

NCASA 60 SECOND UPDATE

September 21, 2023

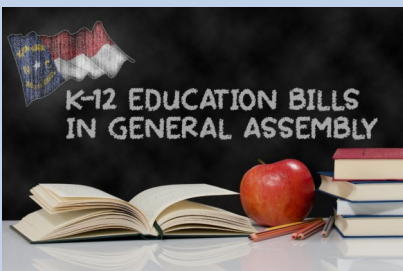
NCASA's 60 Second Update is a weekly brief summary of legislative and policy news affecting public schools in North Carolina.



Lawmakers Unveil And Vote On Delayed State Budget Deal — State legislative leaders finally released a \$29.7 billion compromise state budget package on Wednesday, with plans to give final approval to the bill early Friday morning after weeks of stalled negotiations over proposed gambling expansion. While casino-related provisions are notably absent from the latest version of the [2023 Appropriations Act](#) and the accompanying [Money Report](#), the final budget proposal provides \$11.6 billion in General Fund moneys for K-12 public education in FY 2023-2024, an increase of about 2% over the previous fiscal year, supplemented with \$1.9 billion from lottery revenues and other receipts. Some of these funds are allocated for delayed salary raises (retroactive to July 1 for most employees), while other funds are allocated to items such as a new School Health Personnel Allotment, continuation of the

School Safety Grants Program, and additional funds for classroom supplies. While many education advocates were thankful that several potentially problematic special provisions proposed by the House, such as *Academic Transparency and Modernize Instructional Materials*, were not ultimately included in the final state budget proposal, legislators did include a proposal that would significantly increase the Opportunity Scholarship Program, or private school vouchers, by providing millions more in funding and opening the program to all K-12 students. NCASA members can read more about this proposal and others in [NCASA's 2023 State Budget Summary](#).

Note: The budget package was not final as of the initial sharing of this summary on Sept. 21, 2023, as lawmakers were planning to vote on it both that day and Sept. 22, 2023, after which the Governor has a 10-day window for signing it into law, vetoing it, or allowing it to become law without his signature. This summary will be updated by NCASA if needed following those actions.



Other Bill Action This Week

NOTE: Due to monitoring state budget activity and summarizing its contents for our members, NCASA will provide updates in our next newsletter on other legislative actions from this week on bills affecting K-12 education.



Principals Urge Congress To Preserve Title I Funding — School leaders across the country are calling on Congress to preserve federal funding for the education of low-income students. The opposition from school leaders comes after a July House subcommittee proposal to [eliminate 80% of Title I](#) funding in the FY 2024 budget, which administrators say would have [harmful impacts to K-12](#). ([Via K-12 Dive](#))

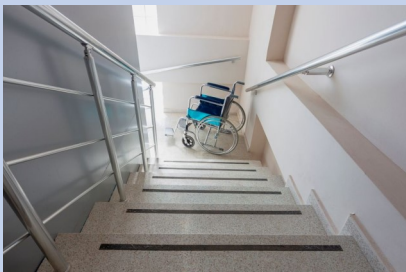
Eight NC Schools Earn National Blue Ribbon Recognition — Eight North Carolina public schools were named [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#) for 2023 by U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona. The eight schools are among 353 schools nationwide recognized this year for their overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps. North Carolina public schools receiving this honor are:

- Beaufort County Early College High School, Beaufort County Schools
- Fairview Elementary School, Buncombe County Schools
- Greensboro Academy, Greensboro
- Heyward C Bellamy Elementary School, New Hanover County Schools
- Highland School of Technology, Gaston County Schools
- Jay M. Robinson Middle School, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Lucama Elementary School, Wilson County Schools
- W.R. Odell Elementary School, Cabarrus County Schools

([Via NC Department of Public Instruction](#))



By The Numbers: White House 75% Closer To Placing 250K Tutors, Mentors In Schools — The Biden administration says it is nearing its 2025 goal as new data reveals there were 187,000 additional school tutors, mentors and coaches in 2022-23. Data surveying school principals released Wednesday by the [National Partnership for Student Success](#), a public-private partnership spearheading the White House tutoring initiative, found notable progress is being made to give extra support to school districts. ([Via K-12 Dive](#))



Proposed Section 504 Rule Still Being Drafted — The U.S. Department of Education missed the expected August release of the much anticipated regulations — the first major update for the law since 1977. The U.S. Department of Education is still drafting [proposed regulations for Section 504](#) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 that many educators, parents and advocates hope will clarify how student accommodations under that law align or depart from the rights of students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. ([Via K-12 Dive](#))



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