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NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families
DATE: April 11, 2023

To access the NC General Assembly calendar use this [link](#)

Budget:

As expected, the House filed the budget, [H. 259](#), and the bill made its way through the committee processes in short order. The House has sent it over to the Senate, where it is expected to be picked up after spring break. It is likely that the Senate has their version of the bill ready to be published by May—especially if they have been working with House leadership throughout the process. The bill includes the funding for the NC Health Works—the North Carolina name for Medicaid Expansion.

To get the most updated budget information go to the [NC General Assembly home page](#) and look to the left under “News & Information” for the Committee Report (money report) and bill text for H. 259. Look for the most recent dated versions.

Appropriation Provisions	2023-2024 Budget R = Recurring NR = Non-Recurring	2024-2025 Budget R = Recurring NR = Non-Recurring
NC Health Works Funding (Medicaid Expansion)	\$4.3 b R	\$4.9 b R
Medicaid Expansion Bonus	\$817 m NR	\$818 m NR
Medicaid Contingency Reserve, transferred from the General Fund	\$400 m NR	
Workforce Housing Loan Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Reserve, reserved from the General Fund Housing Finance Agency, transferred from the Housing Reserve 	\$100 m NR \$35 m NR	\$100 m NR \$35 m NR
Medicaid Transformation Fund, transferred from the Medicaid Transformation Reserve of the General Fund	\$100 m	\$55.6 m
School Safety Grants	\$20 m NR	\$20 m NR
Training on evidence-based supported employment, allocated to NC-APSE	\$75,000 R	\$75,000 R

Reduce the waitlist for children eligible for subsidized childcare who are in foster care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automatic Child Care Subsidy Eligibility for Child Care Teachers pilot program • Wonderschool Pilot Program • Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Project 		\$10 m NR \$1,050,000 NR \$900,000 NR
New adolescent behavioral healthcare facility to be built by the Katie Blessing Foundation, funds are from the American Rescue Plan Act	\$15 m NR	
Use of JUUL Settlement Funds, Youth Electronic Nicotine Dependence Abatement Fund (through Division of Public Health): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and cessation activities—grades 4-8 • Continue the tobacco and nicotine dependence and prevention activities targeting youth and young adults 	\$7 m NR \$4 m NR	\$7 m NR \$4 m NR
Foster Care Transitional Living for Foster Care Youth	\$250,000 R \$250,000 NR	\$250,000 R
Kinship Care Reimbursement Rates funding	\$5.1 m R	\$10.2 m R
Complete broadband access to 47 rural colleges	\$7.1 m NR	\$7.1 m NR
Healthcare Workforce Programs Expansion	\$20 m NR	\$20 m NR
School Safety Grants	\$20 m NR	\$20 m NR

Other Provisions:

Medical Freedom/COVID-19 Vaccinations: No state agency, city, county or political subdivision may deny, or refuse employment or discharge someone because they do not have proof of receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. The exceptions to this include:

- Employment in facilities that receive funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and COVID-19 vaccinations are required;
- Employment in facilities that receive federal funding and COVID-19 vaccinations are required as such;
- Employment in facilities operated by the Division of State Operated Healthcare Facilities if NC DHHS requires the COVID-19 vaccination.

Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program: Grants up to \$750.00 awarded to students for short-term, non-credit State and industry workforce credentials for programs including health sciences and those that meet local needs.

Workforce Diploma Program/Graduation Alliance: \$2.5 m NR each year of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds are allocated to assist adults 21 years of age and older to get their high school diploma and to develop employability and career and technical skills.

Funding for Children with Disabilities: “To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board will allocate funds for children with disabilities to each local school administrative unit on a per child basis. Each local school administrative unit shall receive funds

for the lesser of (i) all children who are identified as children with disabilities or (ii) thirteen percent (13%) of its allocated average daily membership in the local school administrative unit for the current school year."

Opportunity Gap Task Force: The "opportunity gap" refers to the significant disparity in the academic performance and postsecondary readiness of students between any of the following subgroups: races, ethnicities, socioeconomic statuses, genders, English-language proficiencies, and urban, rural, or suburban domiciles. The task force includes: Two or more parents of students adversely affected by the opportunity gap and NC Child.

Parents' Right to Opt In or Out of Health and Safety Programs: Local boards of education shall adopt policies to provide opportunities either for parents to consent or for parents to withhold their consent to the students' participation in any or all of the health and safety programs. Local boards of education will provide notice to parents of this opportunity at least 14 days before students participate in the health and safety programs. The notice will inform parents of the local board's policy for participation in the health and safety programs and provide a form that allows parents to exercise parental rights under that policy.

Threat Assessment Teams: The Center for Safer Schools will develop guidance for threat assessment teams. They will be multidisciplinary teams that include, but not limited to, persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement that conduct threat assessments in a public school unit when threatening behavior has been communicated and when a student has engaged in threatening behavior that warrants further evaluation. LME/MCOs are responsible for providing referral resources.

Other School Safety Provisions:

- School safety exercises
- School crisis kits
- School safety provisions for private schools

School Health Personnel Allotment: Amends the psychologist allotment for each school to be the broader term "school health personnel" and to include psychology, school counseling, school nursing, and school social work. \$300 m recurring dollars are transferred for this change. This also allows for 120 new positions.

Transportation for Homeless and Foster Students: Codify the Special State Reserve Fund used to provide transportation for homeless and foster students. Includes \$175,000 R.

Behavioral Intervention Grants: The 2023-2025 Behavioral Intervention Grants Program (Program) to allow public school units to establish, update, or expand student behavior intervention programs to facilitate a student's continued in-person attendance at school and completion of the student's intended academic program. LME/MCOs and non-profits are community partners for this program.

Expand Innovations Waiver Slots: Increases slots by 250 on 7/1/23 or when approved by federal government.

New Reimbursement Structure for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics: Implement no earlier than 7/1/23 new reimbursement structure as written in the report, "Proposed Comprehensive Reimbursement Structure for Federally Qualified Health Centers and Rural Health Clinics".

LME/MCO Payment for Certain Inpatient Behavioral Health Services: Adjusts implementation date when LME/MCOs will be required to pay for behavioral health services provided to beneficiaries awaiting hospital discharge. This will be effective retroactive to the date approved by federal government.

Prepaid Health Plans Metrics: NC DHHS is required to develop performance metrics related to payment to providers, etc. for PHPs, to begin by 12/1/23.

Veto-Proof Super Majority Appears to be Achieved in NC General Assembly

The Republicans in both the North Carolina Senate and House now hold enough votes for a super majority due to the recent switch in parties for Rep. Tricia Cotham, Mecklenburg, from Democrat to Republican. The super majority is what is needed to override a veto from the Governor. Governor Roy Cooper is a Democrat. This gives the NC General Assembly the power to move legislation ahead without the veto mechanism as an additional transparency step when bills have concerning language for some constituents and the Governor. We have seen Governor Cooper recently choose not to sign or veto legislation. After 10 days, that legislation then goes into effect without his action.

Bills On the Move:

[H. 142](#), Protect our Students Act – Agency Bill, passed House, referred to Senate Rules Committee.

[H. 190](#), Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, passed House and sent to Senate

[H. 193](#), Various Court Changes 2023 – Agency Bill, reported favorably by House Judiciary 2, withdrawn from Appropriations and added to House Rules, includes Adverse Childhood Experience training for juvenile judges

[H. 253](#), Prevent Students from Harm Act, passed House, requires all local school administrative units to incorporate high quality character education instruction with input from the local community, policies on bullying and harassing behavior, expands language on mental health resources provided to include skills, strategies for suicide prevention

[H. 382](#), Registered Nurses in Schools, passed House, allow Registered Nurses to work in schools without any additional certifications

[H. 585/S. 448](#), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Appropriations, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations, increase compensation for school psychologists, establishes the School Psychologist Grant Program and the School Psychologists Internship Program, and increases funding for this.

[S. 303](#), Strengthen Juvenile Laws, passed the Senate, modifies the transfer process for juveniles charged with certain felonies, modifies the confidentiality of certain information concerning juveniles under investigation, and modifies the interrogation procedures for certain juveniles

[S. 383](#), Protect our Youth in Foster Care, referred to Senate Appropriations, legislation includes trauma-based standardized assessment, develop new “in lieu of” services for children receiving foster care, create a statewide dashboard of data around the standardized trauma-informed assessments

[S. 705](#), Equity in Justice Act of 2023, referred to Senate Rules, raises age from 10 to 12 years old of delinquent juvenile and undisciplined juvenile, define the term “School Resource Officer” and training, eliminate life without parole for juveniles

Bills Introduced:

[H. 26](#), Education Omnibus, passed House, referred to Senate Rules

[H. 47](#), School Protection Act, referred to House Committee on Education K-12

[H. 58/S. 74](#), Parents’ and Students’ Bill of Rights, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee

[H. 83](#), Funds for AWAKE in Swain County, referred to House Appropriations Committee

[H. 142](#), Protect our Students Act – Agency Bill

[H. 145](#), Social Services Reform, referred to House Committee on Family, Children, Aging Policy
[H. 150](#), School Contracted Health Services, passed House and referred to Senate Rules
[H. 156](#), Funds for Establishing Safe Cultures, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 186](#), Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications – Agency Bill, reported favorably by House Judiciary 1, referred to House State Government then House Rules
[H. 187](#), Equality in Education, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 188](#), Standards of Student Conduct, reported favorably by House Committee on Education K-12 and House Judiciary 1 then House Rules
[H. 190](#), Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill
[H. 197](#), Broadband Changes, DIT – Agency Bill, referred to House State Government then House Energy and Public Utilities then House Rules
[H. 206](#), Increase Dropout Age/Completion Indicator, referred to House Committee on Education K-12 then House Rules
[H. 253](#), Prevent Students from Harm Act
[H. 259](#), 2023 Appropriations Act, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 281/S. 215](#), Allow ERPO's to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules
[H. 286](#), Permanency Innovation Initiative/Say So/Funds, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 294](#), NC Housing Choice Incentive, referred to House Commerce then House Appropriations then House Rules
[H. 336/ S. 263](#), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 357/S. 262](#), Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 361/S. 305](#), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 referred to House Health, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules
[H. 382](#), Registered Nurses in Schools, referred to House Education K-12
[H. 391](#), Civic Youth Group Access, referred to House Education K-12
[S. 688/H. 398](#), Child Care Act, S. 688 referred to Senate Rules, H. 398 referred to House Rules
[S. 694/H. 405](#), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations
[H. 420](#), Expand & Consolidate K-12 Scholarships, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 478](#), Support Students with Disabilities Act, referred to House Appropriations
[H. 500](#), NCCWTC/Medicaid Related Recs., referred to House Health
[H. 519/S. 399](#), Mental Health Protection Act, referred to House Rules and Senate Rules respectively
[H. 585/S. 448](#), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Appropriations, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 49](#), Parents Bill of Rights, passed by Senate, referred to House Rules Committee
[S. 74/H. 58](#), Parents' and Students' Bill of Rights, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee
[S. 156](#), Medicaid Children and Families Specialty Plan, passed Senate referred to House Rules
[S. 215/H. 281](#), Allow ERPO's to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules
[S. 262/H. 357](#), Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 263/H. 336](#), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 303](#), Strengthen Juvenile Laws
[S. 305/H. 361](#), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 referred to House Health, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules
[S. 317](#), Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 343](#), Protect the Children in Private Schools, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 358](#), Redirect Lottery Advertising for Foster Care, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 383](#), Protect our Youth in Foster Care, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 406](#), Choose Your School, Choose Your Future, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 425](#), Medicaid Agency Omnibus – Agency Bill, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 493](#), Go Big for Early Childhood Education, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 523](#), Increase School Psychologists, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 524](#), School Social Workers/Master Pay, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 567](#), School Mental Health Support Act, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 598](#), Healthy Students, A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations
[S. 625](#), Child Welfare, Safety and Permanency Reforms, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 645/S. 665](#), Add Homeschool to Opportunity Scholarships, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 656](#), Foster BH IDD Tailored Plan Competition, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 657](#), LME/MCO Transparency and Accountability, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 688/H. 398](#), Child Care Act, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 694/H. 405](#), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations
[S. 705](#), Equity in Justice Act of 2023, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 708](#), School Meals for Every Child, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 713](#), Build Safer Communities and Schools Act, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 735](#), Reduce Parent Copays/Subsidized Child Care, referred to Senate Rules
[S. 741](#), Tax Relief on Essentials for Working Families, referred to Senate Rules

New Laws

[S. 115](#), SL2023-3, Repurpose RJ Blackley Center as Psych Hospital, April 1, 2023 DHHS will enter into an agreement with UNC Health to operate RJ Blackley Center as a 54-bed psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents.

[H. 76](#), SL2023-7, Access to Healthcare Options, authorizes NC DHHS to apply for participation in federal Medicaid Expansion, funding provisions included in 2023 budget that must be signed into law by 6/30/23 for this law to take effect.