

Comparison of Legislative Priorities for 2019 Biennium

Policy Topic	NCSBA Position	NCASA Position
School Calendar	Allow complete flexibility	Grant flexibility like charters and allow alignment with higher ed
School Technology	Repay the \$730 million owed per fines and forfeitures lawsuit	Repay the \$730 million owed per fines and forfeitures lawsuit + increase technology funding
K-3 Class Size	Implement waivers for inadequate space and finding qualified teachers	Implement waivers for inadequate space and finding qualified teachers
Low Performing Schools	Remove "meets expected growth" from definition; create grant fund	Remove "meets expected growth" from definition; create revenue stream for extra support to low-performing
High Performing schools		Provide incentives rewarding ongoing high student growth
Student Support Personnel	Staff at national ratios: nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers	Expand recurring funds for nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers
School Resource Officers	Provide funding for each school to have one	Expand recurring funds for school resource officers
School Construction/Capital	Authorize statewide school bond referendum + new dedicated funding source	Authorize statewide school bond referendum
LEA/Charter Relations	Have county commissioners pay local funds directly to charters	Maintain fair funding for both district schools and charter schools
Sales Tax Refund	Reinstate sales tax refund	Reinstate sales tax refund or move to exemption
Teacher Pay	Increase pay; advanced degree; bonus for K-3 teachers that aren't tested	Increase teacher pay and restore advanced degree supplements
Increase Pay		Increase pay and maintain good benefits for all NC educators
Principal Pay	Recognize years of service as a principal; extend hold harmless	Refine new pay plan for principals and restore advanced degree supplements
Educator Training		Invest in teacher and principal prep programs, in-service professional development and mentorships
Retiree Health Coverage	<i>(Support under guiding principle)</i>	Reinstate retiree health coverage for school employees who begin work 1/1/2021
Retirement & Health Benefits	<i>(Support under guiding principle)</i>	Maintain current retirement and health benefits
School Finance Officers	Provide contracts like associate superintendents have; ensure hearing rights	
School Performance Grades	Increase value of growth from 20% toward 50%; retain 15-point scale	Increase value of growth from current 20%; retain 15-point scale
Ethics Training for School Administrators	Require 2 hours of ethics training for all who oversee contracts	
Fiscal Accountability	Support taxing authority for school boards that want to pursue	
Virtual Charter Schools	Allow SBE to shut down virtual charters for low performance	Limit expansion <i>(see public school alternatives below)</i> ; add accountability
Opportunity Scholarships & ESAs	Require accountability measures for schools supported by these	Measure all directly and indirectly state-funded educational entities (Ensuring rigorous learning environment)
Student Testing		Require fewer tests through better alignment of federal, state and local testing requirements
Staffing Shortages		Provide licensure reciprocity w/o NC tests; allow certain non-educators to teach; enhance career paths to teach
Pre-kindergarten	<i>(Support under guiding principle)</i>	Align DPI & DHHS rules for pre-kindergarten and increase available slots
State Funding		Increase the state's per-student investment through allotments for resources supporting them
School Choice Expansion		Implement moratorium on vouchers, Innovative School District and virtual charters
School Personnel Funding	<i>(Likely to fit under unfunded mandate guiding principle)</i>	Prevent cuts especially in central office, where further cuts will negatively impact teachers and principals