

DPI/SBE Government Affairs Update 2022 Short Session Agenda

April 2022



Longest* Long Session in NC's History is Over

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Some of the Legislative Highlights from the last 15 months:

- Summer Learning Choice for NC Families (HB 82)
- Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021 (SB 387)
- The Reopen Our Schools Act of 2021 (SB 220)
- K-12 COVID-19 Provisions (SB 654)
- Various Education Changes (SB 695)
- High School Athletics Bill (HB 91)
- 2021 Appropriations Act (SB 105)



SB 105 Budget Highlights- Leandro and the Comprehensive Remedial Plan (CRP)

- The General Assembly appropriated \$1.5 billion in new, recurring dollars to K-12
- The legislative conference budget provides a little more than 50% of the funding called for in the CRP for year 2 and a little less than 50% in year 3.
- Most of that funding is in salary increases for educators, administrators and instructional support personnel.
- The budget does fully fund the program enhancement teacher allotment, \$139.7 million (R), which was also called for in the CRP.
- The budget provides full or partial funding for the following:
 - Increased funding to support the education of students with disabilities, \$13 million (R) (partial funding)
 - Covering exam fees for students pursuing CTE credentials, \$6.5 million (R) (full funding)
 - Expansion of advanced teaching roles, \$2 million (R) (partial funding)
 - Expansion of cooperative innovative high schools, \$1.88 million (R) (full funding)
 - Expansion of funding for Smart Start, \$10 million (R) (partial funding)
 - Expansion of the Principal Fellows Program, \$1.5 million in FY23 (partial funding)
 - Additional funding for more school psychologists , \$9.8 million (R)(partial funding)
 - Funding to implement the Teach NC initiative, \$980,000 (R) (full funding)



Legislative Agenda for the 2022 Short Session

1. Cleaning up and realigning GS for 2022 and beyond
2. Focusing on any major gaps/needs/additions with SB105
3. Building on previous initiatives and successes
4. Making tweaks where necessary



1. Cleaning up and realigning General Statutes for 2022 and beyond

- The Government Affairs team is working with the GA to update outdated General Statutes through an agency tech correct bill.
- This includes but not limited to:
 - Terms and definitions
 - Outdated reporting requirements
 - Outdated policies
- The Government Affairs team will share this once it is drafted



2. Focusing on any major gaps/needs/+ from SB105

Division/ Program	Request Title	R or NR?	Requirements
Specialist Instructional Support	School Psychologist Internship Program	R	\$4,446,806
Office of Charter Schools	Office of Charter Schools (2 FTE)	R	\$253,738
Standards and Curriculum	Standards and Curriculum Staff (2 FTE)	R	\$259,922
State Advisory Council on Indian Education	Liaison to SACIE (1 FTE)	R	\$122,869
Advanced Learning & Gifted Education	Additional Cooperative Innovative High schools	R	\$730,000
District & Regional Support Division	Turnaround Coaches (8 FTE)	R	\$1,304,782
Various	Agency Equity and Recruitment Funds	R	\$3,000,000
School Transportation	School Transportation Fuel Price Reserve	NR	\$3,000,000
School Transportation	School Transportation Operations Allotments	R	\$2,460,000
			\$ 15,578,117

INFLATION

2022 Short Session Budget Priorities

- We will be advocating for cost-of-living salary increases for teachers and public sector employees to reflect the rise in inflation North Carolinians are experiencing.
- As a department we cannot compete with other state agencies or private business in certain fields
- Fuel costs are very volatile right now. This is a request for the current situation, we will address it further once the budget discussions happen.

Various	Agency Equity and Recruitment Funds	\$3,000,000
School Transportation	School Transportation Fuel Price Reserve	\$3,200,000
School Transportation	School Transportation Operations Allotments	\$2,460,000

2022 Short Session Budget Priorities

Legislative Request	1. Student Well Being & School Safety Long Session Request: School Psychologist Internship Program
Leandro Action Plan Priority Item- 2020-21	<i>A Finance System that Provides Adequate, Equitable, and Efficient Resources</i>
Goals – Superintendent Truitt’s Priorities (Operation Polaris) and NC State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan Action Framework	<p>Priority - Student Support Services (Operation Polaris Working Group- Student Support Services) Priority - Human Capital (Operation Polaris Working Group- Human Capital) Goal 1- Eliminate Opportunity Gaps by 2025 Objective 2- Improve school climate measures across all schools and grade levels Component 1- Increase the number of school-based mental health professionals Goal 2- Improve School and District Performance by 2025 Objective 1: Allocate financial, business, and technology resources according to State and Federal laws and SBE policies. 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 Goal 3- Increase Educator Preparedness to Meet the Needs of Every Student by 2025 Objective 3 - Strengthen relationships between educator preparation programs (EPPs), districts, and schools to foster collaboration and better teaching practice</p>
Legislative Priorities -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NC needs to be targeted in their recruitment initiatives to bring graduates of preparation programs from other states to North Carolina to fill the newly-funded positions (SB105 provided one school psychologists for each district). Currently, NC is not graduating enough School Psychologists to fulfill the needs of our districts. • Most psychologist programs require 1200-hour internship (which is one full academic year) before they complete their program. • These funds would be used as a recruitment tool to bring out-of-state students here, as well as can be used for in-state students looking for internships. Districts have stated that funding for stipends would create opportunities to recruit interns there that will be more likely to stay after graduating than if they had not interned there before. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 intern positions x [\$35,000 starting teacher salary]

2022 Short Session Budget Priorities

Legislative Request	2. Education Workforce Development and Retention Additional DPI FTE Requests
Leandro Action Plan Priority Item- 2020-21	<i>A Qualified and Well-Prepared Teacher in Every Classroom</i>
Goals – Superintendent Truitt’s Priorities (Operation Polaris) and NC State Board of Education’s Strategic Plan Action Framework	<p>Priority - Human Capital (Operation Polaris Working Group- Human Capital) Priority - Student Support Services (Operation Polaris Working Group- Student Support Services)</p> <p>Goal 1- Eliminate Opportunity Gaps by 2025 Objective 2- Improve school climate measures across all schools and grade levels Component 1- Increase the number of school-based mental health professionals</p> <p>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 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 3- Increase Educator Preparedness to Meet the Needs of Every Student by 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives 1-4 • Goal 6- Increase the percentage of students proficient in science by subgroup
Legislative Priorities -	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standards and Curriculum staff (2 FTE) • Charter School Consultants (2 FTE) • Full time position for the State Advisory Council on Indian Affairs (1 FTE) • District Turnaround additional coaches (8 FTE)

2. Short Session Legislative Items

1. TA to Teachers

- Original language found in in the 2018 Short Session Budget ([S99v6.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)) – Section 7.21 pages 28-30 - ADD SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO THE TEACHER ASSISTANT TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
- In the 2021 Budget funding for the program was found in Money Report (went from R to NR) - [S105-BD-NBC-9279 \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- **Two-pronged approach:**
 1. Work with GA to make these funds R (again).
 2. Change program from an allotment to a grant.

2. Flexibility for school support staff

- SECTION 7.6.(a) Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read: “Each local school administrative unit receives sufficient funding for at least one school psychologist position in accordance with G.S. 115C-47(67).”
- **Legislative Request:** To provide LEAs the flexibility to use the funds available for any mental health support staff if they are unable to find a qualified school psychologist.

3. Building on previous initiatives and successes

Building blocks are required to tackle many of the issues and requests that have been lingering out there for years:

- Mental Health Support Staff
- CTE/Workforce/New Computer Science Division
- Early Literacy
- Summer Academies/Bridge Programs



4. Making tweaks where necessary

- The Government and Community Affairs team is listening to the field on what is/isn't working and proposing legislative changes:
- Examples like:
 - TAs to Teachers
 - Principal Licensure
 - Human Capital/Retention issues
 - Flexibility for school support staff

Questions?



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