



Intergovernmental Relationships Committee (IRC)

Margaret Marshall, Chair
Jennifer De La Jara
Rhonda Cheek
Dr. Ruby Jones

2021-2022 Legislative Agenda Items

1) Academics

a) Testing

- i) Eliminate Mandatory Testing for the 2020-2021 School Year - *Federal & State*
- ii) Hold-Harmless Provision for Fall 2020 Testing - *Federal & State*
- iii) Reduce and Align Federal and State Testing Align excessive testing and other aspects of Read to Achieve and allocate those funds to LEAs for evidence-based literacy programs, irrespective of the county-tiered system

b) Summer Remediation

- i) Provide necessary funding to LEAs so that they can offer optional summer remediation programs prior to the 2021-2022 school year.

c) School Performance Grades, Calculation of Grades

- i) Adjust current school performance grading metrics so that there would be a two-grade system, one for growth and one for proficiency - or -
- ii) Change calculation of grade to 51% proficiency and 49% growth

2) Finance

a) Budget Flexibility

- i) Grant all LEAs maximum flexibility to transfer funds between state funding-allotment categories, including transfers to or from the teacher-assistant category, to best meet student needs and support district priorities. Special provisions to ensure compliance with federal law and grant conditions may remain as outlined in current budget-flexibility law.

b) Freeze Opportunity Scholarships

- i) Eliminate the statutory mandate of increasing funds for the NC Opportunity Scholarships program by \$10 million per year.

c) Modernization Plan

- i) Complete full funding of pilot program

d) Support full implementation of Leandro funding per the order issued by Superior Court Judge David Lee

e) ADM Hold Harmless for the 2021-2022 School Year

f) Funding for Contract Tracing Initiatives

g) Full and Continual Funding of Carl Perkins ACT (CTE education) - *FEDERAL*



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3) Human Resources

- a) Increase Funding for Social and Emotional Staff
 - i) Increase funding for social-emotional support staff, irrespective of the county-tiered system, to achieve evidence-based recommended caseload ratios.
- b) Increase Pay for All Staff
 - i) This request is a four-pronged approach to increase state salary schedules for the following classifications:
 - (1) Noninstructional Staff - Increase base salary compensation by 3% - 5% in recurring monies.
 - (2) Principals / Assistant Principals - Increase base salary compensation to match national average within three years.
 - (3) Teachers - Increase base salary compensation to match national average within three years.
 - (4) Teacher Assistants - Increase base salary compensation by 3% - 5% in recurring monies.
- c) Increase Pay Bands for Principals
 - i) Adding ADM bands above the current cap of 1,600 to capture schools that exceed 2,000 students, 2,500 students and 3,000 students.
- d) Provide a minimum wage of \$15 per hour for all state funded employees who are eligible to participate in TSERS and/or LGERS.
- e) Reinstate full retirement health benefits for teachers and state employees hired after Dec. 31, 2020.

4) Operations

- a) Broadband - Eliminate Internet Deserts
 - i) Access and Adoption
- b) K-3 Class Size Relief - This is a multi-level request to address the currently planned changes in K-3 class size requirements:
 - i) Allow all LEAs greater flexibility in setting K-3 class sizes based on varying needs for different educational environments and curriculum.
 - ii) Delay implementation of the K-3 class size requirement until such time as a statewide capital funding is passed, funds are distributed, and facilities are constructed.



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- iii) Provide the needed capital funding for the required classrooms as part of the new K-3 class size mandate, including, but not limited to, a statewide capital funding initiative that is allocated irrespective of the county-tiered system.
- c) Statewide School Construction
 - i) Provide for capital funding for schools through any funding mechanism the NCGA believes is most appropriate
- d) Funding for Rapid COVID Testing

5) Statutory

- a) Eliminate Mandatory Stop/Start Dates
 - i) This request would allow all LEAs to have complete control over setting the start and stop dates for all schools within the school system
- b) Eliminate Economic Tier System in Education
 - i) Elimination of the use of the county-tiered system created for economic programs in education funding.
- c) Allow Remote Learning in Severe Weather
 - i) Allow LEAs to authorize a transition from in-person to remote learning due to severe weather and/or other emergency situations
- d) Waiver of School Days for State of Emergency Declaration
 - i) Allow all LEAs to reduce required instructional time by up to five days, or the hourly equivalent, without NCGA approval. This provision may only be deployed if the county in which the LEA resides was subject to a state of emergency that exhausted scheduled make-up days.
- e) Repeal SL 2018-3 (Municipal Charter Schools Legislation)
 - i) Repeal of Session Law 2018-3 which allows some municipalities to create and operate municipal charter schools.
- f) Prohibit Schools from being used as an Early Voting Location
- g) Increase Flexibility in J-1 Visa Rules for Educational Purposes - *FEDERAL*