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

**DATE: September 9, 2023**

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

**No Budget Movement, Medicaid Expansion on Hold, Medicaid Recertifications Continue**

September 1 came and went without a State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023-2024 budget in place. The State government is operating under a continuation of the SFY2022-2023 budget. September 1 was the date by which NC DHHS needed the legislature to pass the budget authority that allows for Medicaid Expansion to begin on October 1. This does not mean that Medicaid Expansion will not occur. It will be authorized when the budget is complete. At the same time, the recertification of Medicaid eligibility continues and many people are learning that they are no longer eligible for Medicaid. As individuals who have been eligible for Medicaid during the pandemic may be receiving inquiries regarding their eligibility or even losing their benefits, there are resources available to inform individuals on their options.

**Resources for Information on Medicaid Recertification**

* [NC DHHS Website for Medicaid Recertification](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid-recertification)
* [NC DHHS You Tube Video on Medicaid Recertification](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mez4O7Ddakk)
* Community Partners Webinar on ePASS, Tuesday, September 12, 10:30 a.m. – noon or Tuesday, September 19, 5 pm – 6:30 pm [Click here to register](https://forms.office.com/g/unM5gHGA31)

For more information or questions contact us at Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov

* NC Justice Center webpage, [“NC Medicaid Rules Have Changed”](https://www.ncjustice.org/projects/health-advocacy-project/medicaid-expansion/nc-medicaid-rules-have-changed/)
* Federal Marketplace, [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov/)

**Recent Press on Medicaid Expansion**

* September 7. 2023, Raleigh News and Observer article, [“What to Know about NC’s Upcoming Medicaid Expansion…”](https://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article278876624.html)
* August 28, 2023, NC DHHS Secretary Kody Kinsley statement, [“Due to Budget Delay, Medicaid Expansion Will Not Launch on Oct. 1”](https://www.ncdhhs.gov/news/press-releases/2023/08/28/due-budget-delay-medicaid-expansion-will-not-launch-oct-1)

# August 2, 2023, The Carolina Journal article, [“Folwell maintains healthcare costs will rise under Medicaid expansion”](https://www.carolinajournal.com/folwell-maintains-healthcare-costs-will-rise-under-medicaid-expansion/)

**New Laws and Policies Influencing Education and Mental Health**

The North Carolina General Assembly continues with their 2023 Long Session and, while they technically convene most days, legislators actually come back together only periodically. Legislators did come back in mid-August and took action on the multiple ratified bills that Governor Cooper had vetoed. There have been varying views on the how these bills and others that were signed into law will impact children and educators. As has been discussed in the NCCCYF committees, the passage of law is just the beginning of the process. The details, i.e. processes, rules, now will be developed and that offers a perfect opportunity for input and advocacy. Two examples of bills that bring out varying views on mental health treatment and parental involvement in education are the following:

**The Parents Bill of Rights**, now a law ([SL2023-106](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49)), was one of the bills where the NC General Assembly successfully overrode the Governor’s veto and it became law.

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

[SL2023- 78](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/H605)**, School Threat Assessment Teams**, was signed into law earlier in the summer.

*Basic Overview:* Establishes threat assessment teams, peer-to-peer support programs, school crisis kits, and expand law enforcement access in all public school units.

**Press about recent legislative activity impacting children, youth and families**

* August 28, 2023, NC Political News article, [“As the new year commences backward education priorities reveal a backward agenda”](https://www.ncpoliticalnews.com/news/as-the-new-school-year-commences-backward-education-priorities-reveal-a-backward-agenda)
* August 16, 2023, [Sen. Phil Berger press release on override of six bills related to children, youth and families, parental consent](https://bergerpress.medium.com/senate-successfully-overrides-six-vetoes-3f891203cec7)

**Understanding All Perspectives**

*"Perspective, the capacity to see, and hence think, from the standpoint of others and for the sake of their experience, is as though nothing else the condition of all understanding" (Arendt, 1958).*

As we move into a period of time when there will be a flurry of new policies and rules that respond to new legislation, understanding diverse perspectives is particularly critical. In policymaking, decisions impact a wide array of individuals and communities with varying needs and values.

* Without a thorough understanding of these perspectives, policies run the risk of being ineffectual, or worse, causing unintended harm.
* By actively seeking out and comprehending the viewpoints of all stakeholders, policymakers can craft more nuanced, fair, and effective solutions that address the diverse needs of their constituents.
* By actively engaging with different perspectives, policymakers can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the complex issues at hand. This not only leads to more robust, well-rounded policies but also bolsters public trust and confidence in the political process.

**NC Department of Public Instruction Launches Electronic Health Records in Schools**

NC Department of Public Instruction is launching a new [**Electronic Health Record (EHR) Module**](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/educators/home-base/current-professional-learning) within PowerSchool. NC DPI is currently working through the implementation.

*Basic Overview:* The EHR will be available to school nurses, school social workers, school counselors and school psychologists. NC DPI is offering a number of trainings for these school staff with a goal of implementing it across all counties by next school year (2024-2025).

**Opportunity for Feedback: Medicaid 1115 Waiver Renewal**

The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) is in the process of renewing the [Section 1115 demonstration waiver](https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/meetings-notices/proposed-program-design/nc-section-1115-demonstration-waiver#:~:text=Proposed%20Effective%20Dates%20for%20Demonstration,2024%20to%20October%2031%2C%202029). This is the waiver that has been used for Medicaid Transformation and allows NC to implement experimental or pilot projects (such as Medicaid managed care) that are not typically allowed under Medicaid rules. The renewal process is currently underway, and the NC DHHS is actively seeking feedback from stakeholders and the public regarding the proposed changes. The proposed effective dates for the demonstration waiver are from November 1, 2024, to October 31, 2029. This indicates that the waiver will be in effect for a five-year period if approved. Comments must be received by 5 pm on September 20, 2023. All comments should indicate “NC Section 1115 Waiver”.

Comments can be emailed to Medicaid.NCEngagement@dhhs.nc.gov.

Comments can also be mailed to:

North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
NC Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver Team
1950 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1950

***Translate this into what is meaningful to you and provide feedback!***

**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%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 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.

[S. 49](https://ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2023/S49), SL2023-106, Parents Bill of Rights, enumerates the rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education, health care, and mental health of their minor children.