

Governor's Recommended Budget 2021-23

Governor Cooper's Recommended Budget for 2021-23 makes sustained, recurring investments in public education at a time when key educational innovations developed during COVID-19 should be preserved and supported while our state also makes bold investments in other areas of educational need.

The budget also includes a number of important investments that would help to address systemic inequities in educational opportunities for our students, endeavoring to ensure all students in North Carolina can access their constitutional right to a sound basic education.

Below you'll find areas of alignment between our Top Education Issues of 2021 (on the left) and the Governor's budget priorities (on the right).

Teacher & Principal Recruitment, Retention and Diversity



Significant investments in initiatives aimed at **recruiting, retaining, diversifying, and supporting** North Carolina's educator workforce



investments in **Grow-Your-Own** and **2+2** programs, which can help recruit students to return to teach in their hometowns



raises for teachers and principals over next two years



funding for expansion of the **NC Teaching fellows program** to more institutions and to all degree programs

Early Childhood Education + Literacy



\$78 Million
invested in early education and child development.



\$30 Million
for additional teacher assistants to support early-grades math and literacy.



\$60 Million
invested in improving wages for direct care workers and early childhood education providers

Social and Emotional Learning



\$120 Million

for additional recurring funding for Specialized Instructional Support Personnel

establishes a Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP) Recruitment and Retention Coordinator at DPI; **increases** School Psychologist salaries by \$5,000; and **implements** a School Psychologist Internship Program.



psychologists



school counselors



nurses



social workers

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Adequate and
Equitable State
Funding to
Support Public
Schools



Ensuring a **Sound Basic Education for All (Leandro)** — many of the items in the Governor's budget align with the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan.

\$200 Million

to expand resources for:



Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding and At-Risk Allotments



Increased low wealth funding to improve low-performing and high poverty Schools.



Exceptional Children and Limited English Proficiency Allotments



\$4.7 Billion

General Obligation Bond on the November 2021 ballot to ask voters to address key infrastructure needs across North Carolina, including \$2.5 billion for public schools

Postsecondary
Attainment



Examine **barriers and supports** impacting students' ability to complete high school courses leading to college credit, an associate degree, or a career-ready credential, including an examination of **access, equity, resources, fees, and personnel**.

\$1.5 Million

investments each for the UNC System HMSI Institutions to improve graduation rates and student success

\$6.5 Million

in funds for credentials and certifications for Career and Technical Education students

\$1.88 Million

in recurring funding for Cooperative Innovative High Schools approved to open from 2018-2021

Want to read more about the Forum's Top Education Issues? Click [here](#).

