



Things in the legislature have finally begun to pick up, and the House is beginning to do serious work on the budget with hopes of having it released by the end of April. One big item on our priority list has already caught traction, with the House passing school bond legislation. I am also hopeful that we can get other items on our list accomplished, and I believe we will. The following is a review of the Governor's budget, and recent bills filed in the North Carolina General Assembly:

The Governor's Budget

- Has a goal of raising teacher pay to the highest in the southeast over a four year period (Avg. 9.1% over two years)
- Reinstates experience pay for principals
- Provides 40 million for school safety and school mental health
- Provides 15 million for school security improvements
- Provides a 29 million increase in funding for textbooks and digital resources
- Provides 9 million for teacher recruitment
- Expands Teaching Fellows program by 5 million
- Proposed at 3.9 billion dollar bond proposal, giving 2 billion to public schools

House Bill 266: School Annual Report Card

- This bill filed by Representative Riddell changes the school report card by giving two grades instead of one grade. Schools would receive a performance grade and a growth grade. This would change the current law that combines performance (80%) and growth at (20%) to derive one grade.

House Bill 276: Modify Low Performing School Definition

- This bill filed by Representative Riddell changes the definition of low performing schools so that a school that meets growth cannot be considered low performing.

House Bill 216: School Self Defense Act & Senate Bill 192: School Security Act

- Though both bills are different, they are similar due to the fact they arm individuals in the school setting other than school resource officers. From discussions with legislators from both parties, these bills have a slim chance of becoming law.

I'll be back with another report before the end of the month as action is picking up, and bills are beginning to pass.