

Notable 2016-17 House Budget Provisions – Public Schools

Overall Spending Adjustment from Original 2016-17 Spending Level: 4.4% Increase

Teacher Salaries. Step increase for all teachers and instructional support personnel.

Increases the salaries at each step as follows:

- Years 5-9: \$36,500 to \$38,000
- Years 10-14: \$40,000 to \$42,000
- Years 15-19: \$43,500 to \$45,000
- Years 20-24: \$46,500 to \$48,000
- Years 25 +: \$50,000 to \$51,000

Average salary increase = 4.1%

Years 0-4 and 25+ receive \$1,000 bonus paid monthly.

Administrator Salaries. Step increases. Salaries at each step increased by 2% on average. Implements a bonus of \$500 for those who do not otherwise get a salary increase.

Noncertified and Central Office Salaries. 2% salary increase for permanent full-time personnel. Bonus of \$500

Retirement and Health. 16.55% (retirement) \$5,659 (State Health Plan)

Virtual Charter Pilots.

- Increases the percentage of teachers who can reside out of NC from 10% to 20%.
- Retains 25% withdrawal rate cap.
- Requires additional categories of students to **not** be included in the withdrawal rate calculation: any student enrolled less than 30 days; students who move out of state; students who withdraw for a family, personal or medical reason.

Vouchers. Changes are made to the Opportunity Scholarship voucher program moving the percentage of new vouchers that can be awarded to kindergarten and 1st grade students each year from 35% to 405. Increases the special education voucher program by \$5.8 million.

ADM Growth. Public school ADM growth is fully funded (\$46.8 million).

Literacy Coaches. There is an appropriation of \$25 million to put K-3 Literacy Coaches **in the lowest performing 20% of elementary schools across the state.** This would be the first State appropriation for literacy coaches in any public schools since the line-item was zeroed out in

2009.

Advanced Teaching Roles/Elevating Educators Act. Modified language from last session's Elevating Educators Act. Establishes a three-year pilot program where 10 LEAs would experiment with models of differentiated pay for teachers linked to advanced teaching roles (new or additional roles and responsibilities). Supplements could be up to 30% above what is set for the teacher on the State salary schedule. There would be a \$1 million set aside for this pilot.

A-F School Performance Grades. The formula for calculating A-F letter grades for schools is changed from 80% assessment scores 20% growth to a 50-50 split between the two components. The 15-point scale is also made permanent (it is scheduled to end with this year's set of grades).

Read to Achieve. Like last year's House budget, this year's House budgets contains several provisions to improve the Read to Achieve program. Among these would be a requirement for the SBE to expand the types of diagnostic and formative assessments school districts could use to measure reading progress in grades K-3.

Teacher Scholarships. Awards scholarships of up to \$8,250 for teachers who agree to work in either a hard-to-staff school or position.

Other Funding Increases. Digital Learning Plan (\$9.4 million); Textbooks/Digital Resources (\$11.7 million)