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**NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families**

**DATE: May 1, 2023**

***To access the NC General Assembly calendar use this*** [***link***](https://www.ncleg.gov/)

***May is Mental Health Awareness Month!***

**NC General Assembly Crossover Deadline Past:**

May 4th was the official day that House and Senate bills that do not include funding had to pass one of the chambers to remain active. After the flurry of activity, the calendar for next week reflects a slowing down of the pace. A list of bills that met crossover has already been developed and can be accessed at [this link](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewDocSiteFile/79110).

**Highlighted Bills:**

[H. 855](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h855), **Strengthening Care for Children and Families**: Rep. Lambeth has introduced a bill that contains several of the recommendations from the Governor’s [$1 Billion Roadmap in Behavioral Health and Resilience Investments](https://governor.nc.gov/news/press-releases/2023/03/08/governor-cooper-releases-roadmap-1-billion-behavioral-health-and-resilience-investments#:~:text=The%20plan%20outlines%20three%20areas,health%20access%20and%20outcomes%20with) and the [Child and Family Well-Being Transformation Work Group](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/transforming-child-welfare-and-family-well-being-together-coordinated-action-plan). The bill has been referred to House Health Committee and then will be re-referred to House Appropriations. There is no Senate companion bill introduced. Because the bill includes appropriations, it does not need to meet the crossover deadline and will remain active through this session and the 2024 short session. The bill includes provisions related to child, adolescent and adult behavioral health services, including:

* Expand access to **family partners**
* **Supports for families,** including professional foster parenting programs
* **Increase paid rates** to Medicaid behavioral health providers for three years
* Strengthen and expand **crisis services** through specialized behavioral health treatment options to address crisis events and to divert children and youth from emergency departments and other mechanisms
* Launch **community assessment teams**
* Expand **school behavioral health services**
* Fund pre-arrest diversion and re-entry programs and local partnerships and training around **juvenile justice**
* Improve capacity of **State-operated psychiatric facilities**
* Increase **telehealth services**

[H. 500](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H500), **NCCWBTC Recs./Medicaid**: Rep. Stevens introduced this bill. This bill is derived directly from the [NC Child Well-Being Transformation Council](https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/portals/0/documents/pdf/c/children_council_june_30_report.pdf), which Rep. Stevens chaired. H. 500 has passed the House and is now in the hands of the Senate. The bill includes two reports to the NC General Assembly:

* NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Health Benefits (DHB), will work with Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop a plan to assess the feasibility of enhanced rates and other mechanisms that encourage private agencies to provide school-based health services to students who are receiving or who are eligible to receive Medicaid benefits. It also includes the development of an annual parental consent form. The Plan is expected to be submitted to the NC General Assembly by August 1, 2024.
* NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS), Division of Health Benefits (DHB), will evaluate the Integrated Care for Kids (InCK) grant and report to the NC General Assembly by March 1, 2025 and a final report by March 1, 2027.

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605), **School Threat Assessment Teams**, passed House (Note: this does not have appropriations attached to it.)

* Defines a threat assessment as “A fact-based process of identifying, assessing, and managing behavior that may pose a risk of violence or other harm to self or others.”
* The threat assessment team is a “multidisciplinary team that includes, but is not limited to, persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement”.
* Directs the Center for Safer Schools to develop guidance for the development of threat assessment teams within public school units. Public school units will then develop policies on threat assessment teams that includes specified components.
* LME/MCOs will receive referrals for uninsured children as well as children who receive Medicaid benefits and are not enrolled with a prepaid health plan.
* Establish peer-to-peer programs for sixth grade and above.
* Expand the requirements for schools around safety exercises, school crisis kits and law enforcement access.
* Allows qualified nonpublic schools to voluntarily participate.

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), **Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information**, passed the House

* Sets criteria for Child Advocacy Centers to receive State funding
* Child Advocacy Centers may provide mental health services or referrals for those mental health services which will be provided by licensed mental health professionals who deliver trauma-focused, evidence-supported treatment and who meet State standards.
* Includes the use of a multi-disciplinary team that has representation such as a local mental health provider and a local health care provider, a victim’s advocate, law enforcement, judicial and child protective services.
* Encourages the sharing of information among the multidisciplinary team.
* Becomes effective 7/1/24

[H. 860](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H860), **Protect Our Youth in Foster Care**, referred to Health House

* Requires NC DHHS to develop a trauma-informed, standardized assessment for children at-risk of being in the foster care system or currently in the foster care system in conjunction with Prepaid Health Plans, Benchmarks (provider organization), individuals with lived experience and others by 12/1/23.
* Directs NC DHHS, DHB, to develop “in lieu of” services [to divert children from psychiatric residential treatment facilities].
* Provides direction to NC DHHS when there is identified inadequate provider access.
* Appropriates funds for the State match.

**Resources:**

* Free COVID-19 in-home tests can be obtained through the Project Access COVID Tests Program. Households can order two kits with five tests in each at this [link](https://www.accesscovidtests.org/?utm_source=Stakeholders&utm_campaign=fd4731d2f3-External+Stakeholders_042823&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_dbdaf4daf2-fd4731d2f3-80093521&mc_cid=fd4731d2f3&mc_eid=0b3f0a25fb).

**Bills Filed and Action:**

[H. 23](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H23), Education Studies and Other Changes, passed House

[H. 26](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H26), Education Omnibus, passed House

[H. 47](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H47), School Protection Act, referred to House Committee on Education K-12

[H. 58](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H58)/[S. 74](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S74), Parents’ and Students’ Bill of Rights, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee

[H. 83](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H83), Funds for AWAKE in Swain County, referred to House Appropriations Committee

[H. 142](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H142), Protect our Students Act – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 145](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H145), Social Services Reform, passed House

[H. 150](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H150), School Contracted Health Services, passed House

[H. 156](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H156), Funds for Establishing Safe Cultures, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H186), Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 187](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H187), Equality in Education, passed House

[H. 188](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H188), Standards of Student Conduct, passed House

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, passed House

[H. 197](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H197), Broadband Changes, DIT – Agency Bill, reported favorably by House State Government then referred to House Energy and Public Utilities then House Rules

[H. 206](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h206), Increase Dropout Age/Completion Indicator, referred to House Committee on Education K-12 then House Rules

[H. 253](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H253), Prevent Students from Harm Act, passed House

[H. 259](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H259), 2023 Appropriations Act, passed House

[H. 263](https://ncleg.gov/Legislation/Bills/FiledByDay/2023/H/03-02-2023), 2023 Appropriations Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 281](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H281)/[S. 215](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S215), Allow ERPO’s to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules

[H. 286](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H286), Permanency Innovation Initiative/Say So/Funds, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 294](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H294), NC Housing Choice Incentive, referred to House Commerce then House Appropriations then House Rules

[H. 336](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H336)/ [S. 263](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S263), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 357](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H357)/S. 262, Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361)/[S. 305](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S305), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 passed House, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules

[H. 382](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H382), Registered Nurses in Schools, passed House

[H. 391](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H391), Civic Youth Group Access, referred to House Education K-12

[H. 398](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H398), Child Care Act, referred to House Rules

[H. 405](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H405)/[S. 694](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S694), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 420](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H420), Expand & Consolidate K-12 Scholarships, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 478](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H478), Support Students with Disabilities Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 500](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h500), NCCWTC/Medicaid Related Recs., passed House

[H. 559](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H559), Funds for Crossnore Communities for Children

[H. 569](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H569)/[S. 555](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S555), Working Families Act, referred to Rules in House and Senate

[H. 585](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H585)/[S. 448](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S448)/[S. 472](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S472), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Rules, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605), School Threat Assessment Teams, passed House

[H. 647](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H647), Expedite Child Permanency, passed House

[H. 665](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H665), Foster Parent Ombudsman, referred to House Health

[H. 667](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H667), Opportunity Scholarship Testing Requirements, referred to House Rules

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information, passed House

[H. 705](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H705)/[S. 713](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S713), Build Safer Communities and Schools Act, both House and Senate bills referred to Rules

[H. 730](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H730), Funds for the Expansion of NC Pre-K, referred to House Rules

[H. 748](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Ccjwel%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CZMRC108R%5CH.%20730%2C%20Funds%20for%20the%20Expansion%20of%20NC%20Pre-K%2C%20referred%20to%20House%20Rules), Felony Child Abuse/Expand Scope, passed House

[H. 762](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H762)/[S. 524](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S524), Social School Workers/Masters Pay, H. 762 referred to House Education, K-12, S. 524 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 763](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H763), Limit School Counselor Ratios, referred to House Education, K-12

[H. 765](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H765), Public School Medical Assistants, reported favorably by House Education, K-12

[H. 815](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H815), The Loving Homes Act, passed House

[H. 817](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H817), Healthy Families and Workplaces/Paid Sick Days, referred to House Rules

[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823)/[S. 406](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S406), Choose your School, Choose your Future, H. 823 reported favorably by House Education, K-12, re-referred to House Appropriations. S. 406 reported favorably by Senate Education, re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 834](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H834), Juvenile Capacity, referred to House Judiciary 1 and Appropriations

[H. 841](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H841), Healthy Families & Workplaces/Paid Sick Days, referred to House Rules

[H. 846](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H846), Funds for NC Pre-K and Smart Start, referred to House Rules

[H. 848](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H848), Set Pay Schedules/Juvenile Justice Positions, referred to House Rules

[H. 855](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h855), Strengthening Care for Children and Families, referred to House Health then House Appropriations

[H. 858](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H858), Fonda Bryant Suicide Prevention Signage Act, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 860](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H860), Protect Our Youth in Foster Care, referred to Health House

[H. 862](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h862), Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System, referred to House Health

[H. 863](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H863), Foster Care Reform/Funds, referred to House Appropriations

[H. 887](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H887), Enhance Local Response/Mental Health Crises, referred to House Rules

[S. 49](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/s49), Parents Bill of Rights, passed by Senate

[S. 74](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S74)/[H. 58](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H58), Parents’ and Students’ Bill of Rights, S. 74 referred to Senate Rules Committee, H. 58 referred to House Rules Committee

[S. 156](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S156), Medicaid Children and Families Specialty Plan, passed Senate

[S. 215](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S215)/[H. 281](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H281), Allow ERPO’s to Prevent Suicides and Save Lives, referred to Rules

[S. 262](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S262)/[H. 357](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H357), Funds/Durham Juvenile Detention Ctr, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 263](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S263)/[H. 336](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H336), Healthy Students/A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 303](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S303), Strengthen Juvenile Laws, passed Senate

[S. 305](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S305)/[H. 361](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H361), Require Report/Protection & Advocacy Agency, H. 361 passed House, S. 305 referred to Senate Rules

[S. 317](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S317), Addressing the Workforce Housing Crisis, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 343](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S343), Protect the Children in Private Schools, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 358](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S358), Redirect Lottery Advertising for Foster Care, referred to Senate Rules

[S. 406](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S406)/[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823), Choose your School, Choose your Future, H. 823 reported favorably by House Education, K-12, re-referred to House Appropriations. S. 406 reported favorably by Senate Education, re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 425](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S425), Medicaid Omnibus – Agency Bill, passed Senate

[S. 448](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S448)/[S. 472](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S472)/[H. 585](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H585), School Psychologist Omnibus, H. 585 referred to House Health and then House Rules, S. 448 referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 493](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S493), Go Big for Early Childhood Education, referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 762](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H762)/[S. 524](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S524), Social School Workers/Masters Pay, H. 762 referred to House Education, K-12, S. 524 referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 555](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/s555)/[H. 569](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H569), Working Families Act, referred to Rules in House and Senate

[S. 567](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S567), School Mental Health Support Act

[S. 598](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S598), Healthy Students – A Nurse in Every School, referred to Senate Appropriations

[S. 625](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S625), Child Welfare, Safety and Permanence Reforms, passed Senate

[S. 661](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S661), Health Benefit Plans/Mental Health Parity

[H. 405](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H405)/[S. 694](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S694), Funds for Ready for School, Ready for Life, H. 405 referred to House Appropriations, S. 694 referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 705](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H705)/[S. 713](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S713), Build Safer Communities and Schools Act, both House and Senate bills referred to Rules

[S. 740](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S740), Fully Fund School Psychologists and Counselors, referred to Senate Appropriations

**New Laws**

[S. 115](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S115), 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](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h76), 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.