



The legislative budget process continues, and now the House has announced that they hope to have their budget completed by May 5, 2019. Remember, this is not the final version, and the Senate will follow with their version hopefully by the first of June 2019. Then, both bodies will create a compromise budget meshing elements of both budgets. However, it is anticipated that the governor will veto the budget. Without supermajorities in the legislature, it could be late this fall before a budget is finally agreed upon. Regardless, we will do the best we can to make sure NCACTE's priorities are in the budget document.

Things look good for our priorities thus far in the House budget, and I expect we will have some of them in the document. The House has already passed a school bond bill, which was one of the priorities on the list. This will probably be an item negotiated at the end, since the Senate has a different approach. Also there have been some concerns raised about SB 134 and its House companion bill HB 433. These bills regard placing more emphasis on personal finance education in our schools. Though the bills have good intentions, they could cause some issues for CTE programs. I will be meeting with the primary bill sponsors to try and work out a compromise which could consist of moving this to the social studies curriculum. SB 134 is listed in this report as a bill in committee, but I am hearing the House may take action on theirs in the state budget. Again, I will be talking to the primary sponsors, and report back on the measure.

Recent Education Action

[SB 580: Classroom Supplies to Teachers](#) This program proposal would allow classroom teachers across the state to spend up to \$400.00 on classroom and instructional materials. Concerns have been raised by LEAs regarding district allocations of supply funds. However, from what NCACTE

is learning, legislative leaders are planning to allocate new monies to the LEA allotments for supplies and materials. NCACTE will keep you posted as this develops.

Excellence in Public Schools Act and Read to Achieve

[Senate Bill 438](#) was introduced, and it addresses some perceived deficiencies with the original Read to Achieve Act passed in 2013. After analyzing data, Senate leadership has decided to target current problems with the law. This Act would seek to implement Summer Reading Camps and offer targeted staff development to meet students' needs and to improve 3rd grade reading proficiency. The Act utilizes current and past performance data to adjust the program to meet current student needs.

Bills that Passed the House

[House Bill 377](#)

This bill, which passed the House and now moves to the Senate, eliminates K-8 EOG tests and allows shorter "check in" tests during intervals in the school year. For high school testing, the NC Final Exam would be eliminated, and the ACT would be utilized to measure student growth and ensure school accountability.

[House Bill 315](#) passed the House and provides LEAs with discretionary flexibility on how instructional monies are spent and on which platforms instructional materials are delivered (instructional technology, textbooks, etc.). In addition, the bill provides parental review of instructional materials selected by districts.

[HB 184: Study State Health Plan Design](#)

This bill allows lawmakers to study and review the State Health Plan and identify areas for improvement and modernization including goals-based incentives for providers and members and healthy lifestyle promotion. In addition, the bill will examine the needs and concerns of stakeholders in the State Health Plan.

HB 354 (=H313) [Modify Weighting/School Performance Grades.](#)

This bill would change how performance grades are calculated. Presently, grades calculate 80 percent from proficiency and 20 percent from growth. The new proposal would calculate 50 percent for proficiency and 50 percent for growth.

HB 362 (=H145) [15-Point Scale For School Performance Grades.](#)

This bill would keep the 15-point scale for performance grades for schools as opposed to moving to the 10-point scale which was the most recent current law.

HB 266 [School Annual Report Card.](#)

This bill separates grades for school achievement and school growth. This bill would create a 15-point grading scale measuring school achievement and would utilize a 10-point scale, based on EVASS standards, to measure school growth.

House Bill 79 [Academic Alignment/Boards of Education & CC.](#)

This bill would allow for some scheduling flexibility and let local school boards align their schedules with the community college system.

House Bill 276 [Modify Low-Performing School Definition.](#)

This bill would remove the language of “low performing school” while modifying the definition using revised measurements. If a school has met expected growth, it will not be classified as “low performing.”

Education Bills in Committee

House Bill 275 (=S189) [CTE Pilot for Guilford Co. Schools.](#)

This Pilot proposal, specific to Guilford county, would allow traditional high schools to host the Innovative Signature Career Academy Program. As of 3/26/19, this measure has been referred to the House Committee on Finance and has not seen action since.

Senate Bill 134 [Economics & Financial Literacy Act.](#)

This bill would mandate that students in high school complete an Economics and Financial literacy type course as a requirement for graduation. In addition, staff development opportunities would be extended for teachers in

the content area. This bill has not seen action since April 3rd and is currently in the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget.

House Bill 199 [H199](#)

This bill would provide funding to Charter Schools to meet student transportation needs and will allow qualifying schools to receive reimbursement for up to 65 percent of their transportation costs. This bill was referred to the House Committee on Appropriations on 4/9/19.