

NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONSTITUTION

Article I, Declaration of Rights, Section 15, Education

The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.

Article IX, Education, Section 2, Uniform System of Schools

(1) General and uniform system: term. The General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.

In 1997 the North Carolina Supreme Court, in an opinion written by Chief Justice Burley Mitchell, held:

“We conclude that Article 1, Section 15 and Article IX, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution combine to guarantee every child of this state an opportunity to receive a sound basic education in our public schools. For purposes of our Constitution, a “sound basic education” is one that will provide the student with at least:

- (1) sufficient ability to read, write, and speak the English language and a sufficient knowledge of fundamental mathematics and physical science to enable the student to function in a complex and rapidly changing society;
- (2) sufficient fundamental knowledge of geography, history, and basic economic and political systems to enable the student to make informed choices with regard to issues that affect the student personally or affect the student’s community, state and nation;
- (3) sufficient academic and vocational skills to enable the student to successfully engage in post-secondary education or vocational training; and
- (4) sufficient academic and vocational skills to enable the student to compete on an equal basis with others in further formal education or gainful employment in contemporary society.” Leandro J. 346 N.C. 336, 347 (1997).

Education Funding Resulting from the Leandro Holdings

2004-2009

DSSF	\$67.5 M
Low Wealth Fund Increases	\$40 M
Pre-K for at risk 4 year olds	\$268.3 M
Early Grade Class Size Reduction	\$516.4 M
Salary Increases for Teacher Recruitment and retention	\$170 M
Other Senate Bill 622 Leandro provisions	\$31 M
2004 Aid to HCSS	\$289,500
TOTAL	\$1.09 B