

# FY 2025-26 NCDPI and State Board of Education Legislative Priorities

Joint House and Senate Appropriations Committee, Education  
February 27, 2025

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NC Department of Public Instruction*

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NC Department of Public Instruction*



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## FY 2025-26 Legislative Priorities

NCDPI's and the State Board of Education's joint legislative priorities are aligned with the Superintendent's vision for our public school system to *Achieve Educational Excellence* and the six pillars he has laid out to guide our work:

- Prepare each student for their next phase of life.
- Invest in public schools by fully funding public education.
- Revere public school educators.
- Enhance parent and community support.
- Ensure safe, secure learning environments.
- Celebrate the good in public education.



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## FY 2025-26 Legislative Priorities

Overall priorities to strengthen our public schools:

- Support students in Western North Carolina recover from the impacts of Hurricane Helene, including providing an additional \$100 million to address school facility needs in impacted districts
- Invest in raising teacher and educator pay so that North Carolina has the highest teacher salaries in the Southeast and restore master's pay for all educators
- Reform the principal pay plan
- Help address the nearly \$13 billion in school construction needs across the state
- Place a moratorium on expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship program and offer no new awards to students beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year.
  - Redirect the funding appropriated for new Opportunity Scholarships for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years to addressing needs in our public schools.
  - Future funding increases for the Opportunity Scholarship program should be limited to the annual percentage increase in funding for the State Public School Fund.

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## Student and School Support

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Increase in School Health Personnel Allotment	R	\$65,490,706
Implement Exceptional Children Weighted Funding Formula	R NR	\$89,400,000 \$109,200,000
Student Transportation Information Management (TIMS)	R	\$140,500
New Cooperative Innovative High Schools (Martin County Schools, Moore County Schools, and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools)	R	\$635,000
School Breakfast and Lunch at No Cost to Students	R	\$377,000,000
Convert SRO Grants into an Appropriation Based on Formula for Elementary and Middle Schools	R	\$120,000,000
Charter School Review Board Operating, Travel Expenses, and Legal Counsel	R	\$82,100

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## Academic Support and Coaching

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Support for Low Performing Districts	R	\$4,500,000
Expand DIBELS Diagnostic to Grades 4-5	R NR	\$1,390,800 \$966,508
Expand Literacy Professional Development and Support to Grades 6-8 (9 FTE)	R NR	\$14,000,000 \$25,002,000
K-8 Math Screener	R	\$44,000,000
High-Impact Tutoring Support for School Districts	R NR	\$23,200,000 \$875,000
Beginning Teacher Support Program Regional Convenings	R	\$500,000
Beginning Teacher Support Program Evaluation (FY27)	NR	\$750,000
Professional Misconduct Investigator (1 FTE)	R	\$120,000
Rulemaking Coordinator (1 FTE)	R	\$120,630

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## Technology

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
One-to-One Device Refresh	R	\$152,620,000
Additional State Funds for Federal E-Rate Match	R	\$2,500,000
School Cybersecurity Support	R	\$6,910,000
School Business Systems Modernization	NR	\$45,000,000
Uniform Education Reporting System (UERS)	R	\$17,500,000
State Dept. of Information Technology (DIT) Billing Requirements	R	\$1,140,000
M365/Google Backup Server Requirements for State DIT Policy	R	\$720,000

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## Compensation Pathways

Request	Recurring/ Nonrecurring	Budget Estimate
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Salary Supplements (\$20.1m in FY27)	R	\$14,100,000
Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Grants Expansion	R	\$2,000,000

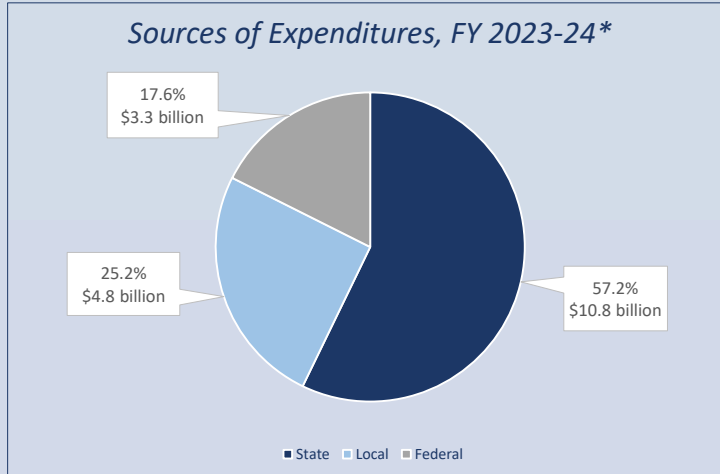
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## Budget Special Provisions

- PSU dollar allotment reversions for use in purchasing technology
- DPI flexibility for placement of early literacy specialists
- ADM hold harmless for Helene-impacted PSUs
- Revise provisions for the CEP Meal Program Incentive program

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# Funding for NC K-12 Public Education



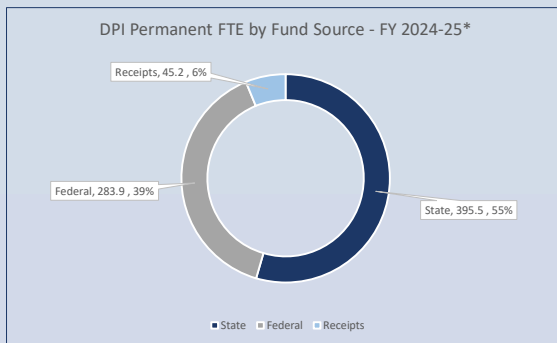
In FY 2019-20, before the investment of federal COVID funds, the share of K-12 education expenditures was

- State – 64.3%
- Local – 25.4%
- Federal – 10.3%

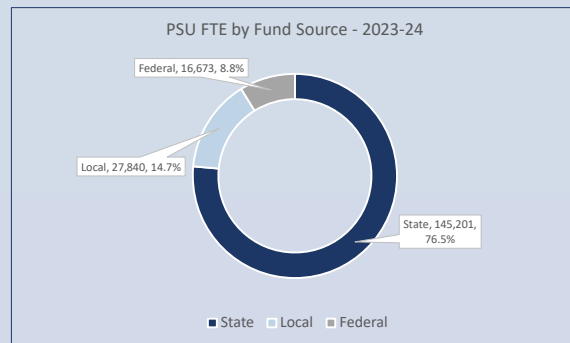
\*Includes child nutrition and one-time (nonrecurring) federal funds provided in response to the COVID pandemic, significantly increasing the percentage of expenditures from federal funds

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# DPI and PSU Personnel by Fund Source



Total FTE 723



Total FTE 189,714

\*DPI FTE excludes residential schools, NCVPS, NCCAT, Governors School and ESSER positions; includes 19 FTE for Center for Safer Schools

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## Other Legislative Priorities

- School calendar flexibility
- Portfolio requirement for individuals seeking principal licensure
- Eliminate Praxis Core requirement for admission to EPP
- Eliminate DPI/SBE school and district accreditation
- Study how to eliminate or consolidate required DPI and State Board of Education legislative reports
- Sunset the Textbook Commission

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## Questions and Discussion

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**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction