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NCASA URGES QUICK ACTION TO FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Raleigh, NC — The North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA) appreciates the high priority that the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Roy Cooper are placing on public school funding in their ongoing state budget negotiations. However, with no substantial progress in finalizing a state budget for over seven months, many school districts are now facing crisis funding levels and are being forced to make difficult financial decisions that will ultimately negatively impact students statewide.

“It is past time for this budget stalemate to end,” said NCASA Executive Director Katherine Joyce. “NCASA, on behalf of the 7,000 school leaders in our membership, calls on both the Governor and the General Assembly to find an immediate path forward to release the funding needed to allow our public schools to operate and be successful.”

Since state budget negotiations began last spring, NCASA has continued to work with legislators and the Governor’s team to address the concerns of school leadership and provide the best possible opportunities for students. School leaders watched last fall as most state-funded employees received a 5% raise and bonus leave days, while school personnel were excluded. Meanwhile, hardworking school administrators, teachers, and classified personnel continued to support their students every day, even as they worried about dwindling state funds and meeting financial obligations for their own families.

“Not only are our school leaders disappointed with the lack of pay raises, but they are also concerned about the funding freeze in other parts of the education budget, including support for student enrollment growth and classroom supplies, school facility construction and improvements, transportation costs due to higher fuel prices, and much more,” Joyce said. “Simply put, North Carolina’s public schools cannot continue to function at 2018 funding levels. State leadership should immediately end their political stalemate and finalize a public school pay raise and funding package to ensure all North Carolina students have the state support they need and deserve, and all K-12 employees feel valued and appreciated.”

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