



## LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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### What's Up

**Last Call for Tomorrow's NC Legislative Policy Seminar in Raleigh!** Hope to see you for our annual legislative day, which officially kicks off this year at 9 a.m. in the front lobby of the NC Legislative Building, 16 West Jones St., in Raleigh. NCACTE representatives, including what may be the biggest turnout of students yet, will provide timely info to lawmakers about CTE, including the exceptionally high graduation rates for high school students involved in CTE career pathways in the state's public schools.

This year's format is simple: Show up at 9 a.m. on March 28<sup>th</sup>, we will give you the info to visit your lawmakers. Special thanks to Allison Dees, chair of the NCACTE Legislative Committee, and other committee members for their work to date on this project. Since we'll be visiting with lawmakers, make sure you know [who you legislators are by clicking here](#) and where their offices are for the members of the [House](#) and the [Senate](#).

### CTE Bill Introduced by Leading House Members

[House Bill 450](#), the Future Ready Student Act of 2017, was introduced last week and sent to a House Committee and could be up for discussion as early as Tuesday. The bill, which makes significant and positive changes to CTE statutes, gives local boards of education authority to establish worked-based opportunities and says:

- Each local school board shall offer at least two work-based learning opportunities that are related to CTE instruction in the local school administrative unit.
- Local education boards also shall encourage high schools and local businesses to target students who may not seek higher education and facilitate high school to work partnerships, adding that waiver forms "shall" (previously had said "may") be developed with participating businesses to project students and businesses.
- Replaces throughout existing statutes "vocational" instruction with career and technical education.
- Each local school administrative unit shall offer as part of its CTE program at least two work-based learning opportunities that are related to CTE technical education instruction. A work-based learning opportunity shall consist of on-the-job training

through an internship, cooperative education, or an apprenticeship program as spelled out in Chapter 94 of the General Statutes.

- Each local board of education is encouraged to implement a career awareness program for students in grade five to educate students on CTE programs offered in the local school administrative unit. A local board of education that adopts a career awareness program for fifth grade students shall report on program activities and student outcomes from the prior school year to the state BOE by Oct. 1st of each year. By Nov. 15th of each year, the state BOE shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on program outcomes and any legislative recommendations based on local board of education reports.

**This legislation is great news for NCACTE and it is important to get that message out to legislators, especially the primary House primary sponsors – Reps. Horn, Johnson, Dixon and Williams.** The bill currently is in House Education – K-12.

### Other Legislation Moving

**Standardized Tests:** Some North Carolina lawmakers are advancing a bill that would eliminate more standardized exams for public school students, many of them in high school. A House education committee voted to get rid of state-created final exams for a host of subjects, leaving it to teachers to create final tests for their students next fall. The measure would leave in place end-of-grade and certain end-of-course tests that federal law requires. North Wilkesboro Rep. Rick Elmore told his colleagues last week that teachers will still be evaluated on several other measures, which include the remaining standardized tests.

**Bus Cameras:** The idea of catching drivers passing school buses unlawfully with cameras and issuing monetary penalties based on photos or video is advancing again at the North Carolina General Assembly. The Senate voted overwhelmingly last week approved letting counties pass ordinances imposing penalties and letting school districts install and operate bus stop-arm cameras themselves or through a vendor. A similar Senate bill passed in 2015. Supporters say the measure could save school children from death and injury by deterring motorists from breaking the law that prohibits motorists from passing stopped buses with their stop-arms open or lights flashing. First-time penalties are \$400, but then can rise to \$1,000 on a third offense. Criminal prosecution is still possible, with videos provided to law enforcement. The bill now goes to the House.

### Other Developments

**State Employee Benefits:** State employees who now pay no health insurance premiums could begin paying \$25 a month under a change being considered for the state health plan. Other employees enrolled in what's called the 80/20 plan could see their monthly costs going from a low of \$15.04 a month to \$50 a month.

Last week, State Treasurer Dale Folwell said the increases are needed to keep the state health plan solvent, adding that the health plan "is going to run out of money in 24 months."

### Local News

**Wake County Training:** Wake school leaders say school employees need more training about racial equity as a way to respond to recent race-related incidents in schools that are going viral on social media. School administrators laid out a plan last week that includes more racial equity training, establishment of school-based equity teams and expansion of initiatives that help African-American and Latino students. School leaders also said that students, parents and the rest of the community need to be part of what's being billed as a "courageous conversation about race."

**Cumberland County:** Cumberland County Schools' plan seeking money to bring magnet schools to the area is rooted in more than just increasing educational opportunities for children. It's about keeping students, too. The school district is applying for a Magnet Schools Assistance grant through the U.S. Department of Education with hopes of turning four campuses into magnet schools. Today, there are roughly 4,340 magnet schools nationwide featuring specialized theme-based curriculum in areas such as science, technology, engineering and math, commonly known as STEM; fine and performing arts; and International Studies.

### Quote of the Week

*"How math comes in handy during March Madness."*

- Title of a "Good Morning America" show segment today featuring a Raleigh math teacher, Alyssa Jackson, in getting kudos for her creativity. [Click her for more info.](#)

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