

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

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
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| 04/01/2020 05:19 PM | Education Working Group | Melissa Bryson | As a parent of Senior who is working very hard still in his online format and a very good student I fully expect him to be able to graduate on time as he has college orientation the next week. You need to end the school year on time let these days counts as students and teachers are doing the work and break for summer as normal. Kids will need a break after all that we are going through with this. I want clear articulated plans in detail for our seniors because my district is NOT articulating any of the things I heart last week at the State Board meeting. They will tell us NOTHING. WE NEED CLEAR CONCISE ANSWERS. |
| 04/01/2020 05:35 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Rhonda Pawlik | Catawba County Schools has been proactive throughout this experience with very strong leadership that puts safety of all staff first and foremost in all directions. Most people give you what is going wrong but I would like to share what is going right. Dr. Matt Stover put into place 2 weeks ago a plan for most employees including teacher assistants to telework. The essential workers are on a rotating basis and following strict guidelines s of social distancing. Food is provided for all families with children 18 and under that would like a meal for breakfast and lunch. We have weekly Google hangouts with each area to help us with remote learning. Everyone is very supportive and not pushing too much but making sure we stay connected with our families and students. We call it a "fluid situation" which helps with the flexibility. Things can change within seconds. We were prepared and didn't know it because most of our schools are one-to-one chromebook K-12 and the chrome books were sent home with students. Families without internet were provided free WiFi through spectrum and/ or paper packets. Lots more great things going on. We still sent paper packets K-5 because not all students worked in an online platform before COVID19. 6-12 students were already using Google Classroom and Canvas. Thank you so much for your hard work and support of educators in North Carolina. |
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| 04/01/2020 05:41 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Cynthia Silva | N.C. educators are providing in-person nutritional assistance and educational supplies to continue to support the needs of not only our students, but the needs of our community. N.C. educators also have reassembled their homes into online classrooms using their own supplies to meet the needs of North Carolina's students. In return, N.C. educators ask for |

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| | | | basic rights. Basic rights of any essential worker that is risking unknown long-term consequences, and possibly death, due to Covid-19 should receive hazard pay and masks and gloves for in-person disbursement of food and supplies. Furthermore, N.C educators ask that legislators remember what has been asked of N.C. educators as the N.C. bi-annual budget discussion resume this April. |
| 04/01/2020 07:03 PM | Education Working Group | Mr. Jason Harvey | I have gotten information that the state department of ed has issued directives for seniors and their grades. Now, we are waiting on the local district to make a decision about their criteria. Why is a local board able to supercede what the state dept has issued? My son is a senior and he should have no trouble graduating, but the confusion for parents and teachers about grades, no grades, pass/fail is very confusing. I imagine for seniors who are in grade danger, it is very frustrating. Seems like time for a clear, easy to understand statement to be made for everyone and let's be done. |
| 04/01/2020 07:17 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Sandi Shover | This is the time to reassess the efficacy of testing as we go forward into the 2020-2021 school year. The current conditions have highlighted the disparity between economically disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers. The economic gap will not close (even back to its current level) quickly, and students and schools will need time to teach, not test. Benchmarks/check-ins should be limited to one in the fall with data for planning, not any other purpose. Scaled back testing in grades 3-8 would be appropriate as would suspending the letter grading system for schools. Failing to make these changes will only widen gaps, not close them. Let us teach, not test. |
| 04/01/2020 09:57 PM | Education Working Group | Christie Rife | Expand Medicaid |
| 04/02/2020 12:22 AM | Education Working Group | Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW | North Carolina must immediately full fund pubic schools. For a decade, our schools have been stripped of money and resources, and we cannot expect students to do well while they are currently learning at home, nor when they come back to their schools, if our educators do not have the resources and supplies they need to create the schools our students deserve. |
| 04/02/2020 07:43 AM | Education Working Group | Ms. Shelli Plessner | Stop putting \$\$\$ and politics before lives! Do your jobs and take care of the citizens. All the citizens! |
| 04/02/2020 08:31 AM | Education Working Group | Kate Edwards | IDEA needs to be addressed. All EC students should be getting the best education possible as all students should. The state should,however, work with the Department of Education to "freeze" IEPs as they are until everyone is back to school. Meeting during this time with IEPs to conduct reevaluations and annual reviews is not possible in all state districts due to limited resources and technology for all parents, students, staff, and outside agencies that make up IEP teams. Not meeting during this time would cause IEP's to expire and become noncompliant. All IEP dates could be frozen and services could continue as in current IEPs until we were back in school and able to meet as an IEP team. Thank you! |
| 04/02/2020 10:05 AM | Education Working Group | Dr. Elizabeth Conroy | I'm most concerned about the safety of classified employees who are serving food to families and children. One cafeteria worker said she only has gloves and is not 6 ft. away from people picking up food. She lives with her husband and mother and doesn't want them to get sick. |
| 04/02/2020 12:30 PM | Education Working Group | Mr Rakendred Holley | I'm a Goundskeeper/Custodian at South Central High School, Winterville, NC. I'm speaking on behalf of all the classified workers, and state workers amongst others. I believe we |

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| | | | deserve a significant raise during this pandemic and afterwards. We are here working and are considered "essential staff". We're already making below what is needed to keep up with the economy for the next five years not including the last five years. We deserve to make or have our salaries as classified workers bumped up to \$18/hr who don't already make it. Those who do, they deserve more too. Why? Because when you value your employees, the only appreciation shouldn't only be food or "thank you" but some compensation. The Bible tells us that "the servant is worthy of his/her hire." The kids are being fed with meals delivered to them. The cafeteria is open to have them come and get something to eat. They are getting materials available for them to use to get taught at home by teachers(which I know can be a challenge itself). We're getting paid and thank God for that. But I believe we should be compensated for working in and through this pandemic. We're out in it. Suppose that was one of our members here at South Central High School that came back with the COVID-19. We would all have to be tested and pray we didn't get it. It's a dangerous situation. |
| 04/02/2020 01:20 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Dorothy Borden | We have an opportunity to care for our needy children through expanded Medicaid . Please don't let the help from this bill slip by. |
| 04/02/2020 02:00 PM | Education Working Group | School Nutrition Associat Rachel Beaulieu/Lobbyist for SNA-NC | <p>School Nutrition Association of North Carolina 3.27.20</p> <p>Need For Emergency Funding Now to Feed More Hungry NC Children</p> <p>NC School Nutrition Workers are on the Front Lines of Feeding NC Children Every Day: In the last two weeks, since March 14, 2020, we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opened over 1,000 sites in North Carolina to serve students nutritious meals. 2. Nearly 2,000 buses have been sent out to help serve the students of this great state. 3. Nearly 3 million breakfast and lunch meals have been served to our students. 4. 40,000 supper meals, and over 40,000 snacks have been served to students. <p>We need the General Assembly's and the Governor's help Now!</p> <p>Due to the rapid change of how school nutrition programs do business, there is and will be a revenue shortfall for employee salaries and benefits. While programs are operating at approximately a third of their budget revenues, the employee salary and benefits remain at 100%. This is a problem that will continue to get worse each day schools are shut down. School Nutrition programs cannot continue to operate at such a deficit while continuing to pay their employees and cover the costs of hospitalization benefits. School Nutrition Programs currently receive no state funding for employee salaries or benefits.</p> <p>Federal funds have been cut by approximately 66% due to a decrease in meals served from school days.</p> <p>Using 2018/19 Data, revenues for 12 school days in March across NC would average \$46,888,500</p> <p>The 12 days of school shutdown in March 2020 will result in federal reimbursements estimated around \$14,775,396.</p> <p>This is an estimated loss in revenue of \$32,113,104 for School Nutrition Programs in North Carolina.</p> <p>Local funds, coming from supplemental sales and student copays, are not there.</p> <p>Without the ability to pay employees, programs will have no one to feed our students.</p> |

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| | | | Much like in SL 2018-134 "Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act" section 4.1(1), we are asking for specific language designating funds for School Nutrition employee costs. |
| | | | *These numbers are changing daily, the deficit continuing to broaden, check back for more accurate data. |