

NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families

DATE: February 19, 2021

Date and Time	Committee	Location Legislative Office Building (LOB) Legislative Building (LB) Audio link: https://www.ncleg.gov/Audio
February 23, 8:30 am	House Education Appropriations (Joint)	1027/1128 LB, livestream
February 23, 10:00 am	House Health	643 LOB, livestream
February 23, 1:00 pm	House Education K-12	643 LOB, livestream

NC General Assembly Showing Signs of Budget Preparation:

The budget process will begin in the Senate this year and all three Chairs of Senate Appropriations have now introduced boilerplate bills for that purpose. In addition, multiple joint appropriations committee meetings are scheduled for next week. There's good news in the State budget forecast to start the budget deliberations. Federal stimulus funding has apparently kept North Carolina's budget stable and tax revenues exceeded projections, according to a joint revenue forecast released by the legislature's Fiscal Research Division and the Office of State Budget and Management (see [press release](#) from Rep. Tim Moore).

Legislation Highlights:

[H. 82](#) will establish school extension learning recovery and enrichment programs for at-risk students. The school year would be extended by six weeks and would be voluntary.

[S. 86](#) will require NC DHHS to work with DPI, local education administrative units and LME/MCOs to increase awareness of school-based health services, including and beyond IEPs, that are reimbursable by Medicaid.

[S. 93](#) will allow certain parents of children in the foster care system to retain Medicaid eligibility. Parents undergoing court-ordered substance use disorder or mental health services are the focus for eligibility.

Resources:

- [\\$27 million](#) has been distributed to 34 cities and counties of Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus funds to assist local communities with

subsistence payments to prevent evictions and utility disconnections in their communities and to provide public facilities support with broadband, communications, and the rehabilitation of buildings. Finally, it will also provide financial assistance to small businesses with fewer than 100 employees and micro-enterprises with no more than five employees.

- NC DHHS and DPI will together begin issuing additional benefits through the [Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer](#) to assist 860,000 children who qualify for free and reduced lunches at school and their families to buy groceries.

Bills on the Move:

[S. 37](#), In-Person Learning Choice for Families, ratified and sent to the Governor for signature

Other Bills:

[H. 29](#), Verification of Immigration Status: SAVE

[H. 32](#), Equity Opportunity Act

[H. 42](#) ([S. 36](#)), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications

[H. 82](#), Summer Learning Choice for NC Families

[S. 36](#), 2020 COVID Relief Bill Modifications, extends dates for funding to be used and other needed modifications, signed into law, SL 2021-1

[S. 61](#), Dental Services/Medicaid Transformation

[S. 78](#), A Safe Return for In-Person Learning

[S. 86](#), Medicaid Recs/School-Based Health and InCK evaluation/ Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 88](#), NC FAST Child Welfare Case Mgmt./PED Study

[S. 89](#), Regional Supervision/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 90](#), Social Services Reform/Inter-County Collaboration/Child Well-Being Transformation Council Rec

[S. 93](#), Assisting NC Families in Crisis

[S. 105](#), 2021 Appropriations Act

[S. 106](#), 2021 Appropriations Act

[S. 107](#), 2021 Appropriations Act