

MARK JOHNSON

NC SUPERINTENDENT

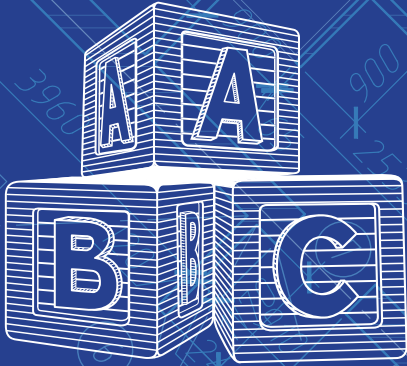
#NC2030 

BEST PLACE TO LEARN | BEST PLACE TO TEACH

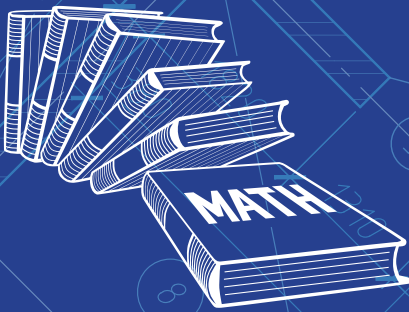
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@MarkRJohnsonNC

By 2030,
North Carolina will be the



Best place
to begin



Best place
to learn



Best place
to teach



March 5, 2019

Chairs and Members of the Joint Appropriations
Committee:

Thank you for your dedication to public education in
North Carolina.

As budget discussions continue this long session, one of
my goals is to equip you with the information you need
on our investments in public education, including both
funding and policy recommendations. Accordingly,
please find attached my recommendations for the public
education portion of your biennial budget.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as State
Superintendent. North Carolina is *where the weak grow
strong and the strong grow great*, and I look forward to
working with dedicated individuals like you as we
continue to improve the education opportunities for all
children in our great state.

My team and I are accessible to you any time that
you need us.

Your partner in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Mark R. Johnson'.

Mark R. Johnson
NC Superintendent of Public Instruction

1. Best Place to Begin**Help All Children Enter Kindergarten Ready to Learn**

- **High-quality Preschool Opportunities for 4-Year-Olds** – Place NC PreK academic standards and program approval under the direction of NC DPI while retaining DHHS regulation of childcare settings. Modify funding structure to streamline process and expand program capacity. **\$1.2M R** **\$1.2M R**
- **Kindergarten Readiness Tool** – Provide at-home tool to help close the readiness gap for 4-year-olds on the wait list for high-quality PreK through the use of adaptive digital applications. **\$1M R** **\$1M R**
- **Kindergarten Readiness Camp Pilots** – Scale local models to prepare incoming kindergarteners through a three-week camp prior to the beginning of the school year. Use lessons and best practices to improve 1st – 3rd grade reading camps. **\$1.8M R** **\$1.8M R**

Continue to Focus on Early Literacy

- **Continue and Expand Successful Partnerships** – Provide support and mentoring to reading teachers. Build capacity with intentional professional development, core reading curriculum, on-the-ground coaching and intervention, formative measures, and technical assistance aligned with evidence-based practices. Expand Wolfpack WORKS (Ways to Optimize Reading/Writing for Kids Statewide), which focuses on improving literacy instruction and providing professional development for K-3 reading teachers. **\$9M R** **\$9M R**
- **Maintain High Standards for Early Reading** – Review local assessments and their benchmark levels and how well those assessments predict future reading success. Provide list of high-quality literacy curricula for districts to leverage. **\$250K NR**

2. Best Place to Learn and Pursue Career Pathways**Personalized, Low Stress Education Settings that Maintain High Standards**

- **Eliminate High-Stress Standardized Testing** – Implement a phased-in plan for statewide availability of personalized-learning opportunities that will improve student proficiency, reduce burdens on teachers, and transform the current testing system. **\$10M R** **\$10M R**
- **Calendars That Meet Community Needs** - Allow local districts the flexibility to set calendars to align with local needs. Permit innovative schools, such as early-college high schools and their feeder schools, to match the calendars of their higher-education partners. Allow districts in military communities flexibility to support transitioning military families.
- **NC Math Standard Course of Study Pilot** – Allow a working group of districts to opt out of the NC Mathematics Standard Course of Study through a pilot study using clear, rigorous, and results-driven math standards and personalized-learning tools. **\$500K NR**

Connections to Successful Career Pathways

- **Career Coaches** – Expand the NC Works Career Coaches program run by the Community College System that places career coaches in public high schools (Support \$2.8M NC Community Colleges request).
- **NC Computer Science Plan** – Implement Phase 2 of the State Computer Science Plan to increase the availability of computer science courses and qualified instructors in middle and high schools across the state. **\$1.5M R** **\$1.5M R**
- **Coding and Robotic Grants** – Continue grants to support partnerships with local businesses and middle/high schools for computer science, coding, and robotic development programs. **\$900K R** **\$900K R**
- **Career Essentials for Skilled Trades** – Implement a hybrid credential tool for students to develop and enhance career-readiness skills through the SkillsUSA Career Essentials program and improve distance-learning experiences. **\$1.5M R** **\$1.5M R**
- **Financial Literacy** – Equip every public school student with financial literacy tools by the time they graduate high school. **\$550K R** **\$550K R**

Safe, Supportive Environments for Students, Families, and Educators

- **Anonymous Tip Application** – Contract for a statewide tool and provide parent and student engagement materials emphasizing the importance of utilizing the app. **TBD**
May 19
- **School Safety and Mental Health Professionals and Training** – Continue and expand grants for school mental health professionals and school resource officers. Allow districts to use innovative approaches such as telemedicine, contracts with other organizations, and other partnerships. Includes funds for training for personnel and for student support programs such as peer-to-peer counseling. **\$72M R** **\$72M R**
\$10M NR **\$10M NR**
- **School Safety Equipment and Training Grants** - Continue and expand equipment grants. Fund training for use of new safety equipment. **\$11M NR** **\$11M NR**
- **Regional Safety Trainers** – Ensure each region has access to school safety trainers and technical assistance. **\$600K R** **\$600K R**
- **Resources to Meet Unique Needs of Military Families** – Provide an additional military family counselor each in Cumberland and Onslow due to workload, and state-level support to coordinate with NC National Guard and Reserve units to support schools and families around deployments and share best practices. Additional funds for training programs. **\$350K R** **\$350K R**
- **Raise the Cap on Special Needs Funding** – Raise the cap from 12.75% to 13.5% to serve the special-needs student population and establish a working group to transition to a needs-based tiered model. **\$15M R** **\$15M R**

Appropriate Learning Spaces for Students and Educators

- **Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund** – Continue lottery funding as planned (\$152M over the next two years) to assist lower-wealth counties with their critical public school capital needs.
- **Public Education Infrastructure Needs** – Adopt a plan to address the capital needs of public schools across the state. NC DPI will need two positions for review, oversight, and technical assistance and one position for budget oversight. \$375K R \$375K R

3. Best Place to Teach

Competitive Compensation and Benefits for Educators

- **Create Professional Teaching Cohorts for the Entire State** – Add time and compensation at the beginning of the school year for all first-through fourth-year teachers for professional and cohort development (\$61M). Opt-in program for experienced, qualified teachers to serve as Teacher Leaders during that time (with additional compensation) and throughout the year (\$12M). \$73M R \$73M R
- **Salary Increase** – Provide all teachers with a salary increase of at least 5%, which would ensure the NC average teacher salary remains competitive with and greater than the median household income in NC. \$140M R \$280M R
A 7% increase for all teachers would further promote the competitiveness of teacher salary in NC. \$196M R \$392M R
- **Advanced Teaching Roles Pilot** – Scale program to meet demand and expand evaluation capacity. \$5M R \$5M R
- **NC Teaching Fellows** – Increase the number of partner institutions from five to eight institutions. (Support UNC System request).
- **Principal Pay** – Increase principal pay to compete with surrounding states. Reward principals for taking on larger, more complex schools. \$50M R \$50M R
- **TeachNC** – Continue implementation of a multi-faceted statewide teacher recruitment campaign. NC DPI will need one position for review, oversight, and technical assistance. \$750K R

21st Century Tools and Support for Educators

- **Textbook Funding** – Provide state-funded allotment of \$50 per student, an increase of approximately \$10 per student. **\$16M R** **\$16M R**
- **Classroom Supplies** – Empower teachers with control over a portion of the use of state funding for instructional supplies, which averages approximately \$600 per teacher. Maintain accountability and oversight through use of an online platform.
- **Learning Management Support** - Procure a statewide learning-management system to provide all schools consistent, cost-effective access to high-quality digital and personalized learning tools. **\$5M R** **\$5M R**
- **Grading Scale Consistency** - Continue the current 15-point grading scale to support consistent evaluation of performance and growth.
- **Class Size Good Cause Exemption** – Allow a waiver by the State Superintendent in cases where a local district has demonstrated they are unable to find sufficient qualified teachers to meet requirements.
- **Modern and Transparent Financial & Business Systems** – Enable policymakers, local districts, and educators to make data-driven decisions to improve student outcomes. The majority of these funds will be used to transition school districts to modern financial and human resource (ERP) systems to improve efficiency, transparency, and accountability. **\$30M R** **\$30M R**
- **Data-Driven Support for Administrators, Teachers, and Policymakers** – Establish a data-analytics unit to support data-driven, evidence-based support to districts and policymakers. **\$1.2M R** **\$1.2M R**



LEARNING



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