



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

September 4, 2015

The biggest budget concession of the Session occurred on Monday night: the Senate offered to fully fund the teaching assistant (TA) allotment (approximately \$370+ million) with one caveat: that the monies be used for teaching assistant positions and nothing else (e.g., no use of TA money for teacher positions or other uses). House leadership spent the remainder of the week ruminating over the caveat: some appear to want to “take the money and run,” while others want to stand firm and maintain the precious local flexibility.

The other concession was the Senate’s offer to reinstate funding for Driver Education. The House is pleased with that offer at the \$26 million mark, assuming all the other budget chips fall into place. Reinstating state funding for Driver Education has been a major mission of the House this year, and it appears that both Chambers intend to fund it – the question now becomes when. For more news on political jockeying this week, see [today’s coverage](#).

As of Thursday, the House has not accepted the Senate’s offer. Senate and House Appropriations chairs are laboring over Labor Day weekend attempting to hammer out final details. If an agreement cannot be reached by early next week, it is unlikely that the state will have a budget before the third continuing resolution (CR) expires at 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 18. The time to print any budget deal, vet it with members, have each Chamber pass it, and have the Governor sign it takes long enough that there is concern it will not get done by the deadline. Governor McCrory expressed his support for local flexibility, but has repeatedly encouraged lawmakers to put a bow on this budget and the session.

Please see the “[Comparison of the 2015-16 Proposed Budgets](#)” for line item spending differences in the former official House and Senate proposals on K-12.

Other Education News This Week:

At the Wednesday meeting of the SBE, [accountability data](#) for the 2014-15 school year in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science, for all public schools and public charter schools was released and presented to the Board. This report highlights:

- Growth. If schools exceeded, met, or did not meet growth expectations as defined and calculated in EVAAS.
- Performance. How schools performed on assessments, high school indicators, and School Performance Grades.
- Progress. If schools met or did not meet performance and participation targets set for each of the Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO).
- Aggregate data on school performance (A-F) grades.

Other Bills with Action This Week:

SB 238 Stalking by GPS/Criminal Offense

- Amended and approved by the House
- On Senate calendar for consideration of House changes on Tuesday, September 8.

Meetings Next Week (September 8-11):

TBD

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