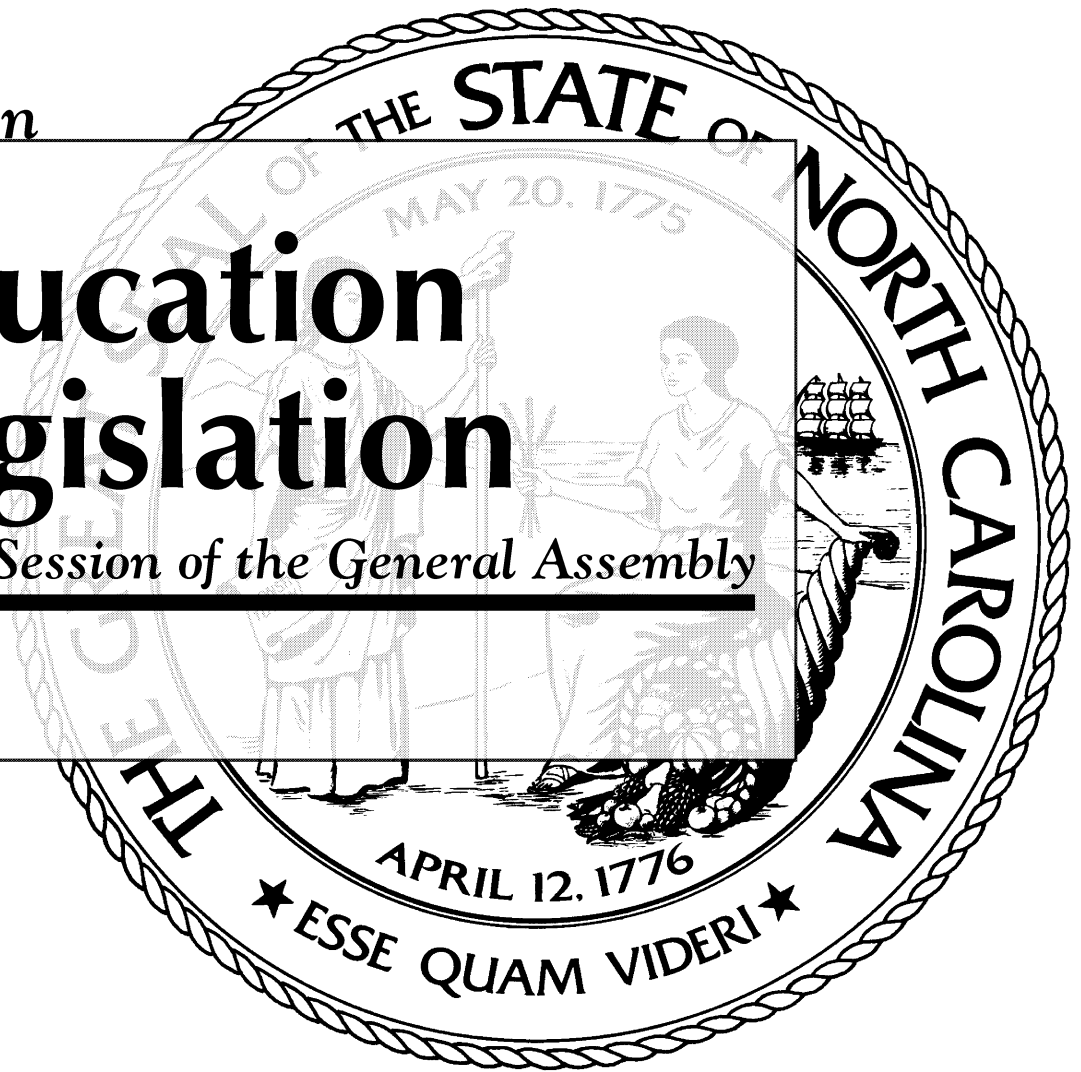


Report on

Education Legislation

2006 Session of the General Assembly



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2006 Report on Education Legislation

Introduction

The 2006 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly convened on May 9, 2006, and adjourned on July 28, 2006. This year's session could be summed up in just a few words. It was a very good year for education! The budget windfall for public education spans across salaries, programs, projects, and studies that seek to fulfill our state's constitutional mandate to provide a sound basic education for all children.

The 2006 budget provides salary increases for teachers, principals and assistant principals, central office personnel, and noncertified personnel. Teachers will receive an average increase of 8.23% with raises ranging from 6.45% for teachers moving from the 28-29 year step and 14.5% for those moving from the 2-3 year step. A 31st salary step was added for teachers at the top of the salary range. The increase is based on an additional \$2,250 plus the regular step raise. School-based administrators will realize a 7% average increase with central office staff and noncertified staff receiving 5.5% increases in salary. Within these salary schedules, ratified legislation requires that permanent full-time noncertified personnel be paid a minimum salary of \$20,112.

Clearly, the best budget news of all for school districts included the triple funding streams to restore base budget and eliminate discretionary cuts (\$44 million), expand low wealth funding (\$41 million), and spread DSSF (Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding) across all school districts (\$27 million). Appropriations will cover a myriad of programs and projects including funding for ABCs bonuses, Learn and Earn programs, school connectivity, virtual high schools, and small specialty high schools (in conjunction with Gates Foundation funding). The Department of Public Instruction received funding for additional NCWISE positions and staffing in the recently formed High School Turnaround section. Two special provisions will (1) make available 100 literacy coaches in 100 schools across the state with eighth grade, and (2) require the State Board of Education to develop a pilot salary supplement program for newly hired highly qualified math and science teachers.

The 2006 General Assembly enacted education legislation to address pressing issues and concerns of national, state, and local interest. House Bill 1908 is the most comprehensive rewrite of North Carolina special education laws in thirty years. Additional laws and studies protect schoolchildren's health, safety, and well being. House Bill 1151 requires school districts to include a plan for teachers to have duty-free lunch and at least five hours of duty-free planning within their school improvement plans. The school counselors and dropout prevention study will provide information on the role counselors play in providing intervention services for at-risk students. Senate Bill 2009 allows public schools to enter school facilities leasing partnerships with private entities. Senate Bill 700 requires all public schools to display the United States and North Carolina flags; in addition, this law requires that schools set aside time for reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily.

This 2006 Report on Education Legislation includes legislation summaries and, in the appendix, the full text of all legislation affecting public schools from the 2006 Session of the North Carolina General Assembly. For additional information on the actions of the General Assembly, please visit the DPI webpage (www.ncpublicschools.org) or contact the State Board of Education Legislative Office, Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601-2825.

Contents

1	Introduction
5	Conference Report on Continuation, Expansion, and Capital Budget
11	Comparison of FY 2006-2007 Proposed Budgets
13	Education Acronyms
15	Summaries of Special Provisions
19	House Bill Summaries
25	Senate Bill Summaries
29	Index of Chaptered Bills
31	Excerpts from the Budget Bill Affecting Public Schools
67	House Bills
191	Senate Bills
305	Local Bills

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Material included in the 2006 Report on Education Legislation was compiled by Rita L. Joyner, Legislative Liaison, State Board of Education, with assistance from Loretta Peace-Bunch, Executive Assistant. It was produced and printed by the Division of Communications and Information, Department of Public Instruction.