



## 2019 Enacted Laws Affecting Public Schools

The following is the North Carolina Association of School Administrators’ summary of the major law changes the 2019 General Assembly approved to affect the funding and operations of public schools. The legislation is listed in numeric order in the Table of Contents and by subject matter on the pages that follow. To view the full text of the enacted law, press control and click on the blue bill number listed with each summary.

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# Appropriations/Budget

## H200: 2019 Storm Recovery/Var. Budget Corrections (=S.L. 2019-250)

- Section 1.2 appropriates \$1.7 million in nonrecurring funds for repairs to the Ocracoke School, necessitated by Hurricane Dorian, to be used during the 2019-2020 fiscal year.
- Section 3.4 provides that funds allocated to the Community Colleges System Office in Section 4.1 of S.L. 2018-136 may be used to offset a receipt shortfall due to enrollment declines caused by Hurricane Florence.
- **Enacted and effective: November 18, 2019.**

## H377: Teacher Step Act (=S.L. 2019-247)

- Section 1.1 appropriates \$16.3 million for compensation increases for principals pursuant to section 2.3 and 2.5.
- Section 2.1 establishes the 2019-2020 Teacher Monthly Salary Schedule using amounts from the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Teachers and instructional support personnel receive applicable salary increases (ranging from \$3,500 to \$5,200) based on years of experience.
- Section 2.2 authorizes salary supplements for highly qualified North Carolina teaching graduates entering the teaching profession in the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium in one of the following categories:
  - (1) Graduates accepting initial employment at a school identified as low-performing by the State Board of Education shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first three years of employment as a teacher equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with three years of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule; or
  - (2) Graduates licensed and employed to teach in the areas of special education, science, technology, engineering, or mathematics shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first two years of employment as a teacher equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with two years of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule; or
  - (3) All other graduates shall receive a salary supplement during the graduate's first year of employment as a teacher equivalent to the difference between the State-funded salary of the graduate and the State-funded salary of a similarly situated teacher with one year of experience on the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule.
- Section 2.3 provides increases for principal salaries in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, and clarifies the amounts that may be transferred out of the school building administration funding allotment category.
- Section 2.4 provides bonuses for principals.
  - Increases bonus amounts for principals in the Top 5% and Top 10% in statewide growth from \$10,000 and \$7,500 to \$15,000 and \$10,000, respectively.
  - Mandates these bonuses be paid no later than November 30, 2019 to qualifying principals employed as of November 1, 2019.
  - Eliminates the previous doubling of the principal bonus for principals in "D" or "F" schools.
- Section 2.5 establishes the Principal Recruitment Supplement Program.
  - This Program provides up to 40 principals currently paid on the "exceeded" growth column of the schedule a \$30,000 annual salary supplement for 3 years (for a \$90,000 total incentive) if they accept employment at a school in the bottom 5% in school performance.
  - The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required to notify eligible employers by December 1, 2019, that the employer may be selected to participate in the Program.
- Section 2.6 authorizes assistant principal salaries for the 2019-2020 fiscal year based on amounts from the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Assistant principals receive applicable salary increases based on years of experience.

- Section 3.1 authorizes salaries for certain employees of schools operated by state agencies based on amounts from the 2018-2019 fiscal year. These employees receive applicable salary increases based on years of experience.
- Section 4.1 clarifies the application of salary increases for principals.
- **Enacted: November 8, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

#### [H961: Ensuring Authorization of Federal Funds \(=S.L. 2019-192\)](#)

- Authorizes continued federal block grant funding in the absence of a new state budget.
- **Enacted: August 1, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

#### [S61: Community Colleges Budget/2019-2021 Biennium \(=S.L. 2019-235\)](#)

- Part I appropriates \$2,390,486,392 in funding to the Community College System for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium.
- Part II adjusts the Governor’s recommended budget and Budget support document for the Community College System for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium, resulting in allocation of funding for the Community College System.
- Part IV provides for a special provision relating to student financial assistance programs.
- **Enacted: November 1, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

## Calendar

#### [S343: Various Education Law Changes \(=S.L. 2019-165\)](#)

- Makes changes to various education reports including date changes, repeals of reports, addition of reports, and modifications of information reported.
- Requires local boards of education to report annually by April 1 to the State Superintendent and the SBE on the start and end dates of the instructional calendar for students. In this report, local boards of education must identify the statutory exception that authorizes an earlier start date for all schools that begin earlier than the Monday closest to August 26. The SBE must then report this information to JLEOC by June 15 of each year.
- Clarifies the Education Workforce Innovation Commission’s membership.
- Staggers the appointments to the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission.
- Exempts the State Board of Education’s charter actions from contested case provisions.
- **Enacted and effective: July 26, 2019.**

## Curriculum & Instruction

#### [H924: Teacher Contract Changes \(=S.L. 2019-82\)](#)

- Clarifies how much time a teacher must have already worked for a local board of education in order to be eligible for an extended employment contract.
  - Requires a contract between the local board of education and a teacher who has been employed by the local board of education for less than three years to be for a term of one school year.
  - Requires a new contract or renewal of contract between the local board of education and a teacher who has been employed by the local board of education as a teacher for three years or more to be for a term of one, two, or four school years.
    - Allows a local board of education to require by policy that the three years of employment be consecutive.

- Requires a new course in economics and personal finance (EPF) as a graduation requirement for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2020-21, and requires professional development for teachers of that course.
- Requires the State Board of Education to begin the process for review and revision of the standard course of study for social studies in grades kindergarten through 12 in the 2019-2020 school year, and requires SBE to revise the high school standard course of study in accordance with the requirements for the EPF course and the Founding Principles of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course.
- **Enacted and effective: July 8, 2019.**

#### **S312: Relief to Ocracoke School/Hurricane Dorian (=S.L. 2019-238)**

- Section 1(a) provides discretion to Hyde County Schools' Board of Education to allow Ocracoke School to make up instructional days missed due to Hurricane Dorian, deem completed up to 20 instructional days missed, or any combination of those two options
- Section 1(b) provides that employees at the Ocracoke School, for up to 18 days, be deemed for instructional days missed that are not made up that employees be compensated as though they worked on those days.
- **Enacted and Effective: November 1, 2019.**

#### **S366: 10<sup>th</sup> Grade/College Transfer Pathways (=S.L. 2019-185)**

- Expands college transfer pathway to qualifying 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders deemed mature to handle that course of study.
- Expands career and technical education (CTE) pathways for 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> graders to include construction and business technologies courses.
- Allows certain CTE tradesmen to serve as adjunct instructors based on practical experience, rather than educational attainment.
- **Enacted and effective: August 1, 2019.**

#### **S391: Expand Youth Internship Opportunities (=S.L. 2019-166)**

- Provides a limited exception to the prohibition on youth participating in occupations found detrimental by the Commissioner of Labor when the youth is participating in a supervised, practical experience.
- **Enacted and effective: July 26, 2019.**

#### **S500/H591: Modify Advanced Math Course Enrollment (=S.L. 2019-120)**

- Clarifies requirements for advanced math course enrollment and requires reporting on advance math course enrollment.
- For the 2019-2020 school year *only*, exempts certain schools (*those that did not place their highest-scoring 7<sup>th</sup> graders in a high school math course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade during 2018-2019*) from the requirement that 7th grade students who score at the highest level be enrolled in a high school math course in 8th grade.
- Clarifies that schools that are exempted from the 8th grade math placement requirement in 2019-2020 may still offer high school math in 8th grade if they choose.
- Authorizes local boards of education to provide supplemental content enrichment to students enrolled in a high school level math course.
- **Enacted and effective: July 11, 2019.**

## Exceptional Children

### S556: GSC People First Language 2019 (=S.L. 2019-76)

- Changes the phrase “Mental Retardation” to “Intellectual Disability” or “Intellectual or Other Developmental Disability” in applicable statutes.
- **Enacted and effective: July 1, 2019.**

## Facilities

### H922: Enhance Insurance Coverage/Educ. Buildings (=S.L. 2019-176)

- Authorizes a Type I transfer (transfer of all or part of an existing agency to a principal department) and consolidation of the School Insurance Fund Section of the Department of Public Instruction, which oversees the management and operation of a system of insurance for public education property, to the Department of Insurance (DOI), as well as a transfer of the Public School Insurance Fund to the DOI.
- Requires a public education board to insure, and keep insured, each building owned by the entity to the extent of *not less than 80% of the current insurable value*, against loss by an insurable hazard, defined as the following: fire, lightning, windstorm, hail, explosion, aircraft or vehicles, riot or civil commotion, smoke, vandalism, sprinkler leakage, sinkhole collapse, volcanic action, falling objects, weight of snow, ice or sleet, and water damage.
  - Imposes a similar requirement for boards to insure and keep insured to the extent of not less than 80% of the current insurable value, for *flood damage* to buildings and their contents, when that property is located, or becomes located in an area identified on the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency as an area that will be inundated by a flood event having a one percent (1%) chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year.
  - Allows the Commissioner of Insurance to order, for each separate violation, a civil penalty for any person the Commissioner determines willfully failed to comply with the insurance coverage requirements for public education boards.
- Requires the tax-levying authority for each local school administrative unit (usually county commissioners) to appropriate funds necessary to purchase required insurance.
- **Enacted: July 26, 2019; effective: July 1, 2020.**

### S88: Electrician Requirements for Certain Orgs. (=S.L. 2019-78)

- Clarifies that the exception from licensure for a person performing electrical work on the person's own property does not limit the ability of a local board of education, a hospital, or a nonprofit organization to employ a licensed electrical contractor to perform maintenance and repairs on property owned or possessed by the local board of education, hospital, or nonprofit organization.
- Provides that a licensed electrical contractor who is regularly employed by a local board of education, hospital, or nonprofit organization may maintain an individual license and may contract with or perform work at the direction of the contractor's employer for any building or facility owned or possessed by the employer, regardless of whether all or a portion of the building or facility is being leased or otherwise provided for another entity or event.
- Provides that local boards of education may employ licensed electrical contractors.
- **Enacted and effective: July 4, 2019.**

## Governance

### H57: Create Term for Public Schs. & Codify NCVPS (=S.L. 2019-51)

- Creates a new definition for the education chapter of the General Statutes for the term "public school unit" to refer collectively to the following types of public schools in the State:

- A local school administrative unit;
  - A charter school;
  - A regional school;
  - A school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by one of the following:
    - The State Board of Education, including schools operated under Article 7A and Article 9C of this Chapter;
    - The University of North Carolina, including schools operated under Articles 4, 29, and 29A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.
- Codifies the North Carolina Virtual Public School program (NCVPS) in the education chapter of the General Statutes to consolidate all references to the NCVPS program.
- **Enacted: June 26, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

#### **H181: Yanceyville/Greensboro/McDowell Cty Bd Ed. (=S.L. 2019-234)**

- Section 3 provides for the plan for merger of Marion City Board of Education and McDowell County Board of Education (changing the residency districts).
- Section 3 also provides for the staggering of terms and election criteria for members to the McDowell County Board of Education.
- **Enacted and Effective (except as otherwise provided): October 31, 2019.**

#### **S301: Regional School Modifications. (=S.L. 2019-184)**

- Creates a process for a participating local board of education (participating unit) to withdraw from a regional school. Specifically, the participating unit must adopt a resolution requesting withdrawal from the regional school and submit the resolution to the regional school Board of Directors (BoD). The regional school BoD must then provide an opportunity for public comment on the resolution. Following public comment, the regional school BoD may conditionally approve the withdrawal resolution with a vote of at least two-thirds of the membership. Upon conditional approval, the regional school BoD must submit the resolution to the State Board of Education (SBE) for further public comment and final approval.
- **Enacted and effective: August 1, 2019.**

#### **S478: Modify Appointment Reporting (=S.L. 2019-167)**

- Modifies the reporting requirement for gender-proportionate appointments to certain boards and commissions.
- Corrects typos in section numbers, modifies the short title, and adds clarifying language to distinguish between public bodies and local boards.
- **Enacted and effective: July 26, 2019.**

#### **S686: Appointments Bill 2019 (=S.L. 2019-122)**

- Modifies the appointment to the NC Professional Educator Preparation Program and Standards Commission, effective September 1, 2019.
- Appoints Lawrence H. "Larry" Chewning, III, of Nash County to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees Board of Trustees, for a term expiring on June 30, 2021.
- Appoints the following specified persons to the following boards and commissions upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

- Stephen Griffin of Durham County, Thomas Luckadoo of Catawba County, Richard L. Purcell of Mecklenburg County, Craig Hagood of Wake County, and Judith E. Irwin of Johnston County are appointed to the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission;
  - W. Lentz Brewer of New Hanover County and Michael “Greg” Patterson of Wake County are appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System;
  - Lawrence H. “Larry” Chewing, III, of Nash County and Lisa Grimes of Wake County are appointed to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees Board of Trustees;
  - Mariann Tillery of Guilford County and Dr. Jennifer W. Olson of Wake County are appointed to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission;
  - Lauren Genesky of Wake County, Megan Loftus of Mecklenburg County, Dr. Patrick Miller of Greene County, Hank Weddington of Catawba County, Anthony Graham of Guilford County, Glenda Jones of Mecklenburg County, Dr. Michael Maher of Wake County, and Ellen McIntyre of Mecklenburg County are appointed to the North Carolina Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission; and
  - Dr. Charles Westley Wood of Wilkes County, Dr. Van O. Dempsey, III, of New Hanover County, Dr. Connie O. Locklear of Robeson County, Samuel H. Houston, Jr., of Wake County, Michael D. Hicks of Union County, Dr. Virginia Ann Bullock of Alamance County, Dr. Aaron Fleming of Harnett County, and Joseph W. Childers of Stokes County are appointed to the North Carolina Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission for terms expiring on August 31, 2020.
- **Enacted and effective: July 16, 2019.**

#### [S690: Modifications to 2019 Appointments Bill \(=S.L. 2019-233\)](#)

- Act modifies appointments made in the 2019 Appointments Bills; and
- Appoints persons to various public offices upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Enacted and effective: October 28, 2019.**

#### [H263: Fill Vacancies/Modify 2018 Appointments \(=S.L. 2019-11\)](#)

- Appoints persons to various public offices upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, including appointing Jeannette Butterworth of Henderson County to the North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board for a term expiring on June 30, 2021.
- **Enacted and effective: April 4, 2019.**

## **Higher Education**

#### [H107: PED Oversight/EPP Changes \(=S.L. 2019-149\)](#)

- Directs the State Board of Education to study the feasibility of including the two-year retention rate of Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) completers initially licensed and employed in a NC public school as a performance standard;
- Removes the performance standard of “quality of students entering the EPP” and only includes this data as part of the annual performance report.
- Modifies sanctioning criteria of an EPP.
- Directs the State Board of Education (State Board) to adopt a rule to create a small group exception to avoid identifying information of individual program participants. This rule specifies how to qualify for the exception and how performance is assessed.



- Directs the State Board to develop a performance-based weighted model and report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee before implementing the model.
- **Enacted and effective: July 22, 2019.**

#### S227: TP3/Principal Fellows Consolidation (=S.L. 2019-60)

- Maintains the existing administration of the Transforming Principal Preparation Program (TP3) for current grant recipients through June 30, 2021.
- Expands Principal Fellows Commission membership to include TP3, creating the new North Carolina Principal Fellows and TP3 Commission; also adds three members to the new Commission.
- Repeals the current Principal Fellows Program in 2021 and replaces it with state-funded cohort training for aspiring principals.
  - **Effective: July 1, 2021.**
- Expands principal preparation opportunities across the State by merging the existing Transforming Principal Preparation Program (TP3) with the Principal Fellows Program July 1, 2021 into state-funded cohorts of aspiring principals participating through a forgivable loan program.
  - **Effective: June 30, 2019.**
- **Enacted and effective (except where otherwise indicated): June 27, 2019.**

#### H664: myFutureNC/Postsecondary Attainment Goal (=S.L. 2019-55)

- Establishes a postsecondary educational attainment goal for the State “to ensure that the State remains economically competitive now and into the future.”
- Specifically creates a goal for 2,000,000 residents between the ages of 25 and 44 to have completed a high-quality credential or postsecondary degree by 2030.
- Mandates the myFutureNC Commission, a statewide commission focusing on postsecondary educational attainment in the State, report to the General Assembly on September 1<sup>st</sup> of every year, beginning in 2020, on the progress of the State reaching the stated goal.
- **Enacted and effective: June 26, 2019.**

#### H668: Various Higher Education Changes (=S.L. 2019-139)

- Authorizes community colleges to use adequate insurance coverage in place of bonds for employees handling institutional funds and property.
- Renames the “University of North Carolina Center for Public Television” as “The University of North Carolina Center for Public Media.”
- Allows evidence of North Carolina high school graduation for students to rebut the presumption that the student’s residence is the parent’s residence for establishing residency for in state tuition purposes for North Carolina community colleges and universities.
- **Enacted and effective: July 19, 2019.**

## Local Education Bills

#### H134: Filling Vacancy/Onslow County Board of Comm. (=S.L. 2019-102)

- Changes the manner of election of the Stokes County Board of Education from nonpartisan to partisan, beginning in 2020.
- Changes the terms of all members to four years, beginning in 2022.
- **Enacted: July 10, 2019.**

### [S6/H19: Dare County/CC Construction Funds \(=S.L. 2019-9\)](#)

- Clarifies that the authority granted in Session Law 2017-183—College of Albemarle/Construction Funds—includes the expenditure of State funds by the College for the construction and renovation of educational facilities owned by and located on property owned by Dare County, specifically:
  - (i) the razing of some or all of the existing College facility located in Manteo, known as the "Old Manteo Middle School," and
  - (ii) the construction of a multi-use facility upon the "Old Manteo Middle School" campus for use by the College. Additionally, this language requires the multi-use facility to be leased by Dare County to the College for a period of at least 30 years.
- If any Connect NC Bond proceeds are used for the activities described, this law requires those funds to be spent on capital facilities that are to be used for community college purposes.
- Allows the College to contract with Dare County for the activities described without being subject to G.S. 143-341 (the powers and duties of the Department of Administration).
- **Enacted and effective: March 29, 2019.**

### [S674: Surry Co./Mt. Airy/Elkin City/Bd. Ed Partisan](#)

- Changes the method of election of the Boards of Education of Surry County, Mount Airy City Schools Administrative Unit, and Elkin City Administrative Unit from nonpartisan to partisan.
- Beginning in 2020, alters the process for filling vacancies on the Boards.
- **Enacted and effective: June 27, 2019.**

## **Omnibus Education Changes**

### [S343: Various Education Law Changes \(=S.L. 2019-165\)](#)

- Makes changes to various education reports including date changes, repeals of reports, addition of reports, and modifications of information reported.
- Requires local boards of education to report annually by April 1 to the State Superintendent and the SBE on the start and end dates of the instructional calendar for students. In this report, local boards of education must identify the statutory exception that authorizes an earlier start date for all schools that begin earlier than the Monday closest to August 26. The SBE must then report this information to JLEOC by June 15 of each year.
- Clarifies the Education Workforce Innovation Commission's membership.
- Staggers the appointments to the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission.
- Exempts the State Board of Education's charter actions from contested case provisions.
- **Enacted and effective: July 26, 2019.**

### [S522: Low-Perf. Schools/Adv. Teaching Roles. \(=S.L. 2019-248\)](#)

- Changes the selection process for schools in the Innovative School District (ISD) by creating a three-year process that releases the State Board of Education from its obligation to choose four schools to be added to the ISD next year.

- The new process would give notice to qualifying schools in year one and place the schools on a “watch list” in year two, before finally placing the schools on a “warning list” in year three if school performance has not improved.
- If a school on the warning list has not made requisite improvements before year four, the SBE must select the school for transfer to the ISD.
- Makes additional changes to the ISD statutes.
- Requires additional reporting by local boards of education to county commissioners on the academic performance of certain schools.
- Requires additional study on changes to the ISD and statutes relating to low-performing schools.
- Eliminates the cap on local boards of education that can participate in the Advanced Teaching Roles Pilot Program and exempt participating schools from class size requirements.
- **Enacted: November 11, 2019; effective beginning with schools identified as qualifying schools for the 2019-2020 school year.**

## **Military Support**

### **S230: NC Military and Veteran Act of 2019 (=S.L. 2019-201)**

- Provides for a minimum of 2 days per academic years for excused absences related to a parent or legal guardian’s service in a combat zone.
- Expands the definition of “child” for the purposes of determining college scholarship eligibility for children of North Carolina war veterans.
- Allows for certain military veterans and other individuals to be charged the in-State tuition rate, regardless of the 12-month residency requirement.
- **Enacted and effective: August 23, 2019.**

### **S448: Amend Appt For Compact on Education/Military (=S.L. 2019-38)**

- Amends the requirements for an individual to be appointed as compact commissioner under the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- **Enacted and effective: June 21, 2019.**

## **Personnel**

### **H70: Delay NC HealthConnex for Certain Providers (=S.L. 2019-23)**

- Makes clear that local education agencies and school-based health providers are not required to connect to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) Network or submit data but may connect to the HIE Network and submit data voluntarily.
- **Enacted and effective: June 6, 2019.**

### **H770: Freedom to Work/OLB Reform (=S.L. 2019-91)**

- Requires each occupational and state agency licensing board to file with the Secretary of State, Attorney General, and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, an annual report with the number of applicants and licenses granted, as well as the number of applicants with a conviction record. Out of the number of applicants with a conviction record, boards must also report the number of licenses granted, licenses denied for any reason, and licenses denied because of a conviction.
- **Enacted: July 8, 2019; effective: October 1, 2019.**

### S219: Modify Teacher Licensure Requirements (=S.L. 2019-71), as amended by S621 (=S.L. 2019-212)

- S.L. 2019-71, effective July 1, 2019, extends the licensure exam deadline to provide teachers with initial professional licenses (IPLs) expiring on July 1, 2019, as well as new applicants, with the full three years of their IPL to pass the required licensure exams.
- Provides a one-time, one-year extension for elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum teachers with an IPL, if their license was set to expire June 30, 2019, due to the failure to fulfill the licensure examination requirements.
  - S.L. 2019-212, enacted Sept. 4, 2019, expands this one-year extension to individuals with lateral entry or residency licenses in elementary education (K-6) or special education general curriculum.
- S.L. 2019-71 creates a new teaching license, called a limited license (G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(4a)), for teachers (i) with an IPL who are not eligible for a CPL due to failure to fulfill licensure exam requirements; or (ii) for teachers who have an out-of-state license.
  - A limited license is valid for three years and cannot be renewed.
  - The limited license can only be requested by the local board of education currently employing or seeking to employ the teacher, and is only valid in that local school administrative unit.
  - S.L. 2019-212, enacted Sept. 4, 2019, allows individuals with a lateral entry license or a residency license that has been renewed twice to be eligible for a limited license. Individuals who have only had a residency license for one or two years would not be eligible for a limited license.
- **Enacted and effective (except as otherwise indicated): July 1, 2019.**

### H646: ID Approval/Flex Muni One-Stop (=S.L. 2019-22)

- Clarifies the approval process for student and employee identification cards being used for voting identification.
- Establishes a time period during which any student or employee identification card denied approval for use in the 2020 elections may be resubmitted for approval.
- **Enacted and effective: June 3, 2019.**

### H924: Teacher Contract Changes (=S.L. 2019-82)

- Clarifies that a teacher must have worked for no less than 120 workdays as a teacher in a full-time permanent position for a local board of education in order to be eligible for an extended employment contract.
  - Requires a contract between the local board of education and a teacher who has been employed by the local board of education for less than three years to be for a term of one school year.
  - Requires a new contract or renewal of contract between the local board of education and a teacher who has been employed by the local board of education as a teacher for three years or more to be for a term of one, two, or four school years.
    - Allows a local board of education to require by policy that the three years of employment be consecutive.
- Requires a new course in economics and personal finance (EPF) as a graduation requirement for students entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in 2020-21 and requires professional development for teachers of that course.
- Requires the State Board of Education to begin the process for review and revision of the standard course of study for social studies in grades kindergarten through 12 in the 2019-2020 school year, and requires SBE to revise the high school standard course of study in accordance with the requirements for the EPF course and the Founding Principles of America and North Carolina: Civic Literacy course.
- **Enacted and effective (except as otherwise indicated): August 8, 2019.**

## Pre-Kindergarten

### H886: Study Participation of Operators in NC Pre-K (=S.L. 2019-87)

- Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education, to study and report on the challenges faced in becoming an NC Pre-K site.
- **Enacted and effective: July 7, 2019.**

## Retirement & State Health Plan

### H226: Pay Increases/State Employees (=S.L. 2019-209)

- Increases the annual salaries of most state employees, not including increases for employees of local boards of education, by 2.5% in 2019-20 and 2020-21.
- Provides a one-time additional five days of annual leave, credited on July 1, 2019, for most state employees, not including non-certified or other school personnel.
- Sets required salary-related contribution rates by participating employers, including Local Education Agencies, in the Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System as follows:
  - **Retirement:** 12.97% for 2019-20 and 14.36% for 2020-21
  - **Disability:** 0.10% for 2019-20 and 0.10% for 2020-21
  - **Death:** 0.16% for 2019-20 and 0.16% for 2020-21
  - **Retiree Health:** 6.47% in 2019-20 and 6.82% in 2020-21
  - **Total Contribution Rate:** 19.7% in 2019-20 and 21.44% in 2020-21
- Sets maximum annual employer contributions, payable monthly, by State agencies and Local Education Agencies for each covered employee or retiree to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees as follows:
  - For 2019-2020 fiscal year: (i) for Medicare-eligible employees and retirees, \$4,900; and (ii) for non-Medicare-eligible employees and retirees, \$6,306.
  - For 2020-21 fiscal year: (i) for Medicare-eligible employees and retirees, \$5,165; and (ii) for non-Medicare-eligible employees and retirees, \$6,647.
- **Enacted: August 30, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

### S399: Rehire High-Need Teachers (=S.L. 2019-110), as amended by S621 (=S.L. 2019-212)

- Allows "high-need retired teachers" to work full-time (30 hours or more per week 9 months or more) on one-year renewable contracts in "high-need schools" without an earnings cap or pension penalty, under the following conditions:
  - Paid on 1st step (Step A0 = \$35,000) of salary schedule except those teaching STEM or special education — paid on 6th step (Step A06 = \$40,000).
  - Cannot receive any State salary supplements/ bonuses or move to higher salary steps.
  - Must receive any local salary supplements for teachers.
  - Cannot accrue additional retirement benefits from this or any future position.
  - The Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) is to receive neither employee nor employer contributions, but the teacher to be enrolled as an active employee in the State Health Plan, with the Local Education Agency paying the premium.
- Defines "high-need teacher" as retiree who is employed on an annual contract for 30 hours per week or more for 9 months or more to provide classroom instruction *exclusively* at a high-need school or schools.
- Requires LEAs to notify TSERS by 9/15 if not employing high-need teachers that year.

- Requires DPI to provide LEAs with a list of licensure areas eligible for A06 step placement as high-need retired teacher (STEM or special education) and certify to TSERS which individuals have been employed as high-need retired teachers.
- Requires the Department of the State Treasurer to seek a private letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service to ensure this new law does not violate federal pension laws that could put TSERS' tax-exempt status in jeopardy.
  - States if the IRS rules that S399 threatens TSERS' tax-exempt status, the law is repealed *30 days from receipt of notice. (This was revised by Senate Bill 621 to indicate the automatic repeal would occur instead on the last day of the month following the month when the IRS notice is received.)*
- Amended by S621 (S.L. 2019-212), enacted on Sept. 4, 2019, to also do the following:
  - Allows LEAs to place retirees in part-time teaching positions (less than 30 hours per week) subject to the earnings cap at any school, including high-need schools;
  - Clarifies that only teachers providing classroom instruction, and NOT other individuals also paid on the teacher salary schedule, are subject to S399 salary placement (A0 or A06); and
  - Clarifies that a rehired retiree is subject to S399 salary placement (A0 or A06) only if teaching "exclusively" at one or more high-need schools.
- **Enacted: July 11, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019. Expires: June 30, 2021.**

## **Safety**

### **H75: School Safety Funds, Programs, and Reports (=S.L. 2019-222)**

- Appropriates \$68.6 million for school safety grant programs and additional school mental health support personnel over the biennium.
- Designates \$20 million 2019-20 and \$23 million in 2020-21 in recurring funds to supplement the Instructional Support Allotment, to be used to increase the number of school mental health support personnel in each LEA.
- Establishes the following school safety grants programs:
  - **School safety equipment grants.** – Allocates \$6,100,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year for the purchase of safety equipment for school buildings and related training.
  - **School safety training grants.** – Allocates \$4,500,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allow qualifying public school units to contract with community partners that provide training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress.
  - **Students in crisis grants.** – Allocates \$4,500,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to allow qualifying public school units to contract with community partners that provide evidence-based crisis services to students.
  - **School resource officer grants.** – Allocates an additional \$3,000,000 in recurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and \$6,000,000 in recurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, for the employment and training of school resource officers.
- Requires the superintendent of each LEA to submit a report on the number of school mental health personnel employed in the district to their local board of education before February 15 every year. Using this data, the State Superintendent would then submit a report to the legislature on the yearly differences in the number of mental health support personnel in each LEA.
- Requires the Center for Safer Schools to conduct an annual census of school resource officers in public school units.
- Directs DPI and the Center for Safer Schools to develop a recommended program to facilitate the transfer of school mental health support personnel between school districts during or after a crisis.

- Requires DPI to study and report on school psychologist and school counselor positions.
- Provides for eight additional agents of the State Bureau of Investigation to support the Behavioral Threat Assessment program.
- **Enacted: September 19, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

#### **S429: Disaster Recovery – 2019 Budget Provisions (=S.L. 2019-224)**

- Section 2.1(1) allocated \$6,400,400 to the North Carolina Community System Office to offset the full-time equivalent (FTE) losses at affected community colleges due to enrollment declines caused by Hurricane Florence
  - When calculating the enrollment growth budget request for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the North Carolina Community College System Office shall adjust the FTE to reflect the FTE lost due to Hurricane Florence
- Section 2.1(8)(c) directs The University of North Carolina Board of Governors to give \$8,000,000 to the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNC-W) for repairs and renovations to the Dobo Hall Science building, which was damaged by Hurricane Florence.
- **Enacted: September 18, 2019; effective: July 1, 2019.**

## **Testing & Accountability**

#### **H362: 15-Point Scale For School Performance Grades (=S.L. 2019-154)**

- Makes permanent the 15-point grading scale for school performance grades effective July 1, 2019.
- Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to study reporting methods used for school accountability purposes on the NC annual school report cards and submit a final report of the results of this study to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by Feb. 15, 2020.
- **Enacted and effective: July 22, 2019.**

#### **H411: Modify School Qual./Student Success Indicator (=S.L. 2019-142)**

- Combines career and college readiness indicators for grades 9-12 for both school performance grades required under State law as well as for federal reporting purposes under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), based on data from the 2018-2019 school year and each school year thereafter.
- Requires the State Board of Education to include additional career and college readiness information on annual school report cards, based on data from the 2018-2019 school year and each school year thereafter.
- **Enacted and effective: July 19, 2019.**

#### **S621: Testing Reduction Act of 2019 (=S.L. 2019-212)**

- Eliminates the NC Final Exams, effective in 2020-2021.
- States the General Assembly's intent to replace EOGs with a "through-grade assessment model," like NC Check-Ins.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to report by November 15, 2020, and annually thereafter until November 15, 2024, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) regarding the progress of the North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool (NCPAT) pilot.
- Requires LEAs to review local testing every 2 years (in even-numbered years), and if LEAs find they are requiring more local tests or spending more hours on them than the state average, they must submit to the State Board of Education (SBE) by October 1 of that year a plan for reducing local testing. These requirements would apply beginning with reports issued in 2020 and based on data from the 2019-20 school year.

- Prohibits local school boards from requiring a graduation project as a condition of graduation, effective in 2019-2020, unless the board provides economically disadvantaged students a reimbursement up to \$75 from local funds to cover associated costs.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction to review, and modify if needed, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade English language arts EOG for alignment with the Read to Achieve alternative assessment. A report on this review and any modifications to be made is due to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) by March 15, 2020.
- Requires the State Board of Education to analyze the steps necessary to transition to a competency-based assessment and teaching model for all elementary and secondary students and report its findings and recommended transition steps to the JLEOC by May 15, 2020.
- Provides clarifications to Senate Bill 399 — Rehire High-Need Teachers — and Senate Bill 219 — Modify Teacher Licensing Requirements.
- **Enacted and effective (except as otherwise indicated): September 4, 2019.**