

# Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/28/2020 03:17 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Jim Donnelly	<p>As your committee works to support the education system in North Carolina during this time of crisis, please do so in a way that also addresses the long-standing inequity and insufficiency of funding for K-12 education in our state.</p> <p>Thank you for your important work!</p>
03/28/2020 05:35 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Wilhelmina Rotella	We need to fix the way we vote making it a easy to vote.
03/28/2020 07:21 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Nancy Brown	<p>For more of the disadvantage communities, it would be beneficial to have in place grants or funding to provide assistance, awareness, and training on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate Domestic Violence during these trying times. I'm willing to volunteer and do my part. Please keep me updated on how to obtain such resources if any. Thanks!</p> <p>Sincerely, Nancy Brown</p>
03/28/2020 09:07 PM	Education Working Group	Director Charlesanna White	All childcare in North Carolina could benefit from some type of financial help. We are facing the decision on if we must close solely on the tremendous drop in children we care for. Please consider Childcare workers as essential and back us up.
03/28/2020 09:47 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Carrie Grubbs	As principal of a private school that receives the Opportunity Scholarship, please waive testing requirements for this year as well as school year length requirements. It is looking even more likely that we will not be able to fulfill these requirements. Also, we have students that have waited all year to take driver's education and now they have no way to get even a permit. This is going to greatly disadvantage them when they need to get jobs this summer. Please follow the example of other states and allow at least a temporary provision for parents to teach their children to drive and the students to be able to take driver's exams at local dmv offices. Thank you very much for your help.
03/28/2020 11:50 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Bobby Padgett II	<p>In 55 of North Carolina's 100 counties, the local school system is the largest employer. Staff in the schools in all districts, especially hourly personnel, must be kept employed and receiving a regular pay check to keep the economic engines of their counties going.</p> <p>Should COVID-19 lead to a recession or worse, the state should tap its Rainy Day Fund to hold schools harmless. State Budgets since 2010 have been balanced out of the paychecks of teachers (loss of masters pay, loss of mentor pay, loss of longevity, replacing the 30 step pay scale with one with 10 and 5 year wage freezes). Teacher paychecks on average are nearly 20% behind in inflation adjusted buying power compared to same experience step from 2008. Combine that with increased out of pocket purchases for classroom items because of cuts to supplies, loss of funding due to charter and voucher expansion, and there is no way teachers of this state can stand for another freeze or cut. The switch to virtual learning may well have to become permanent because NC will not be left with enough quality teachers to fill our classrooms.</p> <p>In summary, keep all school system employees employed and receiving a paycheck until the schools are reopened for business.</p>

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03/29/2020 03:53 AM	Education Working Group	Joyce Myers	<p>On March 16 NCDHHS issued stricter guidelines for child care centers to help minimize the risk of exposure to both staff and children. It states:            *Only staff needed to maintain ratio compliance should be inside the classrooms. Facilities should restrict teachers to one classroom with one group of children and should not use "floater" teachers. This is in order to reduce the number of people coming in and out of the classrooms.</p> <p>Tender Care CDC has been approved by our state consultant Kimberly Crane to do the following:</p> <p>Two teachers can serve breakfast and have 5 classrooms of children in the same room eating breakfast together in our older classes (they will be sitting up to 8 at the table at one time from various classrooms) and two teacher in the younger classrooms overlapping three classrooms. These children will engage with each other prior to breaking out into their own classrooms. Those teachers will be in a classroom for the day also. You have now taken the risk of cross contaminating 5 classrooms on one side of the building and 3 on the other if someone were to be sick. Does that not contradict what Governor Roy Cooper has asked us to do?</p> <p>We have three daycare teachers at the facility with children, myself included. We were told we can go in the classrooms to visit our children on our break. I can go into two rooms, another teacher can go in two rooms, and the third can go in one room. There again, we've taken the risk of cross contaminating 5 classrooms not counting our own classrooms. Does that not defeat the extra precautions that we are "supposed" to be taking?</p> <p>We are not supposed to have "floater" teachers, but we were told that someone can cook, go in the Nursery classroom, then go up to the school age room (where we will combine 3-12 year olds from about 4:30 till 6). There again, how are we taking extra precautions to keep our children safe?</p> <p>If this is the way we are going to do things, we are tricking society to think we are taking extra precautions to keep their children safe.</p> <p>Some people believe this whole Covid 19 is being overhyped by the media while others think we are all doomed. I believe to listen with those who are educated in this field, as I am not. I am a policy follower, not just during this epidemic, but always. I don't always agree with rules, but it's my duty to adhere to them, just as it is your duty to uphold these new laws. It has been stated "we will never know if we did too much to prevent the spread of this terrible virus, but we will know if we did too little. "</p> <p>Let me state I want to work. I want to help those in the front lines. What I want most of all though is to TRULY do the best I can do to keep these children safe, mine included. I feel we should be made to follow the new policies during this epidemic. They were voted on by a board, and agree with them or not, it's the new law for now. It is your responsibility to enforce those rules, not help find loopholes around them.</p> <p>Governor Roy Cooper stared in a press conference Friday March 27th, that if rules and</p>

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			<p>stipulations conflict, adhere to the stricter guidelines. (This was in general and not specifically to childcare centers, but everyone as a whole) Who do we listen to? Our state consultant or the governor and those who built the guidelines for this?</p> <p>I urge you to fix this matter. One classroom. One group of children. That's what society thinks they are getting. That is what Governor Roy Cooper and the board who wrote these rules thinks society is getting. Let's give it to them. Help me and others in centers all over the state keep these children safe. You don't have to agree with the decisions made by the board that elected these rules, but it is our duty to uphold them!</p>
03/29/2020 09:25 AM	Education Working Group	Healthcare advocate Tera Long	We need Medicare for All NOW! Everyone deserves to have healthcare in the USA, not jut the people lucky enough to work from home. Please help.
03/29/2020 12:12 PM	Education Working Group	Catherine Netter	As a future measure to prevent germs floating in the air, would it be possible to place wall mounted Lysol dispensers that releases Lysol Spray in the air, on the hour, in public schools, hospitals, nursing homes, jails, prisons, etc. I'm certain research would have to be done to make sure the spray doesn't cause allergic reactions harmful to anyone, but we need to consider a measure moving forward that protects closed environments.
03/29/2020 02:55 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Dolores Marriott	I think given the uncertainty of the times we need to make voting by mail accessible for the November 2020 election