

NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION CABINET PRIORITIES

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 | 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Vernon Malone College & Career Academy | 2200 South Wilmington Street Raleigh, NC 27603

Chair: The Honorable Josh Stein, Governor

Governor Stein:

- *Increase access and affordability of high-quality child care:* Provide nearly \$88M in recurring funds to increase child care subsidy reimbursement rates and \$26.7M to expand NC Pre-K to help more families afford care and keep child care programs open
- *Recruit, Support, and Retain teacher and school staff:* Make starting teacher pay the highest in the Southeast and increase average teacher pay by 10.6% by the second year of the biennium
- *Bolster and align workforce development efforts to ensure career-readiness:* Support attainment of 2 million industry-valued credentials or postsecondary degrees by 2030, including support for the NCCCS's new labor-market driven funding model, health care professional training through the UNC system and NCICU, and expanded apprenticeships and work-based learning opportunities, including through DOC.

Department of Human & Health Services:

- *Improving Student Health and Well Being:* Addressing non-academic barriers students face in achieving academic success
- *Building and Sustaining the Healthcare Workforce:* Developing a robust healthcare workforce by increasing educational opportunities
- *Expanding Access to Early Education:* Expanding access to high-quality child care across the state, particularly in more rural areas

Superintendent of Public Instruction & State Board of Education:

- *Preparing each student for their next phase of life (Pillar 1 in the Strategic Plan):* Expanding rigorous pathways, dual enrollment and character development
- *Revering Public School Educators (Pillar 2):* Competitive compensation and career advancement opportunities
- *Celebrating the Excellence in Public Education / Galvanizing Champions to Fully Invest in and Support Public Education (combination of Pillars 7 and 8):* Comprehensive messaging to highlight successes & Building coalitions for increased investment and pride in our schools

North Carolina Community College System:

- *Enrollment Growth and Education Sector Collaboration:* Strengthen access, student success, and seamless pathways that ensure NC citizens have access to higher education that leads to careers

- *Workforce and Economic Development:* To continue NC's position as #1 in business, NCCCS is focusing on Propel NC to incentivize programs that lead to high demand jobs
- *Data Infrastructure to enhance the student experience and workforce alignment:* Focus on integrated data systems that provide the data and connectivity from pre-K and K12 through careers

University of North Carolina System:

- *Expand Access and Affordability:* Increase enrollment of adult learners, military-affiliated students, and students from underserved counties while keeping tuition, student debt, and per-degree costs as low as possible
- *Advance Student Success:* Improve graduation rates, degree efficiency, and graduate student outcomes, while strengthening student mental health supports
- *Strengthen Economic and Community Impact:* Grow research productivity, military partnerships, and workforce-aligned degrees (especially in STEM, health sciences, and education) to better serve North Carolina's economic and workforce development

North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities:

- *Increase State Financial Aid (North Carolina Need Based Scholarship-NCNBS) for North Carolina students attending the state's independent colleges and universities:* At \$91M the NCNBS is still \$17M less than the \$108M it was 15 years ago
- *Inclusion of NCICU campuses in North Carolina's Sports Wagering revenues:* These revenues directly affect student recruitment, enrollment, and retention
- *Keep NC high school graduates in NC:* Create a statewide campaign to keep North Carolina high school graduates in North Carolina for college and encourage adults with some college/no degree to complete their degree

Department of Commerce:

- *Advance the goals of the Governor's Council on Workforce & Apprenticeships:* Focus on supporting the Council in developing strategies to advance the 11 goals over the next four years, particularly the goals that require enhanced collaboration between employers, higher education institutions, and the state's workforce system
- *Increase labor market alignment by increasing completion of short-term industry valued credentials:* Focus on identifying these credentials, promoting them, expanding access to pathways for learners to earn them, and enhancing data systems to track the associated employment outcomes
- *Increase employer participation in work-based learning:* Focus on increasing employer participation in work-based learning to strengthen NC's talent pipeline, align education with employer needs, and ensure that students and job seekers are prepared for high-demand careers