

Notable 2016-17 Senate Budget Provisions – Public Schools

Overall Spending Adjustment from Original 2016-17 Spending Level: 3.2% Increase

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

Average salary increase = 6.5%

Administrator Salaries. Step increases. No change to schedule. Bonuses of \$500 for Assistant Principals and \$2,000 for Principals.

Noncertified and Central Office Salaries. Appropriation given to LEAs for increases and bonuses according to local policies.

Retirement and Health. 15.64% (retirement) \$5,659 (State Health Plan)

Opportunity Scholarship Voucher Program. Doubles funding in 2016-17. Establishes a reserve fund to forward fund the program. Creates an automatic \$10 million increase in appropriations each fiscal year after 2016-17 to be directed to the reserve fund over the next decade, topping out at \$134.8 million in 2027-28.

Year-Round School Definition. Districts that have year-round schools would have to follow a new definition of year-round school. The new definition would be:

“a multi-track school that remains in session for the entire calendar year by utilizing at least one of the following plans:

- (1) A plan that divides students into four groups and requires each to be in school for three assigned and staggered quarters each school year.
- (2) A plan that provides that students shall be scheduled to attend 45 days of classes followed by 15 days of vacation repeated throughout the school year.
- (3) A plan that divides the school year into five nine-week sessions of classes and requires each student to attend four of the five nine-week sessions to complete the school year.”

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.

ADM Growth. \$46.8 million to fully fund ADM growth.

Performance Pay for Grade 3 Teachers. \$10 million is set aside for a pilot program where third grade teachers are given salary supplements for achieving high growth scores on student reading assessments. Half of the total set-aside would go to the teachers in the top 25% of statewide grade 3 reading growth scores and the other half would go to each LEA's top 25% of grade 3 reading growth achievers.

Teacher Assistant Scholarship Pilots. A pilot program would be set up for Anson, Franklin, Moore, Richmond, and Scotland to provide tuition assistance payments to TAs seeking the academic requirements for full teaching licensure.

Lab Schools. Each UNC school of education would be required to establish a laboratory school. The purpose of the lab schools would be to “improve student performance in local school administrative units with low-performing schools by providing an enhanced education program for students residing in those units and to provide exposure and training for teachers and principals to successfully address challenges existing in high needs school settings.” These lab schools would operate similar to and be funded like charter schools.