



The General Assembly adopted its proposed budget on June 27, but the proposed budget was quickly vetoed by Governor Roy Cooper on June 28. The General Assembly will now consider whether to override or sustain the Governor's veto. The proposed budget adopted by the General Assembly includes an important provision that the NC Music Educators Association has successfully advocated for: the arts education graduation requirement. This provision directs the State Board of Education to modify the State graduation requirement to include one required credit in arts education to be completed by each student at any time in grades six through 12. This requirement must be implemented with students entering the sixth grade in 2022. The budget also directs the State Board of Education to: 1. establish procedures and a time line for a phased-in implementation of the arts education graduation requirement; 2. establish the minimum criteria to meet the arts education graduation requirement; and 3. provide a report by December 15, 2022, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the statewide implementation of the three interdependent components of comprehensive arts education (arts education, arts integration, and arts exposure) and the graduation requirement set forth in the budget.

Below is a summary of other key education items included in the proposed General Assembly's budget:

- **Teacher raises:** Teachers (0-24 years of experience) would receive an *average* 2% increase in 2019-2020 and *average* 3.9% in 2020-2021 (not across-the-board raises). The biggest increases are targeted to teachers with 21 to 24 years of experience but teachers with 25+ years will receive a \$500 bonus in October without any permanent raise. The raises would start July 1.
- **Support Staff Salaries:** Noncertified LEA employees would receive a 1% salary increase July 1, 2019 and an additional 1% July 1, 2020.
- **Master's pay** was not reinstated, although the House's proposed budget had included that provision.
- **School Construction:** \$4.4 billion over the next 10 years is committed for school construction projects. The proposal favors the Senate's plan to use "pay as you go," rather than a bond, by setting aside money in funds like the State Capital Infrastructure Fund.
- **School Safety:** The budget includes \$91 million for school safety spending, most of which would go to hire new school resource officers and mental health professionals.
- **Curriculum Changes:** The budget requires instruction of the Holocaust and genocide in the English and social studies standards used in middle schools and high schools and includes a personal finance class as part of graduation requirements.

- **School Supplies:** School districts would be required to transfer \$150 to each teacher this year and \$200 next year to buy items for their classes. Teachers would be required to use an app to purchase supplies or get reimbursed. An extra \$15 million in state funding for school supplies would help offset the costs.
- **Textbooks and Digital Resources:** Increases funding for this allotment by \$10.9 million for 2019-20.
- **School Grading:** The 15-point grading scale for evaluating public schools would be made permanent.
- **Advanced Teaching Roles:** The advanced teaching roles program that was created as a pilot would be made permanent. The 10 LEA maximum participation would be eliminated, and the State Board can choose up to 5 LEAs from each of three size categories. Grant funds would be awarded to LEAs for up to three years, without the option to receive funding beyond that.
- **Rehire High-Need Teachers:** A new provision which mirrors SB 399 “Rehire High-Need Teachers” that would allow eligible retired teachers to be re-hired under qualifying circumstances to help fill vacancies in high-need schools.
- **Small County Recruitment Bonus:** Up to \$2,000 in state dollars to match (1:1) local dollars for signing bonuses for newly-employed teachers and instructional support personnel to eligible schools receiving the pre-existing Small County supplement.
- **Increases funding to the Instructional Support Allotment, with the intent to be used by LEAs to hire additional school mental health support personnel: school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, school social workers (\$20 million in FY 2019-20 and \$23 million in FY 2020-21).**
- **Increases funding for NC Governor’s School by \$800,000 each year which would revise the total net appropriation to \$1.6 million each year.**
- **Increases funding for the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) by \$500,000 to support professional development for teachers.**
- **Extends the deadline to 2020 for the Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform**
- **One-time cost-of-living supplement of .5% for retirees under the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System**
- **Does not include the House’s Program Enhancement Teacher allotment changes that would have expanded the allotment into middle and high school grades along with other technical changes.**

For additional 2019-20 Budget Information, please see NCDPI’s Financial & Business Services Division “[Proposed Budgets Comparison](#)” which will be updated as the 2019 Long Session continues into the summer.