



NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: February 5, 2021

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Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
February 9, 10 am	House Health	643 LOB, audio and livestream available

Bills on the Move:

[S. 36](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications, extends dates for funding to be used and other needed modifications, Passed Senate and House,
[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, reported favorably by both Senate Education and Senate Rules, on Senate calendar for 2/9/21

Bills Introduced:

[H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE
[H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act
[H. 42](#) ([S. 36](#)), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications

Governor Proposes Priorities for COVID-19 Federal Funding:

Congress passed additional stimulus funding on December 27, 2020 that brought approximately \$4 billion into the State. Governor Cooper is [proposing priorities](#) for how that money should be allocated. The legislature will consider the allocation of this funding further. Included in his recommendations are:

- Approximately \$2 billion for emergency assistance for public and private K-12 schools and higher education institutions
- \$336 million for childcare and development block grants
- \$546 million for emergency rental assistance, which will build on North Carolina’s current work
- \$47 million for Community Mental Health Services.
- Funding for food assistance programs, such as SNAP and school nutrition.

- \$468 million for bonuses for educators and school personnel in public K-12 schools
- \$30 million to extend high-speed internet to all corners of the state and other urgent connectivity initiatives

State Superintendent and State Board of Education Unveil Joint Legislative Priorities:

Budget Priorities Aligning with Principle Literacy

- Science of Reading Professional Development and Training
- Competency-Based Diagnostic and Learning Platform & Professional Development
- Limited English Proficiency and ESL Allotment and Services Expansion
- Student Information System Modernization
- Educator Preparedness Project
- Broadband/Internet Connectivity

Human Capital

- Advocating for #1 in Southeast Teacher Pay
- Advanced Teaching Roles
- District Assistance and Turnaround Support Staff
- Specialized Instructional Support Personnel FTEs
- Investing in School Psychologists Pipeline
- New Teacher Support Program
- Alternative Pathways for Teacher and Principal Recruitment
- Residential Schools Support Positions
- Licensure, Teacher Recruitment, Applicant Tracking, & Grants Management Systems Modernization
- Bonuses for non-Certified Support Staff (TA's, bus drivers, cafeteria workers etc.)

Testing and Accountability

- Competency-based Education Tool and Professional Development
- Statewide Uniform Education Reporting System Expansion
- Financial and HR Systems Modernization
- Data Transparency Dashboards
- Common Education Data Analysis and Reporting System (CEDARS) Expansion
- NC Virtual Observation Tool
- Turnaround Principal Training Program
- Charter School Data Management System
- Panorama Statewide Student Survey Pilot

Opportunity for Early Feedback on Medicaid Specialized Foster Care Plan:

We know from the concept papers that it is the intent of NC DHHS to establish a Specialized Foster Care Plan geared toward children and youth current and formerly in

NC's child welfare system. How such a Plan would interface with the BH/IDD Tailored Plans and the Standard Plans has been unclear. NC DHHS is holding a webinar on Feb. 11 from 3-4 p.m.. The webinar "...will provide an overview of the FC Plan design planning efforts to date. Specifically, the webinar will highlight how the FC Plan seeks to address the many challenges this population faces today in receiving seamless and coordinated health care. The webinar will also review the key design features related to eligibility and enrollment, benefits, care management, and quality, among other areas.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical component of these efforts. This webinar is one way that NCDHHS is seeking feedback to further inform and refine the FC Plan design and implementation planning efforts."

To register [click here](#). Presumably the recording of the webinar will be available on the NC DHHS Medicaid Transformation [webpage for information](#) after the webinar so that anyone who is not able to listen in can still learn about their plans and provide feedback.

Healthy Opportunities Screening and Referral Reimbursable Temporarily:

Between 1/1/21 and 6/30/21 Carolina Access II providers (primary care case management) will be able to be reimbursed for conducting Health Opportunities screenings for unmet health-related resource needs and referral to community-based resources.

Carolina Access II providers may temporarily receive reimbursement for positive Healthy Opportunities screenings conducted using the NC DHHS [standard screening questions](#) or an equivalent instrument with similar questions covering beneficiary needs related to DHHS's 4 priority domains (food, housing/utilities, transportation and interpersonal safety). For more information, please see [Temporary Clinical Policy Modifications: Payment for Healthy Opportunities Screening and Referral](#).

Resources and Handouts:

- [Education COVID Funding Overview](#) presented to Senate Education Committee this week.
- President Biden has [signed an executive order](#) for a Special Enrollment Period in the healthcare marketplace between February 15th and May 15th 2021.