



## LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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### What's Up

**Vote Tomorrow as Today Marks Last Day of Relentless Politicking:** If you have not already done so via early voting, please make sure you go to the polls and cast your ballot in Tuesday's general election. Odds are there will be long lines most everywhere at a time when North Carolina is arguably the battleground state starting at the top of the ticket.

Thus, it's no coincidence that both presidential candidates will spend part of the last day of campaigning before Election Day appearing today at big venues in Raleigh several hours apart. Donald Trump is scheduled to appear at Dorton Arena on the N.C. State Fairgrounds at 3 p.m. Hillary Clinton is eking out her final hours on the trail with a midnight rally at Reynolds Coliseum at N.C. State University -- just 6 1/2 hours before the polls open.

**Tracking Teachers Leaving NC:** Teachers who left North Carolina public schools last year were, on average, less effective teachers than those who stayed. So says WRAL News in reporting about the new details included in North Carolina's latest "State of the Teaching Profession" draft report, which was to be presented to the State Board of Education for approval. The annual teacher turnover report, as it is often called, shows how many North Carolina educators leave their jobs and why. This year's report has several big changes, including the addition of teacher effectiveness data, recruitment data showing which school systems draw the most local teachers and a new method to determine teacher loss.

WRAL News reports that one of the most notable changes in this year's report is that the term "teacher turnover" has been replaced with the terms "attrition." That involves tracking the loss of teachers at the state or school district level, and "mobility," which pinpoints where teachers are moving within the state. Tom Tomberlin, a North Carolina Department of Public Instruction employee who took over the report this year, said those words were added to give more clarity as to why teachers leave and where they go.

**By the Numbers:** Last year, the state reported 14.8 percent teacher turnover. That's up from 14.1 percent in 2013-14. This year, the state reported overall attrition at 9.04 percent. While

that appears to be a significant improvement, the report warns that this year's number "cannot be compared with prior year reports meaningfully. That is because this year's 9 percent attrition rate only counts teachers who are no longer employed in North Carolina public schools. In previous years, the state's turnover rate included teachers who transferred to other school systems or charter schools in the state or were promoted to principal or other non-teaching school posts.

"We are not looking at these numbers the same way as we did last year," said Tomberlin, director of educator human capital policy and research at NCDPI. "Those differences in calculations were in response to criticism we received last year," he said. "We're trying to make (the report) as accurate and transparent as we can."

This year's report does provide another way to analyze the numbers, which is similar to last year's data. The state reports that 13.4 percent of teachers left their positions for various reasons last school year. That number is determined by adding teachers who left North Carolina public schools (9.04 percent) and those who moved to another school district in the state (4.36 percent).

What's new this year is the addition of teacher effectiveness and evaluation data, which Tomberlin has access to in his DPI role. He told WRAL News that he decided to include that data to add more context to the report.

In addition, the report includes data from the North Carolina Educator Effectiveness System, which ranks teachers on five standards. The report found that the likelihood of a teacher leaving North Carolina public schools "is substantially higher when a teacher receives a less than proficient rating." Another new factor to this year's report is mobility data, which show where teachers are moving within the state. The report found that, from March 2015 to March 2016, about 4 percent of teachers in North Carolina moved to a new school district or charter school.

### **Special Session**

**Special Session Legislative Update:** Gov. Pat McCrory says he expects to call lawmakers to a special session next month on Hurricane Matthew relief for eastern North Carolina, looking to Congress for supplemental aid first and developing policy based on recommendations from committees his administration created. Speaking at the first meeting of one panel assigned to examine the damage and pinpoint unmet needs, McCrory and other administration officials told attendees the recovery will be long and hard.

"It won't be a sprint. It will be a marathon," said McCrory Chief of Staff Thomas Stith, who is also the panel's chair. The storm raked the eastern half of the state 3½ weeks ago, dumping up to 17 inches of rain and leading to record flooding along rivers and in the towns and cities adjoining them.

### Quotes of the Week

*"It is more likely that a lot of people just want to have this election done, and they decided to use the convenience of early voting."*

- J. Michael Bitzer, Catawba College political science professor, on the record turnout for early voters this year, with more than 3.1 million residents voting by mail or in person, according to voting data compiled Saturday -- a total that represents an 11.8 percent increase over early voting results in the 2012 general election (The News & Observer, 11/06/16)

*"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."*

- Thomas Edison

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