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

**DATE: June 4, 2023**

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

**Budget:**

The House began the legislative process for the State Fiscal Years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 by introducing and passing [H. 259](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/hb259). The Senate then substituted their version of the budget proposal and passed it. The House did not concur with the Senate substitute language and a conference committee has been appointed. Presumably, there are many discussions occurring behind closed doors. The word is that they are planning to finish their business by the fourth of July. Time will tell if they can meet that deadline.

As discussed in the Policy and Research Work Group, there was a gap between the provisions in House and Senate budget proposals. This may mean there is more to negotiate and find a compromise and *this opens the door for constituents to express what is most important to them in the budget*. The Policy and Research Work Group has formulated a letter for NC Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families leadership to send to legislators emphasizing the System of Care principles and the GPS indicators that help determine whether or not legislative provisions and bills support children, youth and families. This tells legislators how this organization will determine what they support or don’t support. An example that the Policy and Research Work Group has discussed earlier is the use of the term “threat” in reference to a child who is deemed to be dangerous to his/herself and school and may have acute behavioral health needs. The House version of the budget does include a provision around Threat Assessment Teams. Below is the GPS where it becomes evident that identifying a child as a threat without school and community supports that are funded, does not align with these values:

* Value the Youth and Family Voice
* Ensure Easily Navigated System for Families to Support their Children’s Well-Being
* Promote Collaboration and Partnership between Schools, Social Services, Juvenile Justice and the Behavioral Health Community
* Increase Access to Services and Supports
* Promote the Child and Family Being Served within their Community with Services to Support Children, Transition Age Youth and Families

Once a finalized budget is passed by the House and Senate, the Governor will have the choice to sign into law, veto or not take action on the budget bill. Hanging in the balance is the Medicaid Expansion that was contingent on the budget becoming law.

For more information about the budget:

[North Carolina Health News, May 16, 2023 article](https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2023/05/16/the-senates-proposed-29-8-billion-spending-plan-would-revamp-ncs-health-care-landscape/) around Senate budget proposals impact on health care.

**Highlighted Bills:**

[H. 23](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H23), **Education Studies and Other Changes**, passed Senate referred to House Education/Higher Education

This bill includes a study for students with extraordinary costs for “Approved Schools” that are nonpublic educational programs serving children in special education with intensive needs. The study is due to the legislature by October 15, 2023. The focus of the study will be on:

1. A method of improving options for children with disabilities with intensive needs which require private placement in an Approved School consistent with the student's individualized education program (IEP).
2. A method of determining that placement in an Approved School is the means that most appropriately suits the child's individual needs.
3. Extraordinary costs incurred by the public school unit by student placement in Approved Schools.
4. Methods of creating a network of Approved Schools into which a child with disabilities with intensive needs may be placed consistent with the student's IEP.
5. A method of prioritizing dispersal of funds to public school units to assist with the cost associated with enrolling in an Approved School in early grades to incentivize public school units to enroll students in the Approved Schools at the earliest appropriate age.
6. Recommendations on the proportion of a student's extraordinary cost to be paid from local, State, and federal sources, respectively, and to identify existing funds at each level that may be available for the purposes studied pursuant to this section.
7. A method to monitor overidentification of children with disabilities with intensive needs.
8. Methods to allow for Medicaid reimbursement for additional services, such as transportation, and expanding the eligible age range to receive reimbursement for services.
9. An estimated range of costs associated with implementing the studied methods.

(10)The advisability of one or more pilot programs with one or more Approved 16 Schools.

[H. 860](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H860), **Protect Our Youth in Foster Care**, reported favorably by House Health and referred to House Appropriations (*NOTE: This issue is also addressed through a special provision in the Senate budget proposal*)

Work groups to establish a trauma-informed standardized assessment for children who are at-risk of entry or in the foster care system.

Work Group to Develop Assessment Template:

* A person with lived experience is included in the work group that will develop the standardized assessment.
* The template of the assessment will be developed by December 31, 2023.
* The finalized assessment, including a training curriculum, etc., will be done by June 30, 2024.
* The implementation will be complete by June 30, 2025.
* Creates a statewide dashboard

Work Group to Develop Additional Medicaid Services to Serve Children and Families in the Foster Care System:

* Members include representatives with lived experience in child welfare.
* To identify innovative Medicaid service options to address any gaps in the care of children receiving foster care services. Each LME/MCO shall identify to the workgroup any innovative practices that the LME/MCO is using that could be an innovative Medicaid service option.
* To identify models of community evidence-based practices that support a foster child returning to the child's family in a timely manner and diverting higher level foster care placements. And to identify models of short-term residential treatment options that serve children with high acuity needs that divert a child from higher level placements such as psychiatric residential treatment facility placement. The provision of stepdown options from higher levels of care may be considered.
* No later than three months after the Work Group completes their work, NC DHHS will distribute funding to be used for innovative Medicaid service options.

Appropriations Included in Bill:

* $750,000 for development of assessment, etc.
* $20 million in State appropriations (to be matched with federal funds)

[H. 834](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h834), **Juvenile Capacity/Transfer/Interrogation/Confidential**, reported favorably by House Judiciary, re-referral to House Appropriations was stricken (does not need to occur), re-referred to House Rules

Juvenile Capacity to Proceed:

* To prohibit a juvenile from being transferred to superior court for trial as an adult, adjudicated delinquent or undisciplined, or subject to disposition for an offense in juvenile court, including a violation of probation, when, by reason of mental disorder, intellectual disability, neurological disorder, traumatic or acquired brain injury, or developmental immaturity, the juvenile is unable to understand the nature and object of the proceedings against the juvenile, to comprehend the juvenile's own situation in reference to the proceedings, or to assist in the juvenile's own defense in a rational or reasonable manner.
* Includes definitions for terms including developmental immaturity and incapacity to proceed.
* Sets parameters around procedures for forensic evaluation of the juvenile.
* Includes provisions for involuntary commitment and determining incapacity to proceed.

Transfer Process:

* Makes changes to language around transferring a juvenile 16 years of age or older to superior court.

Confidentiality, “Lyric and Devin’s Law”:

* Establishes parameters around disclosure of information about juveniles for public safety reasons.

Interrogation Procedures:

* Distinguishes interrogation procedures for juveniles younger than 16 and older than 16 as well as the role of a caretaker.

**Bills on the Move:**

[H. 142](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h142), Protect Our Students Act, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Judiciary and re-referred to Senate Education/Higher Education

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

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h186), Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications – Agency Bill, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Judiciary and re-referred to Senate Rules

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Health Care and re-referred to Senate Rules

[H. 647](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H%20647), Expedite Child Permanency, passed House, received by Senate

[H. 665](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h665), Foster Parent Ombudsman, referred to House Health and House Appropriations

[H. 674](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h674), Child Advocacy Centers, Share Information, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Health Care and re-referred to Senate Judiciary

[H. 762](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H762), School Social Workers/Masters Pay, reported favorably by House Education/K-12 and re-referred to House Appropriations

[H. 815](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h815), The Loving Homes Act, passed House, referred to Senate Rules

[H. 823](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h823), Choose Your School, Choose Your Future, passed House, referred to Senate Rules

 [S. 406](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S406) is the Senate version and it has reported favorably by Senate Education/Higher Education and re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 862](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h862), Strengthen Child Fatality Prevention System, reported favorably by House Health and re-referred to House Appropriations

**Bills Filed and Action:**

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

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

[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, referred to Senate Healthcare and then Judiciary

[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, referred to House Appropriations

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

[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 then Appropriations

[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](https://ncccp.sharepoint.com/sites/i2i/I2ICenter/Grants%20and%20Contracts/NCCCYF/Legislative%20News/NCCYF%20Weekly%20Leg%20Updates/2023/H.%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

[S. 670](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S670), Create New Student Weighted Funding Model,

[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.