



2017 Legislative Agenda

NC State Board of Education

February 2017

Vision: Every public school student will graduate ready for post-secondary education and work, prepared to be a globally engaged and productive citizen.

Mission: The State Board of Education will use its constitutional authority to lead and uphold the system of public education in North Carolina.

Goals:

1. Every student in the NC Public School System graduates from high school prepared for work, further education and citizenship.
2. Every student has a personalized education.
3. Every student, every day has excellent educators.
4. Every school district has up-to-date financial, business, and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators.
5. Every student is healthy, safe, and responsible.

Action Items

1. Paying our Talented Team

- a. Teacher pay: Boost teacher salaries to #1 in the Southeast.
- b. Principal/Assistant Principal pay: Remedy the salary schedule discrepancies and increase salaries significantly.
- c. Master's and Doctoral pay: Reinstate this targeted pay for eligible teachers.
- d. Differentiated pay: Fulfill the 2016 General Assembly's stated intent to fund Advanced Teaching Roles based on local pilots.

2. Enhancing the Skills of the Team

- a. Principal Preparation: Strengthen the resources and support for school leadership.
- b. Professional Development/Educator Effectiveness:
 - i. Improve student achievement and instruction by investing in educator training.
 - ii. Fulfill local needs for recruitment and retention initiatives.
- c. Invest in students' behavioral support services to promote better learning and teaching.

3. Investing in what Works

- a. Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model: Enact laws and increase funding consistent with this framework of wrap-around services that support the health behaviors and academic performance of all students.
- b. Pre-K & Early Childhood Education: Transfer Pre-K to DPI and increase Pre-K slots so that more at-risk children receive a high quality education.
- c. Calendar flexibility: Permit local school districts' control of their local school calendar given the evidence that such flexibility increases academic achievement for all students.
- d. Medicaid reform: Ensure that NC maximizes the potential for untapped Medicaid dollars for eligible student services.
- e. Compulsory School Age: Raise the age of compulsory school attendance from 16 and study the resulting needs for additional comprehensive supports.

4. Adding more Talented Members to the Team

- a. Class size allotments/budget provision: Remedy the 2017-18 adverse effects on special subject teachers (e.g., arts, world languages, physical education, etc.).
- b. Mentor teachers: Expand the state law qualifications to include retired teachers within their first five years of retirement and other highly-qualified educators (e.g., instructional coaches and others) in order to meet state demand.
- c. Teacher Assistants and Instructional Support Personnel: Increase funding for more student and classroom support personnel, including but not limited to teacher assistants, literacy coaches, and further support for *Read to Achieve* initiatives beyond 3rd grade.
- d. School Nurses/Child and Family Support Teams: Enable a Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model through funding wrap-around services and critical personnel.
- e. Troops to Teachers: Rescue this program for military veterans transitioning into the teacher corps in light of the 2016 elimination of federal funding.

5. Enhancing the Classroom Experience for Teachers and Students

- a. Public School Capital Infrastructure: Enact a sustainable solution for the \$8 billion needed for public school buildings over the next 5 years.
- b. Textbooks/Digital Learning and Resources:
 - i. Reinstate the textbook funding level to \$77.16 per student (from \$34.81 in FY16-17).
 - ii. Increase school-based technical support and Home Base instructional content.
- c. District & School Transformation: Fund this proven turn-around model, and modify “low-performing schools” statutes to reflect evidence-based practices and align with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- d. Instructional Supplies: Reinstate the per student funding level to \$59.33 (from \$28.33 in FY16-17).
- e. Students with Special Needs: Significantly increase funding for these children and the residential schools.
- f. CTE & CIHS: Continue innovations by adding more Career and Technical Education certifications and new Cooperative and Innovative High Schools.
- g. NC Check-Ins: Help students receive targeted instruction based on their results from interim assessments.
- h. Child Nutrition: Invest in child nutrition programs and secure further returns on investment through the NC Procurement Alliance (where every \$1.00 invested saves LEAs \$6.00).

6. Supporting for Results

- a. A-F School Performance Grades: Modify the formula to align, at a minimum, with NC’s plan under ESSA.
- b. DPI Expansion: Restore and improve upon critically needed positions and technologies for effective and reliable services to charters and local school districts.
- c. Teacher Licensure: Provide state support for renewals.
- d. Criminal Background Checks: Require and fund fingerprint background checks for teacher licensure applicants.