



NCACTE Legislative Newsletter
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The General Assembly finally adjourned the long session which began last year just days ago. They concluded by addressing the class size issue. Below is a summary of the education part of the bill:

The class size law changes contained in House Bill 90, which is an omnibus budget bill, passed the General Assembly in their special session that concluded yesterday. The bill includes the following components:

- Provides a four-year phase-in to reach K-3 class size caps that otherwise would have taken effect for the 2018-19 school year. This includes new K-3 class size requirements that do not change from current requirements for the first year of the phase-in.
- Fully funds (\$240+ million recurring over four years as the phase-in occurs) 3,503 K-5 enhancement teachers through a new allotment established through a four-year phase-in. Year One will include \$61 million before changes occur in K-3 class size requirements. This was the dollar amount prescribed by the non-partisan fiscal staff to keep districts from losing teaching positions.
- Places new restrictions on the Classroom Teacher allotment effective 2021-2022 to prevent these funds from covering K-5 enhancement positions, which will be fully covered in the new allotment in that year. These funds will continue to cover K-12 classroom teachers, enhancement teachers in grades 6-12, self-contained exceptional children teachers, and teachers in math, science and computers, as well as matching benefits. Funds in the K-5 enhancement allotment may be used for classroom teachers but not vice versa.
- Exempts all enhancement classes in Grades K-12 and electives or supplemental courses from class size restrictions and caps, thereby eliminating the need for districts to seek waivers for these classes in certain circumstances as required under current law.

The General Assembly will convene the regular scheduled short session in May. In the meantime, I am attending interim committees on your behalf. I will also be working and meeting with legislators to work on the issues that directly concern your organization. I hope you find the reports of all the happenings in public education useful.

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