

# NCASA

## 2021 SPRING & SUMMER

# WEBINAR SERIES



**MAY - JULY 2021**

NCASA offers a FREE webinar series focused on members' concerns about ongoing policy initiatives affecting education in our state. Some of the issues to be addressed in the series will be education budget, school resilience, testing and accountability, legislative updates, school safety and much more! Join NCASA's Advocacy Team and several special guest speakers to get the information you need for supporting your students this spring and next school year.

**Check out these great sessions already confirmed for this spring and summer!**



### **Revamping Student Literacy & Early Childhood Learning**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

N.C. Senate Leader Phil Berger and Senate Education Chairs recently championed [Senate Bill 387, Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021](#), that will revamp the state's early childhood literacy program with the Science of Reading.

Hear from Senator Deanna Ballard, one of the bill's main sponsors, about that legislation, and from State Superintendent Catherine Truitt about her goals for improving literacy and how the Department of Public Instruction will implement this phonics-based approach to literacy statewide. Also hear from Dr. Jeff James, Iredell-Statesville Schools Superintendent, about his past efforts with implementing the Science of Reading by using Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) and what steps are needed by district leaders for embracing the Science of Reading at the local level. Also hear from Onslow County Schools' Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Beth Folger, about that district's LETRS training efforts that are under way and proving successful for their K-3 and pre-K students.



### **Legislative Update: What's In & What's Out After Bill Crossover Deadline**

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

More than 200 bills filed in the N.C. General Assembly since January hold a potential impact for North Carolina public schools and their personnel. Topics include, but are not limited to, expansion of private school vouchers, early childhood literacy

reforms, testing and accountability changes, and legislation affecting school financial operations, the state budget and school personnel compensation and benefits. Some bills and their proposed concepts fall by the wayside, at least as free-standing legislation, if they do not "cross over" from their originating chamber into the other by May 13th of this year. Join NCASA Executive Director Katherine Joyce and Legal Affairs & Policy Manager Elizabeth Yelverton for an update on which public school bills moved forward, which did not, and which ones are likely to gain the most legislative attention before lawmakers adjourn the 2021 session later this summer or early fall. Also hear if any of the bills that did not survive the crossover deadline still could resurface later, and which bills you should weigh in on to support your schools, students and staff.



### **Broadband Expansion: Connecting NC Students & Communities to a Brighter Future**

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

With COVID-19's spread forcing millions of North Carolinians to communicate for school and work through computers at home over the last year, the need for high-speed broadband connections across our state has become a top state policy concern. In this webinar, hear about school connectivity needs from eastern and western NC superintendents, Angie Knight of Graham County Schools and Dr. Brent Williams of Lenoir County Schools. Get an overview of school technology funding from the state and federal government and highlights of current connectivity gaps from NCASA Board member Dr. Aaron Slutsky, Chief Technology Officer for

Gaston County Schools and an officer in the NC Technology in Education Society (NCTIES), an NCASA affiliate. Also get an update on the proposed legislative solutions from Rep. Jason Saine of Lincoln County, a Co-Chair of the House Appropriations Committee and a chief proponent of statewide broadband expansion. With greater connectivity available statewide, the online learning experience will improve for all students, whether they are in the classroom or logging in from home. Join this webinar and see how you can advocate for better connections for your own students and your local community.



### State Budget Crunch Time!

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

The N.C. House and Senate are pursuing different proposals for the 2021-2022 state budget as the June 30<sup>th</sup> year-end and start of the new budget year are looming. Hear from NCASA’s Advocacy Team on what public school spending proposals are already settled in negotiations and which others are still on the table to resolve. Also learn the key talking points you can use to help advocate for the best outcomes for your students and staff and which key lawmakers you should contact to seek their help and support. If negotiators reach an agreement on the state budget bill before this session, the NCASA team will instead provide a comprehensive summary of the compromise. No matter the status of the state spending plan, this session will help leaders in all facets of school administration start planning for any staff compensation increases, benefit changes, allotment funding adjustments, and new policy requirements that will affect your district or school in the coming year.



### Accountability & Testing Reform: Developing NC’s Graduate Profile

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

State Superintendent Catherine Truitt has championed developing a state-level Graduate Profile to define what all high school graduates should know and be able to do. She joins NCASA in urging state lawmakers to reform accountability and testing to align with this profile once it is created. Deputy State Superintendent for Innovation David Stegall is leading a task force on this reform effort, and Surry County Schools Superintendent Travis Reeves and Dr. Jeni Corn of myFutureNC are members. Hear from all three on what proposals are being discussed for reforms and the status of any law or policy changes connected to it, as well as how this work connects to the goals and mission of myFutureNC. The session will give you a chance to weigh in on what you think the Graduate Profile needs to include and which accountability and testing measures need to change to accommodate it. Any relevant updates on law or policy changes affecting testing and accountability for 2021-2022 also will be provided by the NCASA Advocacy Team.



### Protecting Your Students & Staff

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Threats and incidents of school violence nationwide are occurring at an alarming rate, and ensuring safety on NC school campuses is a top priority. Hear from the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) as they highlight relevant past incidents and include findings and recommendations from NTAC’s latest research publications on targeted school violence and averted school attacks at K-12 schools in the United States. They will also focus on how communities can use a multidisciplinary approach to identify, assess, and intervene with students exhibiting concerning or threatening behaviors as early as possible. Also receive an update from Karen Fairley, J.D., Executive Director of the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools (CFSS), on the state’s Anonymous Reporting System and the latest changes being pursued or implemented to enhance school safety and reduce teen violence and suicide. She will highlight how the CFSS can provide training, technical assistance, resources and support to school communities.

**NCASA Members should [REGISTER HERE](#) for any of the webinars, or log in to the [MEMBER PORTAL](#).**

For registration assistance or membership questions, contact Administrative & Program Manager Karen Owens, at **919-828-1426** or by email at [kowens@ncasa.net](mailto:kowens@ncasa.net).

NCASA is the non-profit umbrella uniting 12 school leader organizations and more than 7,000 individuals from across the state with the common mission of ensuring student success through visionary leadership.



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