



LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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[Contact Senators Now About CTE Funding as Budget Conferees Getting Closer to Deal](#)

Your Voice Needs to Be Heard: With House-Senate budget conferees continuing to meet in coming days, it's important that NCACTE members reach out to key Senators to encourage them to approve a House budget bill proposal that includes \$700,000 to promote CTE in the 6th and 7th grades. That provision is not in the Senate budget bill legislation.

NCACTE lobbyist Dave Simpson has reached out to these key Senators for support for the \$700,000 to be included in the final budget bill that is hammered out by conferees:

- [Sen. President Pro-Tem Phil Berger](#)
- [Senate Majority Leader Harry Brown](#)
- [Sen. Chad Barefoot, Co-Chair, Appropriations on Education/Higher Education](#)
- [Sen. Minority Leader Dan Blue](#)

Now, **it's important that NCACTE members contact these leading Senators**, as well as Senators in your districts back home. Click [here](#) to see a list of Senators and, if you have questions about who they are, click [here](#).

Time Frame, What's at Stake: Last week, the leadership in both the House and Senate began their continuing work to cut a deal on budget legislation for the coming year, beginning July 1st. One of the biggest issues to be resolved for the budget negotiations is the differing tax cut plans adopted by each chamber.

For the House, earlier this month, that chamber voted 80-31 to approve its budget proposal. Click [here](#) to see details of the House-passed budget version, Senate Bill 257. The CTE language appears beginning on line 25 of page 36, under the section "Sixth and Seventh Grade CTE Program Expansion Grant Program." The language calls for expanding the program by prioritizing the inclusion of students in the sixth and seventh grades through grant awards to selected school administrative units for up to seven years. Under the measure, in the 2017-18 school year, funds for the program of up to \$700,000 would be used to award the competitive grants and for 2018-19 and subsequent fiscal years, up to \$1 million would be allocated.

The budget bill also says that grant funds shall only be used for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas and support service areas to expand the CTE program to 6th and 7th grades. In addition, beginning on line 14 of page 39, a “Future Ready Students” section says that local education boards shall have the power or duty to offer at least two work-based opportunities that are related to CTE instruction.

Other Budget Provisions: Under the House plan, state employees would receive a \$1,000 salary increase in the fiscal year beginning in July, with another \$1,000 raise allocated for the following year. State retirees would get a 1.6 percent cost-of-living increase that would apply for one year only.

The House budget bill also calls for the biggest raises to mid-career teachers, although teachers at all experience levels would get raises under the proposed salary chart. Starting pay would rise from \$35,000 to \$35,300, and teachers with more than 25 years of experience would get a 0.6 percent raise of \$300. The average teacher raise is 3.3 percent.

Other House budget provisions for **Public Education** include with the following amounts:

- teach an additional 9,120 students anticipated in the public schools this fall: \$31.9 million.
- classroom textbooks and digital materials: \$10.4 million.
- reduce central office administration staff funds for local school districts by 5.3 percent: -\$5 million.
- modernize Department of Public Instruction business systems: \$10 million.
- fund up to 10 positions in the Superintendent of Public Instruction's office: \$922,000.
- reimburse initial teacher licensure application fee for first-time applicants: \$245,000.
- add funds to continue pilot program giving extra pay to teachers who take on additional teaching and mentoring responsibilities in schools: \$8.2 million.
- reduce funding to North Carolina Education Endowment Fund for startup to reinstate N.C. Teaching Fellows Program: -\$4.6 million.
- residential enrichment program for science, math and technology for three northeastern school districts and high school: \$300,000.

Wake Educator is Named State’s Best Principal: Excellent story [here](#) about NC PTA Principal of the Year Award.

Some Legislation We’re Watching

NCACTE is monitoring dozens of bills, and **here is the latest, as of June 12th**, on some of those more important bills, with **highlights signifying recent action**:

CTE Legislation, [House Bill 450](#): In a 110-0 vote, the N.C. House on April 4th approved and sent to the Senate a bill, the “Future Ready Student Act of 2017,” that would expand CTE, award competitive grants of up to \$5 million and broaden CTE to some lower grades. Primary sponsors are Reps. [Horn](#); [Johnson](#); [Dixon](#); [Williams](#).

NCACTE strongly supports the measure, which has been sitting in Senate Rules since April 10th. The bill – as noted in a [legislative summary](#) – also would establish business advisory councils as well as:

- Establish the CTE Expansion Program: Effective upon appropriation of funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Program would expand CTE by prioritizing the inclusion of students in 6th and 7th grade through grants administered by the NC Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

-Funding: Used to award competitive grants in a total amount of **up to \$5 million** to be allocated as non-reverting funds to an LEA over seven years. Funds would be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in CTE areas, career development coordination areas, and support services to **expand CTE to 6th and 7th graders**, and maybe used for multiple schools in an LEA.

- Award of Grants: LEAs must include the in applications (1) a plan for expansion of the CTE program to 6th and 7th graders, including specific programs to be expanded, the significance of CTE in the LEA, and how the grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community; (2) a request for funds description of how the funds would be used, and other sources of funds available for the program and (3) a proposed 7-year budget with details on use of funds to add personnel, increase CTE efforts, and provide support services; (4) a meaningful strategy.

[SB 599](#): “Excellent Educators for Every Classroom,” which would establish the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, would hold accountable the educator licensure process. Some concerns have been expressed to NCACTE about how a teacher could get a license if not affiliated with an educator preparation program.

The Senate today amended and approved the bill, which was later engrossed to be sent to the House, that directs the State Board of Education to receive recommendations from the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission concerning educator preparation programs and minimum admissions requirements, including for CTE candidates, requiring a student in a program leading to licensure in CTE to have earned a minimum GPA of at least 2.7 and also have at least five years of relevant experience. [Click here to see the approved amendment.](#)

SB 421: The bill, "Use of Career & Technical Funds/Onslow County," would appropriate \$5 million for Onslow County to retrofit and buy equipment for a regional CTE center. The bill's primary sponsor is Sen. Harry [Brown](#); R-Onslow, and Senate Majority Leader. Not surprisingly, the bill breezed through the Senate on April 11 and was approved by House, ratified and presented to Gov. Roy Cooper on June 6th.

HB 90: The bill is entitled "Eliminate NC Final Exam." Currently, Middle Schools are required to take CTE final exams (NCFE). If this bill passes, they will no longer be required to take this state exam. Such a move would be good news for many CTE supporters because it would remove a thorn for most CTE Middle School, CTE Teachers and District CTE Administration. The House-approved bill, now in Senate Education/Higher Education, would apply to the 2017-18 school year. Primary sponsors are [Elmore](#); [K. Hall](#); [Hurley](#).

HB 751: The bill, which on April 26th cleared the House and now is in Senate Rules, is titled "Career and College Ready/High School Grads." It would require all students to demonstrate a certain level of reading achievement to accompany high school diplomas. Primary sponsors are Reps. [Blackwell](#); [Horn](#); [Johnson](#).

The bill has a long way to go. It did not make crossover but could still be eligible for consideration. It was withdrawn from Senate Rules, re-referred to Senate Education/Higher Education and, if it receives a favorable vote there, would be re-referred to Senate Finance then Senate Rules. Primary sponsor is Sen. [Barefoot](#).

HB 600: "School Construction Flexibility" passed the House on April 26th and now sits in Senate Education/Higher Education. Concerns remain on this bill concerning CTE funding. Primary sponsors are Reps. [J. Bell](#); [Lewis](#); [Brenden Jones](#); [Goodman](#).

SB 169: "Teaching Excellence Bonus Expansion" cleared the Senate on March 23 and has been sitting in House Rules since. CTE funding here needs to be addressed. Primary sponsors are Sens. [Berger](#); [Harrington](#); [Wade](#).

Quote of the Week

"Say to yourself: 'I did not come this far just to get this far.'"

- Gov. Roy Cooper, addressing the graduating class of Northern Nash High School, where he graduated in 1975 (The Rocky Mount Telegram, 6/11/17)