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

**DATE: July 13, 2023**

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

**Is the Budget Stalled?**

No outward action has been taken on H. 259, 2023 Appropriations Act, since June 5th while House and Senate leadership negotiate their differences behind closed doors. The new State fiscal year began on July 1st without a new budget. This means that the State agencies are operating on a continuation of the budget from State Fiscal Year 2022-2023. In addition, this means that any new programs or expanded programming included in H. 259, has not yet gone into effect. Most notably, the expansion of Medicaid to close the insurance gap for approximately 600,000 North Carolinians is in a holding pattern. Once the two chambers do agree on a budget and ratify it, it will go to the Governor for his signature. Medicaid expansion has been a priority for the Governor and he has been talking to press about his desire for the budget to be passed as quickly as possible to put Medicaid expansion into place. The best case scenario will be that the budget that is passed by the NC General Assembly includes provisions which the Governor can support. Of course, as with every bill that is sent to him for signature, he has the option to sign it, not sign it and allow it to go into law, or veto it. Because there is a super majority in the NC General Assembly, even a veto will possibly only delay the process because they could have the votes to override a veto.

**Speaking of Vetoes…**

The Governor has vetoed multiple bills at this point and we can assume that the NC General Assembly will take up each veto and potentially override each one. They may even be including some of these bills in the budget proposal as special provisions. ***When there is this obvious dissension between parties, it makes the advocacy during the upcoming policy making and process development that much more important to make it viable for children, youth, families and communities.***The two vetoed bills below give you an example of the current tenor of the relationship between the Governor and the General Assembly with the super majority in place.

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

Ratified by the NC General Assembly, 7/3/23

Vetoed by the Governor, 7/5/23

Sent back to the Senate and referred to Senate Rules on 7/6/23

*Basic Overview*: Enumerates the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor children.

[*Governor’s Veto Message*](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2023/6809/0/S49-BILL-NBC-11123):

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[H. 618](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H618), **Charter School Review Board**

Ratified by the NC General Assembly, 6/28/23

Vetoed by the Governor, 7/7/23

Sent back to the House and placed on calendar for House floor, 7/19/23

*Basic Overview*: Convert Charter Schools Advisory Board into the Charter Schools Review Board, Shift authority to approve charters to the Review Board, Create a right of appeal to the State Board of Education from Review Board decisions.

[*Governor’s Veto Message*](https://webservices.ncleg.gov/ViewBillDocument/2023/6813/0/H618-BD-NBC-11127):

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**New Law Overview**

[**H. 605**](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605)**, SL2023- 78, School Threat Assessment Teams**, establishes threat assessment teams, peer-to-peer support programs, school crisis kits, and expand law enforcement access in all public school units. The bill has now been signed into law by the Governor. The NCCCYF Policy and Research Committee sent comments to the leaders encouraging them to focus on the behavioral health needs of children, youth and families.

**Bill Breakdown**:

*Establish threat assessment teams:*

* Teams are defined as “A multidisciplinary team that includes, but is not limited to, persons with expertise in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement that conducts 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.”
* The superintendent or the superintendent's designee will establish a committee charged with coordination and monitoring of the threat assessment teams operating within the unit, which may be an existing committee established by the unit. The committee will include individuals with expertise in human resources, education, school administration, mental health, and law enforcement.
* Quantitative data will be reported to The Center for Safer Schools.
* Each LME/MCO will receive referrals from school superintendents or designees related to students who are uninsured or are covered by Medicaid and not enrolled in a prepaid health plan residing in the LME/MCO's catchment area. Within 10 calendar days after receipt of a referral, the LME/MCO will contact the student's parent or legal guardian using the information provided on the referral and shall provide assistance with identifying appropriate existing mental health resources available to the student. The assistance shall include identifying sources of funding to assist with the cost of mental health services as well as providing referrals to appropriate mental health service providers and mental health services.

*Establish Peer-to-Peer Support Programs*:

* Public school units are responsible for coordinating and providing training for students in peer-to-peer student support programs that address areas such as conflict resolution, general health and wellness, and mentoring. The Center for Safer Schools will support school counselors in the administration and delivery of peer-to-peer student support programs.

*Expand Requirements for Safety Exercises, School Crisis Kits, and Law Enforcement Access*:

* Each public school unit will conduct a drill based on their School Risk Management Plan annually and report the date and time of the drill to the Center for Safer Schools.
* Each local school administrative public school unit will provide the following to local law enforcement agencies: (i) schematic diagrams, including digital schematic diagrams, and (ii) either keys to the main entrance of all school buildings or emergency access to key storage devices such as KNOX® boxes for all school buildings.
* Private church schools or schools of religious charter and qualified nonpublic schools may voluntarily participate in components of the legislation.

**Next Steps**: For organizations such as NCCCYF, passage of legislation is not the end of advocacy. The legislation includes follow-up processes that will put much more detail on the legislative language and should be developed transparently. Follow-up processes identified in the bill include:

* [The Center for Safer Schools](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/center-safer-schools) will develop guidance for threat assessment teams for public school units and all public school units will have access to the guidance by 12/31/23.
* The Center will develop the guidance by (i) collecting information and best practices from schools with existing threat assessment teams and (ii) consulting with the Task Force for Safer Schools, Disability Rights North Carolina, the North Carolina School Psychology Association, the State Bureau of Investigation, and relevant State government agencies.
* The governing body of a public school unit will develop policies for assessment and intervention by threat assessment teams, including any scale or classification system that will be used to indicate various levels of threats and the standard response to each level of threat. These policies will differentiate between assessment and intervention at the elementary, middle, and high school levels, as appropriate.

**Funding for School Threat Assessment Teams**: No funding was included in H. 605. There is funding included in the House budget proposal. $900,000 non-recurring funds would be allocated to the Center for Safer Schools for the development of threat assessment resources. This provision is not included in the Senate budget proposal so is an item of contention.

**Effective Date for School Threat Assessment Teams:** Applies beginning in the 2024-2025 school year

**Bills on the Move:**

[H. 142](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H142), Protect our Students Act – Agency Bill, passed House, reported favorably by Senate Committees—Judiciary, Education/Higher Education, and Pensions and Retirement and Aging, sent to Senate Rules

[H. 186](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/h186), Division of Juvenile Justice Modifications – Passed House and Senate, conference committee appointed

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

[H. 197](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H197), Broadband Changes, DIT – Agency Bill, passed House and referred to Senate Rules

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605)**,** SL2023- 78, School Threat Assessment Teams, signed into law

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), SL2023-96, Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information, signed into law

[H. 815](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H815), SL2023 – 82, The Loving Homes Act, signed into law

[H. 834](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H834), Juvenile Capacity, passed House

[S. 49](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), Parents Bill of Rights, vetoed

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

[S. 625](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S625), Child Welfare, Safety and Permanence Reforms, passed Senate, referred to House Judiciary 2

**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, reported favorably by Senate Committees—Judiciary, Education/Higher Education, and Pensions and Retirement and Aging, sent to Senate Rules

[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, passed House

[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. 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. 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. 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,%20Funds%20for%20the%20Expansion%20of%20NC%20Pre-K,%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 reported favorably by House Education/K-12 and re-referred to House Appropriations, 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. 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 passed House S. 406 reported favorably by Senate Education, re-referred to Senate Appropriations

[H. 834](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H834), Juvenile Capacity, passed House

[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, reported favorably by House Health and re-referred to House Appropriations

[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://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), Parents Bill of Rights, vetoed

[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 passed House 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, referred to House Health

[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, referred to House Judiciary 2

[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.

[H. 190](https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H190), SL2023 – 65, Dept. of Health and Human Services Revisions – Agency Bill, makes changes across DHHS Divisions including changing Division of MH/IDD/SAS to Division of MH/IDD, SUS and authorizing components of Division of Child and Family Well-Being.

[H. 605](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605), SL2023- 78, School Threat Assessment Teams, establishes threat assessment teams, peer-to-peer support programs, school crisis kits, and expand law enforcement access in all public school units.

[H. 815](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H815), SL2023 – 82, The Loving Homes Act, to allow one child or siblings in foster care to be placed in a family foster home if the foster family has 5 biological children.

[H. 674](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H674), SL2023-96, Child Advocacy Centers/Share Information, to set certain criteria for children’s advocacy centers to be eligible to receive state funds, govern the sharing of information and records of children’s advocacy centers and multidisciplinary teams, establish certain immunity for children’s advocacy centers.