

# Local Board Resolution Urging NC State Budget Passage

WHEREAS, North Carolina General Statute § 143C-4-1 states the General Assembly shall create a budget for two fiscal years beginning on July 1 of each odd-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, it is 9 months into Fiscal Year 2026 and a Current Operations Appropriations Act has not yet been enacted by the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Schools receives approximately 60% of the funding from State appropriations and builds its budgets according to those appropriations; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Short Session convenes on April 21, less than one month before local boards must submit their budgets to county commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Schools and Buncombe County Government have had to plan the Fiscal Year 2027 budget without knowledge of State appropriations for the current fiscal year, let alone the next one; and

WHEREAS, the amount of State appropriations impacts the allocation of Federal and Local funds as well as the requests made of Local governments within the budget process for expenditures including teacher supplements; and

WHEREAS, despite the provision in North Carolina General Statute § 143C-5-4(b) for budget continuation of recurring funds at the level of the previous fiscal year, the failure to pass a biennial budget has forced Buncombe County Schools to operate with significant budget uncertainty well into the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Buncombe County Schools has been forced to adopt an interim budget resolution, puts a greater strain on local funding to offset what the state is legally required to fund and is not doing so. In addition, the lack of a State budget resulted in no safe schools grant, no staff raises, restricted hiring, and prevented our district from committing funds for other operational needs; and

WHEREAS, despite provisions for step increases, without passage of an appropriations act, salaries of approximately 3300 employees in Buncombe County Schools are frozen at 2024-2025 levels; and

WHEREAS, the lack of a budget and frozen pay scales coupled with a significant rise in premiums for district employees participating in the North Carolina State Health Plan, has resulted in a net pay decrease for teachers and school employees in Buncombe County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Buncombe County Schools strives to meet nationally recommended staffing ratios for school health personnel, requiring sufficient state appropriations to do so; and

WHEREAS, the enrollment of exceptional children in Buncombe County Schools is 13.12 percent but state funding is capped at 13 percent, requiring the district to allocate approximately \$138,833.50 in local funds annually to cover the gap; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Buncombe County Schools Board of Education does hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly immediately pass a 2026 Appropriations Act that:

- Mirrors the House proposal for all school employee salaries in the second year of their proposed budget (SB 257, Version 6), includes step increases at every level, and provides education-based salary supplements;
- Increases the Public School Repair & Renovation fund from \$50 million to \$70 million as proposed in both the 2025 Senate and House budget plans;
- Allocates \$27.9 million in recurring funds for 320 additional school health personnel positions;
- Implements a weighted funding model for Exceptional Children funding (approximately \$92.6 million (R) & \$27.2 (NR) per DPI), or in its absence, a minimum increase of the cap to 13.5% of allotted ADM at a cost of \$20 million in recurring funds;
- Allocates Safer Schools grant funds to recurring equipment, mental health, safety services;
- Allocates recurring funds for a full-time equivalent SRO in ALL schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:

The School Board Chair and Superintendent of Buncombe County Schools are authorized to disseminate this Resolution to members of the North Carolina General Assembly and the Governor; and

The Board encourages parents, students, and other community members to contact their North Carolina legislators requesting that the General Assembly pass a State budget that includes the items listed above.

Adopted by the Buncombe County Schools Board of Education this 2nd day of April, 2026.

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Rob Elliot, Board Chair

ATTEST:

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Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent