



2020 Short Session K-12 Education Laws

Updated 7/2/20 by NC Association of School Administrators (NCASA)

SB704: COVID 19 RECOVERY ACT (=S.L. 2020-3)

Status: 05/04/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- **Testing Waivers**—Section 2.3 clarifies or modifies various testing requirements, including EOGs, EOCs, the ACT, diagnostic and formative assessments for grades K-3, and Work Keys.
- **School Report Card Waivers**—Section 2.4 waives the requirements for calculation and display of school report cards, and waives certain requirements related to the evaluation of alternative schools and public school building-level reports.
- **Low-Performing School Waivers**—Section 2.5 waives identification of new low-performing schools, new continually low-performing schools, and new low-performing local school administrative units, and maintains identifications based on 2018-2019 data.
- **ISD Waivers**—Section 2.6 repeals the requirement that a new school be selected for the Innovative School District (ISD) based on data from the 2019-2020 school year. This section also waives the requirement that schools be added to the qualifying list for the ISD based on 2019-2020 data, and directs that schools added to the qualifying list based on 2018-2019 data remain on the qualifying list for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **Read to Achieve Waivers**—Section 2.7 does the following:
 - Subsection (a): Third Grade Retention Determination. – Allows principals to make third grade promotion decisions in the same manner as for other grades.
 - Subsection (b): Parental Notice and Interventions. – Makes the following modifications: (i) directs that statutorily-required notice be provided to parents based on data available up until March 13, 2020, (ii) waives monthly progress reports for students currently retained in third grade after March 16, 2020, (iii) requires that third graders retained for 2020-2021 based on principal discretion receive the same statutorily-required interventions they would have received had they been retained under mandatory retention.
 - Subsection (c): Reading Camps and Recommendation for Alternative Interventions. – Waives reading camps corresponding to the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Subsection (d): Fourth Grade Reading Assessment. – Requires a reading assessment to be administered to students entering fourth grade in 2020-2021 within 10 days of the start of the school year.
 - Subsection (e): Reporting Requirements. – Waives online posting of K-3 reading outcomes. Specifies that reading data collected prior to March 13, 2020, be reported to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.
- **Advanced Math Placement Modifications**—Section 2.8 requires initial math placement for the 2020-2021 school year to be consistent with local policies, in consultation with the student's 2019-2020 math teacher. Students who are not initially placed in advanced math can opt to take the 2019-2020 end-of-grade or end-of-course test, and if they score at the highest level on the test, must be placed in advanced math for the 2020-2021 school year.
- **CPR Graduation Requirement Waiver**—Section 2.9 waives the statutory CPR graduation requirement for students who cannot complete it due to the closure of schools for in-person instruction, but are otherwise qualified to graduate.
- **2019-2020 School Year Calendar**—Section 2.10 does the following:
 - Subsection (a): 2019-2020 School Year Calendar. – Allows remote instruction to satisfy the statutory instructional time requirement.
 - Subsection (b): Student Attendance Enforcement for 2019-2020. – Waives attendance enforcement requirements beginning March 16, 2020 for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

- **2020-2021 School Attendance Modifications**—Section 2.11 does the following:
 - Subsection (a): Remote Instruction Plans. – Directs public school units to develop Remote Instruction Plans (Plans) for the 2020-2021 school year and submit the Plans to the SBE by July 20, 2020. The Plans must include information as to how the units will deliver quality remote instruction to all students in the 2020-2021 school year as well as information as to how to train teachers, support students and families, and engage with community stakeholders.
 - Subsection (b): School Calendar. – Mandates the following requirements for the 2020-2021 school year only:
 - Each public school unit must adopt a calendar that includes 190 days of instruction with (i) 185 or 1025 hours of instruction that includes 5 remote instruction days in accordance with the remote instruction plan; and (ii) an additional 5 instruction days that can only be satisfied by individually separate and distinct full instruction days, not by hours.
 - Each local school administrative unit must adopt a calendar that meets the following requirements: (i) opening date for students of August 17, 2020; (ii) closing date for students no later than June 11, 2021; (iii) no remote instruction days scheduled prior to August 24, 2020; and (iv) remote instruction days may be scheduled for use as teacher workdays. Local school administrative units with good cause waivers for the 2020- 2021 school year cannot have an opening date for students earlier than August 17, 2020, but can use up to an additional 5 remote instruction days only for make-up days for closures due to inclement weather or other emergency situations. Start and end dates do not apply to calendars for defined year-round or modified calendar schools.
 - If a state of emergency is declared which closes schools for more than 5 days during the 2020-2021 school year, public school units may use additional remote instruction days to satisfy instructional time requirements.
 - Subsection (c): Reporting Requirement. – Requires the State Board of Education to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the implementation of remote instruction by September 15, 2020.
- **School Improvement Plans**—Section 2.12 provides a 6-month extension for school improvement plans set to expire at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Those plans can remain in effect until December 31, 2020. The replacement plan would then expire in 18 months rather than 2 years.
- **Principal Recruitment Supplement Eligibility Continuation**—Section 2.13 permits eligible schools for purposes of the principal recruitment salary supplement to continue to be eligible schools from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year and clarifies an incorrect statutory reference.
- **Teacher Performance Notification Waiver**—Section 2.14 waives the requirement for the 2020-2021 school year that principals notify teachers of updated Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) data from the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Teacher Effectiveness Reporting Waiver**—Section 2.15 waives requirements that local school administrative units provide the State Board of Education with teacher performance data from the 2019-2020 school year and that the State Board include such data in its own report and adds a missing statutory heading to G.S. 115C-299.5.
- **Revise Teacher Evaluation Requirements And Waive Teacher Observation Requirements**—Section 2.16 permits annual teacher evaluations from the 2019-2020 school year to be based on (i) observations completed in the 2019-2020 school year prior to March 13, 2020, and (ii) other artifacts and evidence from the 2019-2020 school year. This section also waives any required observations not completed prior to March 13, 2020.
- **Changes For Nonpublic Schools**—Section 2.17-2.19 waives similar testing and calendar requirements in the 2019-2020 school year for nonpublic schools.
- **Opportunity Scholarship Grant Late Disbursements**—Section 2.20 allows the State Education Assistance Authority to use carryforward from the Opportunity Scholarship Program to remit scholarship grant funds by October 1, 2020, to a nonpublic school that was unable to complete a parent endorsement for those funds for the spring semester of the 2019-2020 school year.
- **Extension of K-12 Scholarship Program Report Dates**—Section 2.21 provides a one-month extension for the

State Education Assistance Authority to submit its annual reports on the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Program and the Disabilities Grant Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

- **Modifications Related to Educator Preparation Programs (EPPS)**—Section 2.22 does the following:
 - Subsection (a): Waiver of Minimum EPP Admission Requirements. – Waives the following minimum requirements for EPP admissions for the 2020-2021 academic year: (i) the testing requirement, (ii) the individual GPA requirement of at least a 2.7, provided the student has at least a 2.7 before beginning a clinical internship, and (iii) the cohort GPA requirement of at least a 3.0.
 - Subsection (b): Waiver of EPP Student Clinical Internship Requirement. – Deems the EPP clinical internship requirement under G.S. 115C-269.25(d)(1) completed under certain conditions, including that the student meet the requirements on the certificate of teacher capacity and continues to work with a school to engage in remote learning as practicable.
 - Subsection (c): Pedagogy Assessments for Certain Teacher Candidates. – Provides that students whose clinical internship requirement is deemed completed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section cannot be required by the State Board to complete a nationally normed and valid pedagogy assessment as a requirement for completion of the EPP program for the 2019-2020 academic year but that those students shall be required to attempt the pedagogy assessment by the end of their first year of licensure and must pass the assessment by the end of their third year of licensure.
 - Subsection (d): Waiver of the Report of Certain EPP Performance Data. – Only requires EPPs to report data to the State Board for the purposes of performance standards that is practicably available during the 2019-2020 academic year due to the lack of student assessment data and the closure of schools for in-person instruction.
 - Subsection (e): Prohibits Certain EPP Data in Assigning Sanctions. – Prohibits the State Board from considering data that was not practicably available related to the 2019-2020 school year when assigning sanctions to an EPP under G.S. 115C-269.45(c).
 - Subsection (f): Suspension of EPP Report Card Publication. – Suspends publication of EPP report cards on the State Board Web site for the 2019-2020 academic year but continues the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.
- **Waiver of Certain School Administrator Prep Program Requirements**—Section 2.23 provides that requirements will be deemed completed for (i) the year-long internship requirement for school administrators under G.S. 115C-284(c2)(7) under certain conditions, including that competencies identified in the certification of capacity are met and the candidate continues to work with a school to engage in administrative duties as practicable and (ii) the portfolio requirement for emerging leaders, provided it is finished to the extent practicable prior to completion of the school administrator preparation program.
- **Waiver of Certain Transforming Principal Preparation Program Requirements**—Section 2.24 provides that the school leader clinical practice requirement under G.S. 116-209.72(a)(2)e. will be deemed completed under certain conditions and that a grant recipient shall not have grant funds retrieved for failure to require school leader candidates to complete a full-time paid clinical practice of at least five months and 750 hours in duration as part of the program during the 2019-2020 academic year.
- **Extension of Teacher Licensure Requirements And CEUs For Continuing Licensure**—Section 2.25 provides one-year extensions for teachers to meet licensure requirements set by the State Board. For teachers who are required to meet continuing education requirements for continuing licensure by June 30, 2020, provides a one-year extension to meet those requirements.
- **Extension of School Admin. & School Professional Licensure Exam Requirements And CEUs For Licensure Renewal**—Section 2.26 provides one-year extensions for school administrators and other school personnel to meet licensure examination requirements set by the State Board and for school administrators who are required to meet continuing education requirements for licensure renewal by June 30, 2020, provides a one-year extension to meet those requirements.
- **Waiver of Apprenticeship Requirement For Community College Tuition Waiver**—Section 2.27 provides that a student who is unable to participate in an apprenticeship program due to the COVID-19 emergency may be eligible for a tuition waiver for community college courses until December 31, 2020.

HB1043: 2020 COVID 19 RECOVERY ACT (=S.L. 2020-4)

Status: 05/04/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Section 2.2 – Establishes the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund) to be used to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of COVID-19. All funds in the Fund must be used for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency resulting from COVID-19, and the expenditures must have been incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.
- Section 3.3 – Directs OSBM to allocate the sum of \$1,425,988,029 it received from the Fund as follows:
 - \$150M for counties ineligible to receive direct funding from the CARES Act. Each county receives a base funding of \$250,000, with remainder distributed on a per capita basis. Funds can be allocated to municipalities if a necessary expenditure and consistent with federal guidance on COVID-19 relief.
 - \$75M to DPI for school nutrition services provided in response to COVID-19 in the School Lunch or Breakfast Programs from 3/16/20 through the end of the school year.
 - \$1M to DPI for improving Internet connectivity through extended reach mobile Wi-Fi gateway router devices in school buses.
 - \$11M to DPI for improving Internet connectivity for students through mobile Internet access points.
 - \$30M to DPI for computers or other electronic devices for use by certain public school students in response to COVID-19.
 - \$5M to DPI for certain public schools to provide computers or other electronic devices for use by school personnel.
 - \$4.5M to DPI to establish a shared cybersecurity infrastructure and district cybersecurity monitoring and support.
 - \$10M to DPI for allocation conforming for school health support personnel for physical and mental health support services for students in response to COVID-19, including remote services.
 - \$70M to DPI for certain public schools to provide a supplemental summer learning program in response to negative effects of COVID-19. At least \$35M is to be used for students in grades 2 and 3 during the 19-20 school year, and up to 25% may be used for supplemental literacy support for students in grades 3 and 4 during the 20-21 school year not on track to meet 20-21 year-end expectations. Remaining funds are to be used for kindergarten and grades 1 and 4.
 - \$1.488M to DPI for public school units to provide remote instruction.
 - \$3M to DPI to provide nondigital remote instruction resources to students with limited connectivity.
 - \$15M to DPI for grants to public school units for extraordinary costs of providing Extended School Year Services or future services for exceptional children.
 - \$660,029 to DPI for the Governor Morehead School for the Blind, the Eastern NC School for the Deaf, and the NC School for the Deaf for school nutrition, cleaning, sanitizing, remote learning, compensatory services, and Extended School Year Services.
 - \$5M to DPI for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program.

SB476: SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH (=S.L. 2020-7)

Status: 06/08/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt a school-based mental health policy, and requires K-12 school units to adopt and implement a school-based mental health plan that includes mental health training and suicide risk referral protocol.
- The mental health training program must be provided to school personnel who work with students in grades K-12 and must address the following topics: youth mental health; suicide prevention; substance abuse; sexual abuse prevention; sex trafficking prevention; and teenage dating violence.
- The suicide risk referral protocol must be provided to school personnel who work with students in grades 6-12 and must include guidelines on identifying students at risk of suicide, as well as procedures and referral sources that address actions that should be taken.

[HB1199: GRADUATING SR. NUMERIC GRADE \(=S.L. 2020-13\)](#)

Status: 06/11/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Provides the Union County Board of Education with the authority to allow each graduating senior in Union County Public Schools the option to be graded numerically for the spring 2020 semester.

[HB1187: RAISE THE AGE FUNDING \(=S.L. 2020-15\)](#)

Status: 06/12/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Provides \$10.44M in nonrecurring funds to the Department of Public Safety for various youth detention/development center renovations and construction.

[HB1071: FUNDS TO DPI FOR ADM GROWTH \(=S.L. 2020-27\)](#)

Status: 06/19/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- H1071 provides approximately \$100M to fully fund ADM growth for the 2020-2021 school year as follows:
 - Section 2 would direct the State Controller to transfer \$75,000,000 in nonrecurring funds from the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund to DPI for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to fund an increase in ADM for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
 - Section 3 would direct DPI to transfer \$3,923,230 from the cash balance in School Bus Replacement Fund to be used to fund an increase in ADM for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
 - Section 4(a) would direct the State Controller to transfer \$22,000,000 from the Coronavirus Relief Reserve to the Coronavirus Relief Fund.
 - Section 4(b) would appropriate \$22,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2020-2021 fiscal year from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) and directs OSBM to allocate those funds to the Department of Public Instruction to be used to fund increased ADM for low-wealth counties due to the impacts of COVID-19.

[SB379: RETIREMENT SYSTEMS ADMIN. CHANGES \(=S.L. 2020-29\)](#)

Status: 06/19/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Amends TSERS creditable service purchases; clarifies that TSERS membership ceases when a member withdraws accumulated contributions, becomes a beneficiary, or dies; sets the date for payment of the contribution-based benefit cap liability for 12 months after the member's effective date of retirement; makes other administrative changes requested by the State Treasurer.

[HB158: COVID 19 NEW DRIVER RESPONSE \(=S.L. 2020-30\)](#)

Status: 06/19/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Waives the road test requirement for limited provisional licenses and provides accommodations for in-person driver education coursework interrupted by spring 2020 school closures.

[HB1218: SALARY RELATED CONTRIBS. /DEBT SERVICE FUNDS \(=S.L. 2020-41\)](#)

Status: 06/26/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Section 3.15(c) changes the State's employer contribution rates budgeted for retirement and related benefits as a percentage of covered salaries for the 2020-2021 fiscal year for teachers and State employees, effective July 1, 2020, as follows:
 - Retirement: Increases from 14.36% to 14.78%
 - Disability: Decreases from 0.10% to 0.09%
 - Death: Maintains 0.13% contribution
 - Retiree Health: Decreases from 6.82% to 6.68%
 - Total Contribution Rate: Increases from 21.41% to 21.68%
- Section 3.15(e) sets the maximum annual employer contributions, payable monthly, by the State for each

covered employee or retiree for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees as follows:

- (i) for Medicare-eligible employees and retirees: \$5,061; and
- (ii) for non-Medicare-eligible employees and retirees: \$6,512

SB719: RETIREMENT TECH./PROTECT. /& OTHER CHANGES (=S.L. 2020-48)

Status: 06/26/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Section 1.2 (a) amends TSERS statutes to increase the age at which a member must begin receiving payments from the retirement system from 70½ to 72. The Department of State Treasurer reports this is needed to conform to changes in federal law (SECURE Act for 2019). Section 1.2(e) provides that this section would become effective January 1, 2021 and applies to members on or after that date. If a member attains age 70½ on or before December 31, 2019, then the statute that is in effect on the day the member attains age 70½ will be applicable to that member.
- Section 1.5(a) and (b) amend the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees to remove the term "group" from references to the health plan and to specify that nothing requires the Plan to permit a person, or be required, to enroll a person when that enrollment may jeopardize the Plan's preferential tax exempt status as a governmental plan under the Internal Revenue Code.
- Section 1.8 (a) amends TSERS statutes and (b) amends LGERS statutes to add a subsection allowing the Retirement Systems Division to provide a credit to an employing agency that made contributions on behalf of a retiree subject to the contribution-based benefit cap when that retiree is subject to a felony forfeiture of retirement benefits.
- Section 1.9(a) amends TSERS statutes and (b) amends LGERS statutes to outline criteria for determining when an employer is inactive and requiring the Retirement Systems Division to make a report to the Board by April 30th on employers who were determined to be inactive in the preceding calendar year.
- Section 1.11 amends TSERS statutes to make technical and clarifying changes related to the transfer of credits from LGERS.
- Section 1.12(a)-(g) repeals outdated TSERS statutes.
- Section 1.13 amends TSERS statutes to change references to blind or visually impaired employees to blind or visually impaired vendors reflecting changes that were made years ago.
- Section 1.16 (a)(b)(c) amend TSERS statutes and (d)(e)(f) amend LGERS statutes. Subsections (a) and (d) (b) and (e) and (c) and (f) make identical amendments to TSERS and LGERS. The amendments clarify that information contained in the monthly reports ("watch reports") indicating those most likely to require additional employer contributions should they elect to retire in the following 12 months, is not a public record and requires all parties involved to treat the information as confidential and as though it were still held by the Retirement System under the public records law.
- Section 2.1(a) amends TSERS statutes to clarify that the actuary must complete an actuarial experience review of the mortality, service and compensation experience of the members and beneficiaries at least once every five years. Subsection (b) requires a report to the General Assembly and the Governor prior to undertaking the five-year actuarial experience review and the subsection outlines elements of the report. A new statutory subsection is also added to allow the Retirement Systems Division to pay costs directly from the retirement assets or to increase receipts from the retirement assets to cover the cost of administering the requirements. The Department of State Treasurer reports this change is recommended by the Pew Foundation.
- Section 4.1 (a) amends a TSERS statute and (b) amends a LGERS statute pertaining to the duties of the actuary. The changes add the contribution-based benefit cap factor to the materials, such as experience studies, actuarial calculations, assumptions used by the actuary, including mortality tables, interest rates, annuity factors, and other similar materials that are provided to the Board and further provides that they are not subject to rule-making. The section also specifies that materials are effective the first day of the month following adoption, unless a different date is specified, and that the effective date does not retroactively affect a contribution rate. Subsection (c) amends the Administrative Procedures Act on rulemaking to exempt specified actuarial tables, assumptions, methods, and factors from rulemaking. This section is effective when it becomes law, and

subsection (c) applies to actuarial tables, assumptions, and contribution-based benefit cap factors adopted or changed on or after that date.

- Section 4.2(a) further amends a TSERS statute that is also amended in Section 2.1(a) of the act, subsection (b) also amends a TSERS statute and subsections (c) and (d) amend LGERS statutes. For TSERS and LGERS, this section adds the adoption of any necessary contribution-based benefit cap factors to the duties of the Boards of Trustees after the actuarial investigation and valuation after each five-year period. It also allows the Retirement Systems Division to pay for the administration costs of these sections by increasing receipts from the retirement assets of system or pay costs directly from the retirement assets. This section is effective when it becomes law, and applies to actuarial investigations and calculations made on or after that date.
- Section 4.3 (a)-(d) repeals the following statutes in TSERS, LGERS, CJRS, and LRS pertaining to forfeiture of retirement benefits for certain felonies related to employment or holding office: G.S. 135-18.10A(b), G.S. 128-38.4A(b), G.S. 135-75.1A(b), G.S. 120-4.33A(b). In each forfeiture statute, one of the two factors that require forfeiture is the "conduct resulting in the member's conviction is directly related to the member's office or employment." This language is not being repealed. Each subsection being repealed mentions this language only by reference and further provides that it applies to felony convictions where the court finds under G.S. 15A-1340.16(d)(9) or other applicable State or federal procedure that the member's conduct is directly related to the member's office or employment. The language being repealed removes the reference to Chapter 15A of the General Statutes pertaining to aggravating factors in the Criminal Procedure Act.
- Section 4.4 (a)(b) amend TSERS statutes, subsections (c)(d) amend LGERS statutes, subsections (e)(f) amend CJRS statutes, and subsections (g)(h) amend LRS statutes all in an identical manner. The retirement system statutes are amended to clarify the current law on felony forfeiture of pensions for elected officials and members applies regardless of whether the creditable service was earned by membership in the System, accrued by conversion of sick leave at the point of the member's retirement, accrued by transfer of service from another retirement system, purchased by the member, or accrued by any other means. The changes further clarify that creditable service attributable to the conversion of sick leave accrues in this System on the date of retirement, service transferred to this System from another system accrues in this System on the effective date of the transfer, and purchased service accrues in this System on the date of the purchase.
- Section 4.5(a) amends TSERS, subsection (b) amends LGERS, subsection (c) amends CJRS, and subsection (d) amends LRS to clarify that forfeited service may not be used for the purposes of eligibility for benefits in any retirement system that provides reciprocal benefits.

SB113: EDUCATION OMNIBUS (=S.L. 2020-49)

Status: 06/29/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- **School Psychologist Licensure Exemption** — Section 1 would extend the exemption from licensure by the North Carolina Psychology Board to contracted school psychologists and those employed by any public school unit in North Carolina.
- **Digital Learning Plan Funds** — Section 2 would clarify that up to \$1,800,000 in funds appropriated for implementation of the Digital Learning Plan during the 2020-2021 fiscal year within “economically distressed counties to support adoption of the digital literacy curriculum provider” shall be used solely for software licenses from that vendor.
- **Modifications to 2020-2021 School Calendar** — Section 3 would remove the 5-day cap on remote instruction days by allowing the governing body of a public school unit to use additional remote instruction days if the body determines it is needed “to promote the health and safety of students.” Section 3 would also modify the definition of year-round schools to be calendars adopted prior to March 1, 2020, and modify the definition of single-track year-round schools to be those providing an average of between 44 and 46 instructional days followed by an average of 15-20 vacation days throughout the calendar year. Notably, this section did not include NCASA-proposed language that would have allowed innovative year-round schools to continue operating under their modified school calendars for the 2020-21 school year.
- **School Nutrition Funds** — Section 4 would clarify that dollars provided for school nutrition from the Coronavirus Relief Fund are for emergency school nutrition services, including innovative school meals. This section would

also authorize the use of these funds for the Summer Food Service Program and extend the time for their expenditure through December 30, 2020.

- **Student Behavioral Health Needs** — Section 5 would add an additional category of qualifying expenditures for the reinvestment plan of a local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) that includes assistance to public school units within the LME/MCO catchment area for student behavioral health needs.
- **Change Charter School Report Date** — Section 6 would change the due date of a report from the State Board of Education on charter schools from February 15 to June 15.
- **Superintendent May Approve Charter School Facility Bonds** — Section 7 would designate the Superintendent of Public Instruction as an applicable elected representative who may approve issuance of a private activity bond to finance a charter school facility, following a public hearing conducted in the county where the charter school facility is or will be located.
- **Revise School Administrator Intern Stipend** — Stipulates that if [Senate Bill 818: Compensation of Certain School Employees](#) becomes law, Section 8 of S113 would revise the calculation of the school administrator intern stipend so that it is based on the higher of the beginning salary of an assistant principal or, for a teacher who becomes an intern, at least as much as that person would make as a teacher.
- **Extend Grant Terms For NC Transforming Principal Preparation Program** — Section 9 would extend the maximum grant term for a grant awarded under the NC Transforming Principal Preparation Program from 5 years to 6 years to align with the program length of the school leader preparation programs offered by grantees.
- **COVID-19 Immunity For Nonpublic Schools** —Section 10 would provide COVID-19 liability immunity for nonpublic schools, like the immunity measures already approved for universities and K-12 public schools.

[HB1050: PED/LOW PERFORMING SCHOOL DISTRICTS \(=S.L. 2020-55\)](#)

Status: 06/30/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Requires that plans for improvement and comprehensive needs assessments of low-performing local school administrative units include consideration and examination of early childhood learning.

[HB1096: UNC OMNIBUS CHANGES/UNC LAB SCHOOL FUNDS \(=S.L. 2020-56\)](#)

Status: 06/30/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Makes various changes to statutes related to the programs and operation of the University of North Carolina; transfers \$200,000 from existing funds to the laboratory school program; and directs the UNC Board of Governors to study the feasibility of offering accelerated undergraduate degree programs at constituent institutions.

[SB816: CC FUNDS/CIHS FUNDS/CR FUNDS AND OFFSETS \(=S.L. 2020-64\)](#)

- Appropriates \$1.88M in non-recurring funds to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to be allocated to certain school districts as supplemental funding for designated cooperative innovative high schools.

[SB681: AGENCY POLICY DIRECTIVES/2019-2020 \(=S.L. 2020-78\)](#)

Status: 07/01/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Section 2.1(a) eliminates the requirement to report to each local school district superintendent on the adopted schedule of “fees, charges, and solicitations approved by local boards of education.”
- Section 2.2(a)-(c) authorizes the NC Career and Technical Education (CTE) Foundation to administer certain existing CTE program grants.
- Section 2.3(a) broadens certain charter school enrollment priorities as follows:
 - Allows charters to give enrollment priority to “siblings who apply to the charter school for admission beginning in the same school year, such as when a sibling was not initially admitted due to grade level capacity.”
 - Allows charters to give enrollment priority to children employed full time by the charter school or

working full times in the daily operation of the charter school.

- Section 2.4 expands the Schools That Lead Pilot Program from 60 to 75 schools.
- Section 2.5(a) requires the State Board of Education to modify State graduation requirements to include one required arts credit by each student at any time in grades 6-12.
- Section 2.6 makes permanent the Advanced Teaching Roles Program and sets forth application, evaluation, and funding criteria to be set forth by the State Board of Education for applicant schools.
- Section 4C.1 requires the NC Partnership for Children to report annually by December 1 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly.

HB1023: CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND/ADDITIONS & REVISIONS (=S.L. 2020-80)

Status: 07/01/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Sections 1.1(a) and (b) appropriates the remaining \$150M held in reserve for local governments to use for COVID-19 relief.
- Section 1.1(d)(6) modifies the \$75M appropriation to DPI for school nutrition services provided in response to COVID-19 to include innovative school meals and to modify the authorized time for use of funds from the end of the 19-20 school year to 12/30/20.
- Section 1.1 (d)(55) allocates \$2M to the Wildlife Resources Commission for the Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council's "N.C. Schools Go Outside" grant program to provide opportunities for young people to reengage with learning experiences in safe outdoor settings.
- Section 1.1(56) allocates \$400k to DNCR for the State Library's N.C. Kids Digital Library for enhancement of digital offerings to students lacking physical access to local libraries due to COVID-19.
- Section 1.1(57) allocates \$400k to DNCR for to fund development and implementation of and access to virtual history programs for students and online public access to the Museum during the closure of facilities due to stay-at-home orders.
- Section 1.1(62) allocates \$2.5M to the Department of Commerce for establishing a statewide pilot program administered by the Department of Commerce, Office of Science, Technology, and Innovation to promote access to innovative digital and personalized learning solutions for high school students. The Office shall report on the pilot on June 1, 2021.
- Section 1.1 (63) allocates \$7M to DPI for CDC and federal guidance compliant-PPE in public schools to facilitate in-person instruction.
- Section 1.1 (64) allocates \$5M to DPI for grants to applicant public school units for services exceptional children who lost critical services due to COVID-19 related school closures.
- Section 2.2 permits DPI to withhold up to \$12 million from the transportation allotment for to cover transportation expenses related to emergency school nutrition services provided in the summer of 2020.
- Section 2.3 requires the State Board of Education to report on unpaid meal charges and provides funds to cover the costs of reduced-price lunches for eligible students in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.
- Section 2.4 provides \$18,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for the School Business System Modernization Plan and directs that \$650,000 of these funds be transferred to the Government Data Analysis Center (GDAC) to leverage existing public-private partnerships in support of certain components of the Plan.

SB212: CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS/R&R/DIT/CYBERSECURITY (=S.L. 2020-81)

Status: 07/01/2020 – Chaptered Session Laws

- Section 7(a) establishes pilot programs and a satellite-based broadband grant program within the Department of Informational Technology.
- Section 10(a) creates a permanent statutory definition for “year-round school” as follows:
 - “Year-round school. – A school with a single- or multi-track instructional calendar to provide instructional days throughout the entire school calendar year, beginning July 1 and ending June 30, by utilizing at least one of the following plans:
 - a. A plan dividing students into four groups and requiring each group to be in school for assigned

and staggered quarters each school calendar year.

- b. A plan providing students be scheduled to attend 45 instructional days followed by 15 days of vacation, repeated throughout the school calendar year.
 - c. A plan dividing the school calendar year into five nine-week sessions of classes and requiring each student to attend four assigned and staggered sessions out of the five nine-week sessions to complete the student's instructional year."
- Section 10(b) states the year-round schools definition is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.