



Residential Schools for the Deaf and Blind

2017-19 Biennial Budget Request
March 2017

Additional funding is needed to maintain high quality instructional and therapeutic services, and residential life for Blind/Visually Impaired and Deaf/Hard of Hearing students in the State's **Residential Schools**

Residential School	Current Funding	Additional Funding Needed	Highlights of Needs Met by the Additional Funds
NC School for the Deaf (Morganton)	\$8,230,181	\$1,788,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audiologists, psychologists, social workers, speech therapists• Technology/network refresh• Equipment for CTE classes/materials• Child nutrition equipment/supplies• Utility costs• Bus maintenance & replacement• General campus maintenance• Dorm furnishings and equipment• New STEM, CTE, preschool classes
Eastern NC School for the Deaf (Wilson)	\$7,640,401	\$2,112,658	
Governor Morehead School for the Blind (Raleigh)	\$5,529,866	\$985,000	
Totals	\$21,400,448	\$4,886,358	

About the Schools

The residential schools are operated by the State (administered by the NC Department of Instruction; DPI), currently draw students from 53 counties statewide, and are charged with meeting all students' educational, health, and recreational needs 24/7, for 5 out of 7 days per week (students are transported home for weekends). The schools must meet all State and federal education requirements for each student, including implementing all services required in Individual Education Plans (IEPs). These **schools do not receive "local" funding**.

Why the Need for Additional State Funding?

State funding for these schools for the past six (6) years has not increased to keep pace with rising operational costs. All three schools have suffered reductions to programs and personnel as part of recession-related cuts and cuts to DPI. Specialized education services for the residential students is personnel-intensive, and these schools must compete for teachers and therapists who are in high demand because of their special training and skills.

The schools also seek to expand and enhance their curricula by adding and/or expanding STEM, Career & Technical Education (CTE), pre-school, and/or after-school programs. The schools also need to upgrade to current assistive technology (such as hearing aids), and work towards increased integration of technology in curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

Finally, aging residential and classroom facilities (some over 90 years old) are in urgent need of maintenance, repair, and modernization; and motor fleets need replacement vehicles.

Enrolled Students by County

