighted funding model for Exceptional Children (approximately \$92.6 million (R) & \$27.2 million (NR) per DPI), or in its absence, a minimum increase of the cap to 13.5% of allotted ADM at a cost of \$20 million in recurring funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

The NCSBA President and Executive Director are authorized to disseminate this Resolution to members of the Association as well as the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor; and

The Board of Directors encourages local Boards of Education to pass similar resolutions and to share these resolutions with their local legislative delegations.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the North Carolina School Boards Association this 6th day of March, 2026.



Carlos Riddick, President

Attest:



Leanne Winner, Executive Director