



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - JUNE 2021



**THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**



Legislative Update:

- Overall Bills Introduced: 1693 (as of 5/28/2021)
 - House Bills = 970 | Senate Bills = 723
- K-12 Public Education Bills: 325
- K-12 Bills that made Crossover 139+
 - [2021 Non-Revenue and Non-Appropriations Bills Crossover List](#)
- Calendar Flexibility Bills: 35

[Legislative Updates](#)

Bills eligible to be filed in 2021 with no deadlines

- (1) Redistricting bills for House, Senate, Congress, or local entities.
- (2) Ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the United States.
- (3) Resolutions pertaining to the internal affairs of the House or adjournment resolutions.
- (4) Bills introduced on the report of the House Committees on Appropriations, Finance, or Rules



Legislative Update: Budget

The North Carolina House of Representatives will hold Appropriation Committee meetings to discuss the budget and related issues.

- Wednesday, June 2, 2021
 - 8:30 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, Justice and Public Safety](#) | [415 LOB STREAM](#)
 - 8:30 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, General Government](#) | [423 LOB STREAM](#)
 - **8:30 AM - House:** [Appropriations, Education](#) | [425 LOB \(No Audio\)](#)
 - *Freebird McKinney and Jamey Falkenbury will present updated K-12 Education budget requests.*
 - 10:00 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources](#) | [1124/1224 LB STREAM](#)
 - 10:00 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, Health and Human Services](#) | [643 LOB STREAM](#)
- Thursday, June 3, 2021
 - 8:30 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, General Government](#) | [423 LOB STREAM](#)
 - 10:00 AM - **House:** [Appropriations, Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources](#) | [1124/1224 LB STREAM](#)

House / Senate Joint Appropriations

- [Consensus Revenue Forecast](#) | [Budget Overview \(2.17.21\)](#)
- [Governor's Budget Recommendations](#) | [Gov. Budget Long Sheet \(3.25.21\)](#)

Governor's Budget Recommendations FY 2021-2023

- Budget – [North Carolina Strong, Resilient, Ready](#)
- [Revenue and Budget Summary](#)
- [Education](#) | [Ensuring a Sound Basic Education for All Students](#)



Legislative Update:

Session Laws - Chaptered Bills – NCGA Link

Session Law

Title

Ch. SL 2021-25
S172 (= H196)

[Additional COVID-19 Response & Relief.](#) | [Bill Summary](#)

Sponsors: [B. Jackson](#); [Harrington](#); [Hise](#)

On 5/24/2021

Appropriates Certain Federal Grant Funds Provided to the State Under the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act.

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND/USE OF FUNDS

Federal funds received by the State under the ARP from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) are only appropriated up to the estimated amount set forth for the program. Any positions created with the funds shall terminate at the earlier of the funds being fully expended or the deadline established by applicable federal law and guidance for use of the funds.

Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund 3,260,772,535

Section 3.5 – ESSER Funds. -- Provides that the ESSER funding appropriated by the act shall only be used to allocate federal grant funds to public school units. The Department of Public Instruction shall reserve those funds for the purpose of providing a minimum amount of per pupil federal grant funds for all public school units, including charter schools, and for certain residential schools for school facility repairs and improvements to respond to COVID-19.



Legislative Update:

Federal Legislation - 117th Congress (2021-22)

H.R.1319 — American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARP) | **Summary**

- Sponsor: [Rep. Yarmuth, John A. \[D-KY-3\]](#)
- House Budget Committee Report: [H. Rept. 117-7](#)
- Latest Action: 03/11/2021 Became Public Law No: 117-2. ([All Actions](#))

ARP provides **\$1.9T** in additional relief for COVID-19. **\$4T** relief was provided in 2020.

- For more details, please see the [April 2021](#) Legislative Update.

FACT SHEET: Elementary And Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II **Office of Elementary & Secondary Education – ESSER Fund**

NC Department of Public Instruction – Financial & Business Services COVID Funds

- [COVID Allotment Policy Updates PPT](#)
- [Expenditure and Allotments Data](#) updated May 17, 2021
- [COVID Allotment Policy Manual](#) April 19, 2021
- [Schedule of COVID Funds](#) April 6, 2021



Legislative Update: Bills to Watch

Bill	Short Title	Bill Sponsors
<u>H159</u>	<u>Education Law Changes.</u>	<u>Torbett; Blackwell</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes various changes to education laws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salary flexibility for school employees; Revise operating balance restrictions for school nutrition programs; Temporarily extend CPR graduation requirements; Revise annual census of school resource officers; Clarify Charter school application fee; Lifetime licensure requirements for professional educators; Combine education and workforce innovation grant programs; Bonuses for teachers and staff for students with visual and hearing impairments; Revise report dates; and • SBE required to use rulemaking to adopt standards. • Re-ref to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/20/2021 	
<u>H324</u>	<u>Ensuring Dignity & Nondiscrimination/Schools.</u> <u>Bill Summary</u>	<u>Saine; Boles;</u> <u>Yarborough;</u> <u>Torbett</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bill would demonstrate the General Assembly's intent that students, teachers, administrators, and other school employees do the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect the dignity of others. • Acknowledge the right of others to express differing opinions. • Foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and freedom of speech and association. • Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/12/2021 	



Legislative Update:

Bills to Watch

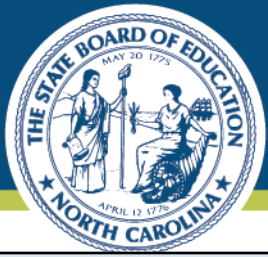
Bill	Short Title	Bill Sponsors
<u>H486</u>	<p><u>Replace EOC with National Assessment.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use a Nationally Recognized Assessment of High School Achievement and College Readiness to Replace the End-Of-Course Tests for Grades Nine Through Twelve. Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 4/29/2021 	<p><u>Elmore</u>; <u>Bell</u>; <u>K. Hall</u>; <u>Torbett</u></p>
<u>H644</u>	<p><u>Remote Academies.</u> <u>Bill Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would authorize the use of remote academies by local school administrative units (LEAs). The State Board of Education shall establish by rule additional minimum requirements for student monitoring, student attendance and testing requirements, infrastructure, and delivery of instruction in remote academies. Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/6/2021 	<p><u>Elmore</u>; <u>Saine</u>; <u>Torbett</u></p>
<u>H654</u>	<p><u>Statewide Contracts/Nonprofits for the Blind.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All State Departments, Institutions, and Agencies and Political Subdivisions of the State shall purchase goods and services from Nonprofit Work Centers for the Blind and Severely Disabled where sources of supply have been approved, established by contract, and certified by the Secretary of Administration. Ref to the Com on State Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House on 4/26/2021 	<p><u>Hardister</u>; <u>Reives</u>; <u>Lambeth</u>; <u>Bradford</u></p>



Legislative Update:

Bills to Watch

Bill	Short Title	Bill Sponsors
<u>H677</u>	<p><u>School Accountability Recommendation Comm.</u> Bill Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would establish the Joint Select Committee on School Accountability Systems. • Measures of accountability to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic achievement- balancing growth and proficiency measures. • Social and emotional learning and early literacy and numeracy. • Postgraduation outcomes- percentages of students attending postsecondary education and pursuing employment. • Skills acquisition opportunities- career and technical education pathway completion, apprenticeships, and internships. • Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/6/2021 	<p>Clemmons; Elmore; Riddell; Gill</p>
<u>S593</u>	<p><u>Special Education Due Process Hearings.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would allow parties to seek immediate judicial review of administrative law judge (ALJ) decisions in special education due process hearings. • The State Board of Education (SBE) may enforce the final decision of the administrative law judge by ordering a local educational agency to comply with one or more of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To provide a child with appropriate education. (2) To place a child in a private school that is approved to provide special education and that can provide the child an appropriate education. (3) To reimburse parents for reasonable private school placement costs in accordance with this Article and IDEA when it is determined that the LEA did not offer or provide the child with appropriate education and the private school in which the parent placed the child was an approved school and did provide the child an appropriate education. • Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House on 5/13/2021 	<p>B.Jackson; Ballard; Lee</p>



Legislative Update: Charter School Bills to Watch

Bill	Short Title	Bill Sponsors
H729	<p>Charter Schools Omnibus. Bill Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would authorize charter schools to meet the instructional time requirement by providing in-person or blended instruction. Counties could lease real property to charter schools. Would ensure State funds for public school students attending charter schools are comparable to funds given students attending other PSUs. • Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/12/2021 	<p>Yarborough; Hardister; Bradford; Brody</p>
H794	<p>Allow Schools in All Zoning Districts. Bill Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require that schools be designated as a permitted use in all zoning districts, prohibit development regulations from limiting schools to locations contiguous to State maintained roads, and would define schools to include public, charter, and private schools • Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/11/2021 	<p>Arp; Saine; Brody; Torbett</p>
H825	<p>Charter School Advisory Bd. Member Changes. Bill Summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would add the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, or designee, as a voting member to the NC Charter Schools Advisory Board, eliminate one of the State Board of Education's appointees to the Board, and stagger the terms of office for those members appointed by the General Assembly. • Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate on 5/12/2021 	<p>Saine; Paré; Willis; Zenger</p>
H911	<p>Regulatory Reform 2.0.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would amend 115C-270.20. Licensure requirements. • Create lottery exemption for grandchildren of board members • Ref to the Com on Regulatory Reform, if fav., House Rules on 5/11/2021 	<p>Riddell; Bradford; Moffitt; Yarborough</p>



Legislative Update: K-12 Ed Bills – Watch List

Bill	Short Title	Bill	Short Title
H247	Standards of Student Conduct.	S582	High School Adjunct Instructors/CC Prep.
H915	Turn High-Achieving Students into Teachers.	S695	Statewide Medical Action Plan for Schools.
H946	Sound Basic Education for Every Child.		
H953	Funds for Sch. Mental Health Support Persons.		
H960	Career Path Options Transparency Act.		
H966	HBCU/HMSI Funds/Adv. Bd./Teaching Fellows.		
H968	DRIVE Recommendations/Teacher Diversity.		



2021-2022 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority	Leandro Action Plan Priority Item 2020-21	Goals	Priorities Strategic Plan Action Framework	Budget Needs	Policy Needs	Status
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NC SBE- 2025 Statewide Strategic Plan

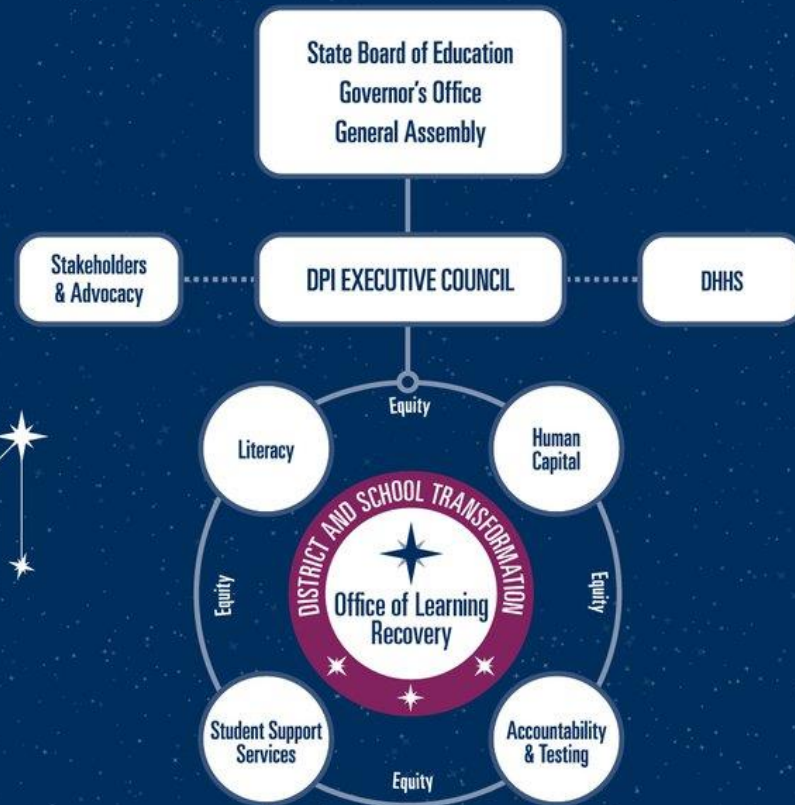
1. Early Grades Reading
2. Teacher Preparation, Professional Learning Opportunities, and Compensation
3. Principal Preparation, Professional Learning Opportunities, and Compensation
4. Supporting the Whole Child (Social/ Emotional and Student Mental Health)
5. School Accountability and Teacher Effectiveness Models
6. School and District Assistance and Turnaround
7. Connecting High School Students to Postsecondary and Career Opportunities

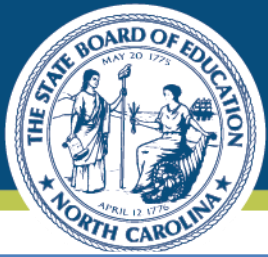


Operation Polaris

OPERATION POLARIS

Navigating Students Toward a Brighter Future





2021-2022 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority

Early Grades Reading - [SBE K-3 Education Framework](#)

Leandro Action Plan Priority Item- 2020-21

A System of Early Education that Provides Access to High-Quality Prekindergarten and Other Early Childhood Learning Opportunities

Goals – Superintendent Truitt’s Priorities (Operation Polaris) and NC State Board of Education’s [Strategic Plan Action Framework](#)

Priority #1- Literacy (Operation Polaris Working Group- Literacy)

Goal 1- Eliminate Opportunity Gaps by 2025

Objective 3: Increase percentage of 4-Year old children enrolled in state Pre-K from 22% to 34% (above the current national average)

Goal 2- Improve School and District Performance by 2015

Objective 1: Allocate financial, business, and technology resources according to State and Federal laws and SBE policies.

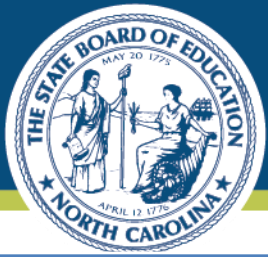
Objective 2-6

Objective 7: Increase number of schools meeting or exceeding growth measure by subgroup

Objective 8: Increase the number of charter schools meeting or exceeding academic, operational, and financial goals

Legislative Priorities -

- Support DPI/SBE approved guidance and resources to support the understanding and implementation of Science of Reading. This guidance will:
 - Identify, fund, and implement a valid and reliable literacy screener or diagnostic that aligns with the SOR and administer to all K-3 students and 4-5 who are below grade level in reading
 - Define criteria for selecting evidence-based instructional SOR resources and assist PSU’s with identification of instructional curriculum and resources
 - Develop an implementation rubric aligned to SOR for instructional practices and strategies
 - Align all created, purchased and shared literary resources with SOR, including but not limited to formative and summative assessments, shared resource banks, state purchased literacy materials, or shared digital content
 - Develop and offer an early literacy micro-credential
 - Provide opportunities and incentives for EPP’s to engage in professional learning opportunities to enhance their ability to support candidates with SOR ([SB 387](#))
- Allocate funding for high quality, on-going, professional development, literacy coaches, and teacher assistants ([SB 387](#))
- Provide each grade K-5 with a dedicated mental health professional or require a ratio of mental health professionals be no less than a set ratio ([Expanded Budget Request](#))
- Expand and market Pre-K in underserved communities ([Governor’s Budget Proposal](#)) [HB 946](#)
- Support the provision of information to parents on attendance, screening, qualifications, and application processes in NC Pre-K
- Support the publishing of meaningful equity data to track progress (ie. Consolidated Data Report)



2021-2022 Legislative Priorities

Legislative Priority

Teacher Preparation, Professional Learning Opportunities, and Compensation

Leandro Action Plan Priority Item- 2020-21

A Qualified and Well-Prepared Teacher in Every Classroom

Goals – Superintendent Truitt’s Priorities (Operation Polaris) and NC State Board of Education’s [Strategic Plan Action Framework](#)

- **Priority #2- Human Capital (Operation Polaris Working Group- Human Capital)**
- **Goal 1- Eliminate Opportunity Gaps by 2025**
 - Objective 6- Increase the number of educators of color in schools across NC (expand focus on leadership)
- **Goal 2- Improve School and District Performance by 2015**
 - Objective 1: Allocate financial, business, and technology resources according to State and Federal laws and SBE policies.
 - Objectives 2-8: Intentionally place teachers to highlight strengths to benefit students
- **Goal 3- Increase Educator Preparedness to Meet the Needs of Every Student by 2025**
 - Objectives 1-4

Legislative Priorities -

- Advocate for increased pay for all NC teachers to ensure schools and districts can attract and retain the highest quality employees essential for student success **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)** [HB 946](#)
- Reinstate retiree health coverage for teachers who begin work on or after January 2021 and ensure current retirement and health benefits are not decreased
- Eliminate challenges and barriers by underwriting the cost of teacher preparation, funding alternative pathways (residencies, “grow your own”, etc.) and revising licensing tests. **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)** [HB 946](#) [HB 966](#) [HB 915](#)
- Invest in HBCU’s/ HMSI’s to widen the pipeline of educators of color. **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)** [HB 968](#) [HB 966](#)
- Offer affordable postsecondary access through scholarships, loan forgiveness, or tuition reimbursement programs **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)** [HB 968](#) [HB 966](#)
- Increase collaborative roles and opportunities for advanced teaching roles, coaching, and mentorship **(Expanded Budget Request)**
- Extend culturally responsive training for every preservice teacher and teacher in the state [HB 968](#)
- Develop partnership opportunities with local PSU’s to reduce the trend of low performing schools **(Expanded Budget Request)** **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)**
- Secure funding to support teacher induction and mentoring **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)**
- Develop alternative pathways- “grow your own”, residency, educator/ student cadet programs **(Expanded Budget Request)** **(Governor’s Budget Proposal)** [HB 915](#)
- Increase opportunities for educator engagement inside and outside of school
- Increase teacher participation and leadership opportunities with community representation on strategic planning committees, boards, and teams.
- Incentivize Advanced Degree Attainment for Educators

Questions?



Office of Government and Community Affairs

Freebird McKinney

freebird.mckinney@dpi.nc.gov





Previous Legislative Updates

- **Links to Previous Legislative Updates:**

• <u>March 2020</u>	• <u>August 2020</u>	• <u>Jan. 2021</u>
• <u>April 2020</u>	• <u>Sept. 2020</u>	• <u>Feb. 2021</u>
• <u>May 2020</u>	• <u>Oct. 2020</u>	• <u>March 2021</u>
• <u>June 2020</u>	• <u>Nov. 2020</u>	• <u>April 2021</u>
• <u>July 2020</u>	• <u>Dec 2020</u>	• <u>May 2021</u>