



# Resolution

## URGING THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO PASS A 2026 APPROPRIATIONS ACT

**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**, it is 10 months into Fiscal Year 2026, and a Current Operations Appropriations Act has not yet been enacted by the General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, Guilford County Schools receives approximately 57% of its funding from State appropriations and builds its budgets according to those appropriations; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Guilford County Schools and Guilford County Government have had to plan the Fiscal Year 2027 budget without knowledge of State appropriations for the current fiscal year, let alone the next one; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the provision in North Carolina General Statute § 143C-5-4(b) for budget continuation of recurring funds at a level of the previous fiscal year, the failure to pass a biennial budget has forced Guilford County Schools to operate with significant budget uncertainty well into the current fiscal year; and

**WHEREAS**, despite provisions for step increases, without passage of an appropriations act, salaries of approximately 10,000 employees of Guilford County Schools are frozen at 2024-2025 levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the lack of a budget and frozen pay scales, coupled with the rise in health insurance premiums for employees participating in the North Carolina State Health Plan, has resulted in a net pay decrease for teachers and school employees of Guilford County Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Guilford County Schools strives to meet nationally recommended staffing ratios for school health personnel, requiring sufficient state appropriations to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the enrollment of Exceptional Children in Guilford County Schools is 16% but state funding is capped at 13%, requiring the district to allocate approximately \$11 million in local funds annually to cover the gap;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Guilford County Board of Education 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 its 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;
- Implements a weighted funding model for Exceptional Children funding, or in its absence, a minimum increase of the cap to 13.5% of allotted Average Daily Membership (ADM) at a cost of \$20 million in recurring funds.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Guilford County Board of Education encourages families, students, and other community members to contact their state representatives requesting that the General Assembly pass a State budget that includes the items listed above.

Adopted, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026

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Deena A. Hayes, Chair  
Guilford County Board of Education

ATTEST:

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Whitney Oakley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent/Secretary