

OUR MISSION

The North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) is the only professional organization in the state that represents the entire leadership team of North Carolina's school systems and individual schools. Our goal in representing our 6,500 members is to ensure quality learning experiences for all students through visionary and effective leadership. We seek to accomplish this mission by providing all our members an opportunity to grow professionally and to work together to strengthen public education and by providing a unified voice for school administrators on issues affecting the funding and daily operations of North Carolina's public schools.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In the absence of NCASA member feedback on a specific issue affecting North Carolina's public schools, NCASA will use the following principles as guidelines for formulating the association's position:

Appropriations/Funding

- The General Assembly should provide sufficient resources to ensure that all public school allotments are fully funded.
- All state mandates should be accompanied by a fiscal note and fully funded before implementation.
- New and/or expanded programs should not occur at the expense of existing public school programs and services.

Public School Policies

- Ensuring the academic growth for every student should be the driving force behind each public policy decision affecting North Carolina's public schools.
- Since one size does not fit all in North Carolina's public schools, local control should be preserved to ensure individual needs in different schools and school districts are met.
- NCASA supports efforts to ensure that public school administrators are well-prepared, highly motivated and strongly supported, since these individuals play a key role in delivering quality educational services to students in Grades K-12.

UNIFIED VOICE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

The following organizations are affiliates of NCASA and have endorsed this legislative platform.



The NCASA Affiliate Umbrella

NC School Superintendents' Association
NC Principals & Assistant Principals' Association
Personnel Administrators of North Carolina
NC Association for Career/Technical Education
NC Association of School Business Officials
NC Council of Administrators of Special Education
Higher Education Professors of School Administration
NC Association of Community Educators
NC School Public Relations Association
NC School Nutrition Service Association
School Transportation Directors
School Technology Directors
NC Association of General Administrators (*proposed*)

NCASA LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Larry Price, Chairman
Superintendent, Wilson County Schools

Dr. Carl Harris, NCASA President for 2005-06, Deputy Superintendent, Durham Public Schools; Dr. Bill Anderson, NCASA President-Elect for 2005-06, Assistant Superintendent for High School Curriculum & Instruction, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; Mr. Bill MeNeal, Superintendent, Wake County Public School System; Ms. Brenda Jones, Associate Superintendent for Human Resources, Pitt County Schools; Ms. Patricia Hester, Executive Director for School Improvement, Johnston County Schools; Mr. Vann Blake, Principal, Pender County Schools; Dr. Joanne Chesley, Professor, UNC-Greensboro; Dr. Jim Causby, Executive Director, N.C. School Superintendents' Association; Mr. Lloyd Thrower, Executive Director, N.C. Principals & Assistant Principals' Association; Ms. Melinda Chambers, Executive Liaison, N.C. Council of Administrators of Special Education.

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LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM



2006 SESSION NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

North Carolina Association of School Administrators

2006 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Appropriations

- Restore operational funding for public schools by eliminating the ongoing \$44.3 million discretionary reductions that require school districts annually to return a portion of their state allotments.
- Restore the \$33.3 million in sales tax refunds that the state designated for redirection from public schools in 2006-07.
- Restore the \$102 million supplanted from public schools in 2005 in response to the court ruling in the fines and forfeitures lawsuit.
- Establish in law and fully fund the Disadvantaged Students Supplemental Fund created in response to the Leandro litigation.
- Study the current allotment formulas for public schools and implement recommended improvements.

Calendar

- Grant local school systems the flexibility to set the school calendar based on the needs of their students and their communities.
- Realign the public school calendar with the calendars of community colleges and universities to facilitate dual enrollment and enhance educational opportunities for students.
- Reinstate the five teacher workdays, which were eliminated by law changes in 2004, since those days are essential for professional development of school personnel.

Career-Technical Education

- Change “vocational education” and/or “workforce development” in the current public school laws to ensure a consistent reference to “career-technical education.”

Central Office Operations

- Fund central office operations at an adequate level to meet each district’s significant demands for school support.

Enrollment Requirements

- Repeal the 2005 mandate that requires a comprehensive eye examination before a child may enroll in kindergarten.

Exceptional Children

- Align North Carolina laws with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Raise the exceptional children funding cap from 12.5 percent to 13.5 percent.
- Enhance Medicaid reimbursements to school districts to cover

exceptional children’s services such as case management, transportation and counseling.

- Appropriate adequate funding for the training required under the 2005 Greenblatt Act, which governs the appropriate use of restraints and seclusion in public schools.
- Include occupational and physical therapists and their assistants, interpreters and speech language pathology assistants in ABC bonus awards.
- Ensure adequate facilities and staffing for exceptional children services statewide.

Facilities/School Construction

- Protect and enhance public school construction funding that is designated from lottery proceeds and the Public School Capital Building Fund.
- Initiate a statewide bond referendum to help public schools address the more than \$10 billion in estimated school construction and renovation needs statewide.

Funding/Tax Issues

- Convert the sales tax refund for public schools to a sales tax exemption.
- Revise the lottery law to ensure that all proceeds are non-supplanting funds for public schools.

Principals/Assistant Principals

- Allow individuals who hold National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification to maintain their 12-percent salary differential after becoming an assistant principal.
- Provide 12-month funding for assistant principals.
- Set a 6 percent salary differential between school-based administrators and teachers to reflect their increased responsibilities and to encourage qualified personnel to become administrators.
- Increase the advanced degree supplement for principals and other administrators.
- Provide an additional salary step for each three years of experience as an assistant principal.
- Allow administrator experience in a central office to count in salary step increase calculations for school-based administrators.
- Enhance the ability of school-based administrators to assign personnel for optimal school operations.

Recruitment & Retention

- Provide incentives, such as bonus pay, to exemplary teachers and school-based administrative personnel who agree to teach in at-risk schools.

Retirement & Return to Work

- Revise the law governing the re-employment of retirees by: 1) shortening the current six-month break requirement, 2) establishing less restrictive requirements for retirees who want to work part-time or subject to an earnings cap, and 3) clarifying that retirees may be employed in the private sector and paid with private funds.
- Extend the June 30, 2007 sunset on the law allowing retirees to be re-employed as teachers exempt from the post-retirement earnings cap.
- Increase the retirement benefit accrual rate of 1.82 percent to encourage employment beyond 30 years.

Salary

- Provide significant salary increases, which reflect the job market and inflationary factors, to all public school personnel.
- Study the need for providing public school classified employees a unified salary schedule similar to the one used by the Office of State Personnel.
- Raise North Carolina teacher salaries to reach and exceed the national average by 2008-09.
- Create new incentives, such as adding steps to the salary schedule, to encourage employees to work more than 30 years.
- Increase the pay for beginning teachers.

Technology

- Fund one technology facilitator and one technology support position per 1,000 students.
- Provide the more than \$60 million that school districts are expected to cover from local funds in connection with the statewide rollout of NCWISE, the new student data management system.
- Provide funding for technology infrastructure and bandwidth increases necessitated by administrative and instructional uses of the Internet.

Testing

- Conduct a comprehensive study of testing programs in North Carolina’s public schools.
- Fund an accountability director for each school system.
- Fund testing coordinator positions for schools based on an Average Daily Membership (ADM) formula.

Transportation

- Fund the replacement and operation of school buses as required by State Board of Education policy.