



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: August 28, 2020

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Upcoming Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC) Meetings:

Committee	Date and Time	Location, Video and Audio
NC Child Fatality Task Force	August 31, 9:30 a.m. - noon	Meeting access info
JLOC on Education	September 1, 10:00 a.m.	643 LOB, Video , Audio

Getting Ready for September 2nd Legislative Session:

It is no coincidence that the House Select Committee has been meeting and that the Governor has released a budget proposal. These occurrences are in preparation for the NC General Assembly reconvening next Wednesday, September 2nd to address COVID-19-related issues.

House Select Committee on COVID-19—Education Work Group

The [Work Group](#) met this week to review the use and availability of Coronavirus Relief Fund. Much of the discussion was related to colleges and universities. Members did hear [updates](#) from Dept. of Public Instruction (DPI) and State Board of Education (SBE) leaders. Looking ahead, DPI and SBE prioritized their needs. That includes:

Tier 1 Priority examples:

- \$44.5 M for additional Personal Protective Equipment such as disposable face coverings, hand sanitizer, facial tissues and disposable gloves for nurses and delegated staff in schools
- \$18 M to use school buses for delivery of nutritious meals and internet hotspots
- \$15 M for interconnectivity and broadband access

Tier 2 Priority examples:

- \$17 M for Exceptional Children funding
- \$16.5 M to assist public school units in developing their school-based mental health plans by December 30, 2020 per new statute.

Governor's COVID-19 Budget Proposal

Governor Cooper sent a budget proposal to the NC General Assembly that is specifically designed to develop next steps for State action on the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the health care industry and the safety and well-being of individuals. As is the case with other budget proposals he sends to the NCGA, these are recommendations. The House and Senate are responsible for developing a budget, in this case it will be related to COVID-19, and will send it to the Governor for his review and signature. In fact, it's a safe bet that legislators have already been working on the budget that will be discussed when they return next week.

Much of the Governor's proposal is funded through the remaining Coronavirus Relief Funds North Carolina received from the federal government. The Governor also proposes Medicaid expansion with 90% of that being funded by the federal government and the remainder being funding through taxes and assessments to hospitals and health plans. He also proposes a \$988 healthcare infrastructure bond that includes strengthening the state capacity to respond to COVID-19 through a vaccine and expanded testing and improving capacity of health care settings to treat COVID-19 patients. He also emphasizes strengthening the education system through a \$4.3 billion bond. The bond would be used to assist childcare centers, secondary schools, colleges and universities deal with the impact of COVID-19.

Raise the Age Updates:

The [Juvenile Jurisdiction Advisory Committee](#) was established as a part of the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Act within S.L. 2017-57. The Committee is tasked with developing an implementation plan for raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction, monitoring implementation and, as needed, providing additional recommendations to the General Assembly. They met to review the progress in working with juveniles that have benefitted from the new age of juvenile jurisdiction.

Billy Lassiter, Deputy Secretary for Juvenile Justice presented to the Committee that 8,128 complaints were made about 3,017 youth who were served in the juvenile justice system between December 1, 2019 and July 31, 2020. The majority of the complaints involved a Class H or misdemeanor. The data also shows an increase of Class A-G complaints in July after a steady decrease that began in April. He noted that DJJ is "exploring various programming to meet the long-term stay needs of some criminal court youth as well as specialized programming based on offense."

The Committee also heard an update about the School Justice Partnership and looked at data for 7 counties that have been using this program for two years. Brunswick County has seen the largest decrease of the 7 counties, 79%, in school-based offenses since 2016 with this program in place. Wayne County has seen a 15.1% increase since 2017.

New or Updated Resources:

[School COVID-19 Clusters Report](#)

Recent NC DHHS Update on Child Care pasted below:

We need your help to get the word out to families that child care is available!

With school now underway, many working parents are facing the added stress of finding a safe place for their children during the day that can also support their remote learning. The good news is that there is ample licensed child care available across the state, and we are making it as easy as possible for families to find it. In partnership with Child Care Resources and Referral, the NC Department of Health and Human Services created a free hotline to connect families to licensed care for their school-age children. Families can call the hotline at 1-888-600-1685.

Help families know that they have options by:

- *Sharing our Child Care Hotline flyer ([English](#), [Spanish](#)) with your networks and employees*
- *Sharing our [Parent Toolkit on What To Know When Looking for School-Age Child Care](#)*
- *Posting on social media using our [toolkit](#)*
- *Including information in your newsletters, presentations, and other communication vehicles*

Thank you for supporting North Carolina's children and families during these challenging times.