



## LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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### House Budget Bill Passes

**CTE Funding Included:** The N.C. House voted 80-31 to approve its budget proposal shortly after midnight Friday morning, including \$700,000 to promote CTE in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades.

Click [here](#) to see details of the House-passed budget version, Senate Bill 257. The CTE language appears beginning on line 25 of page 36, under the section “Sixth and Seventh Grade CTE Program Expansion Grant Program.” The language calls for expanding the program by prioritizing the inclusion of students in the sixth and seventh grades through grant awards to selected school administrative units for up to seven years. Under the measure, in the 2017-18 school year, funds for the program of up to \$700,000 would be used to award the competitive grants and for 2018-19 and subsequent fiscal years, up to \$1 million would be allocated.

The budget bill also says that grant funds shall only be used for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas and support service areas to expand the CTE program to 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. In addition, beginning on line 14 of page 39, a “Future Ready Students” section says that local education boards shall have the power or duty to offer at least two work-based opportunities that are related to CTE instruction.

**What’s Next:** House passage of its version of the budget bill sets up a negotiating process with the Senate, which already passed its own \$22.9 billion spending plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1st. The state now is set, beginning this week, for Republican leaders from both chambers to work out their differences in private, with the goal of passing a compromise budget by the end of June and sending it to Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat. Both chambers have already agreed on how much to spend, which represents a 2.5 percent increase from the current fiscal year.

**Other Budget Provisions:** Under the House plan, state employees would receive a \$1,000 salary increase in the fiscal year beginning in July, with another \$1,000 raise allocated for the following year. State retirees would get a 1.6 percent cost-of-living increase that would apply for one year only.

The House budget bill also calls for the biggest raises to mid-career teachers, although teachers at all experience levels would get raises under the proposed salary chart. Starting pay would rise from \$35,000 to \$35,300, and teachers with more than 25 years of experience would get a 0.6 percent raise of \$300. The average teacher raise is 3.3 percent.

Other House budget provisions for **Public Education** include with the following amounts:

- teach an additional 9,120 students anticipated in the public schools this fall: \$31.9 million.
- classroom textbooks and digital materials: \$10.4 million.
- reduce central office administration staff funds for local school districts by 5.3 percent: -\$5 million.
- modernize Department of Public Instruction business systems: \$10 million.
- fund up to 10 positions in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office: \$922,000.
- reimburse initial teacher licensure application fee for first-time applicants: \$245,000.
- add funds to continue pilot program giving extra pay to teachers who take on additional teaching and mentoring responsibilities in schools: \$8.2 million.
- reduce funding to North Carolina Education Endowment Fund for startup to reinstate N.C. Teaching Fellows Program: -\$4.6 million.
- residential enrichment program for science, math and technology for three northeastern school districts and high school: \$300,000.

### **This and That**

**Wake Educator is Named State's Best Principal:** Excellent story [here](#) about NC PTA Principal of the Year Award.

### **Some Legislation We're Watching**

While NCACTE is monitoring dozens of bills, several of significance, which have not seen much movement recently, include:

**CTE Legislation, [House Bill 450](#):** In a 110-0 vote, the N.C. House on April 4<sup>th</sup> approved and sent to the Senate a bill, the "Future Ready Student Act of 2017," that would expand CTE, award competitive grants of up to \$5 million and broaden CTE to some lower grades. Primary sponsors are Reps. [Horn](#); [Johnson](#); [Dixon](#); [Williams](#).

NCACTE strongly supports the measure, which has been sitting in Senate Rules since April 10<sup>th</sup>. The bill – as noted in a [legislative summary](#) – also would establish business advisory councils as well as:

- Establish the CTE Expansion Program: Effective upon appropriation of funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Program would expand CTE by prioritizing the inclusion of students in 6th and 7th grade through grants administered by the NC Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

-Funding: Used to award competitive grants in a total amount of **up to \$5 million** to be allocated as non-reverting funds to an LEA over seven years. Funds would be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas, and support services to **expand CTE to 6th and 7th graders**, and maybe used for multiple schools in an LEA.

- Award of Grants: LEAs must include the in applications (1) a plan for expansion of the CTE program to 6th and 7th graders, including specific programs to be expanded, the significance of CTE in the LEA, and how the grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community; (2) a request for funds description of how the funds would be used, and other sources of funds available for the program and (3) a proposed 7-year budget with details on use of funds to add personnel, increase CTE efforts, and provide support services; (4) a meaningful strategy.

[HB 90](#): The bill is entitled “Eliminate NC Final Exam.” Currently, Middle Schools are required to take CTE final exams (NCFE). If this bill passes, they will no longer be required to take this state exam. Such a move would be good news for many CTE supporters because it would remove a thorn for most CTE Middle School, CTE Teachers and District CTE Administration. The House-approved bill, now in Senate Rules, would apply to the 2017-18 school year. Primary sponsors are [Elmore](#); [K. Hall](#); [Hurley](#).

[HB 751](#): The bill, which on April 26<sup>th</sup> cleared the House and now is in Senate Rules, is titled “Career and College Ready/High School Grads. It would require all students to demonstrate a certain level of reading achievement to accompany high school diplomas. Primary sponsors are Reps. [Blackwell](#); [Horn](#); [Johnson](#).

[SB 599](#): “Excellent Educators for Every Classroom,” which would establish the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, would hold accountable the educator licensure process. Some concerns have been expressed about how a teacher could get a license if not affiliated with an educator preparation program.

The bill has a long way to go. It did not make crossover but could still be eligible for consideration. It was withdrawn from Senate Rules, re-referred to Senate Education/Higher Education and, if it receives a favorable vote there, would be re-referred to Senate Finance then Senate Rules. Primary sponsor is Sen. [Barefoot](#).

[SB 421](#): The bill, “Use of Career & Technical Funds/Onslow County,” would appropriate \$5 million for Onslow County to retrofit and buy equipment for a regional CTE center. The bill’s

primary sponsor is Sen. Harry [Brown](#); R-Onslow, and Senate Majority Leader. Not surprisingly, the bill breezed through the Senate on April 11 and may soon get out of House committee.

[HB 600](#): "School Construction Flexibility" passed the House on April 26<sup>th</sup> and now sits in Senate Rules. Concerns remain on this bill concerning CTE funding. Primary sponsors are Reps.

[J. Bell](#); [Lewis](#); [Brenden Jones](#); [Goodman](#).

[SB 169](#): "Teaching Excellence Bonus Expansion" cleared the Senate on March 23 and has been sitting in House Rules since. CTE funding here needs to be addressed. Primary sponsors are Sens. [Berger](#); [Harrington](#); [Wade](#).

### **Quote of the Week**

*"In my circumstances, I was a little shaky. I just said 'hi' to them, and another parent taught the rest...I stepped off to the side, and they were all coming around and hugging me. They knew I couldn't take much, but they just wanted me to know they cared."*

- Panther Creek High School's Dr. Camille Hedrick, named PTA Principal of the Year, in greeting parents of rising ninth graders -- only seven days after her husband, Jim Hedrick, who was principal at Athens Drive High School in Raleigh, died Aug. 2 during a morning job at age 62 (The News & Observer, 6/1/17)

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