

Governor	Senate	House
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Overall, Governor Cooper's budget increases education funding by <b>\$755 million</b> next year, and <b>\$1.13 billion</b> in 2018-19.	The Senate budget only calls for <b>half</b> of what the governor proposed for new education spending next year, at \$408 million. In 2018-19, the Senate budget only calls for <b>two-thirds</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed new education funding, at \$809 million.	Unknown until full House budget is released.
Governor Cooper's budget increases the budgeted state share of per pupil funding next year by <b>\$337 bringing it to \$6,418</b> .	The Senate budget <b>falls 40% short</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed per pupil funding increase, at only a \$202 increase.	Unknown until full House budget is released.
Governor Cooper's budget increases average teacher pay <b>5% next year and 5% the year after</b> , a more than 10% increase for the biennium.	The Senate budget only increases average teacher pay <b>3.7% next year</b> and less than 10% over the biennium.	Unknown until full House budget is released.
In raw dollars, Governor Cooper's budget provides <b>\$271 million next year</b> for teacher pay raises, and <b>\$542 million in 2018-19</b> .	The Senate budget funds <b>half</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed teacher pay increase next year, with \$144 million for teacher pay raises. In 2018-19, the Senate's budget for teacher pay increases is <b>only two-thirds</b> what Governor Cooper budgeted, at \$373 million.	Unknown until full House budget is released.
Governor Cooper's budget includes significant raises for <a href="#">every teacher at every experience level</a> .	The Senate budget's teacher pay increase <b>leaves behind our beginning and veteran teachers</b> . First-year teachers and teachers with 25 or more years of experience would see no increase under the Senate plan.	Unknown until full House budget is released.
Governor Cooper's budget provides \$15 million to fund a <b>\$150 supply stipend for all classroom teachers</b> , to help offset teachers' out-of-pocket expenses.  <a href="#">Click here</a> to see an estimate of how teachers in your area would benefit from Governor Cooper's supply stipend.	The Senate budget includes <b>no money</b> to help teachers cover out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses.	The House budget includes <b>no money</b> to help teachers cover out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses.
Governor Cooper's budget provides an additional <b>\$20 million</b> in flexible funding for schools to hire instructional support	The Senate budget includes <b>no funds</b> for schools to hire additional support staff.	The House budget includes <b>no funds</b> for schools to hire additional support staff.

<p>personnel like <b>teaching assistants, nurses and behavioral support staff.</b></p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see how much your LEA could be helped by Governor Cooper's support personnel proposal.</p>		
<p>Governor Cooper's budget includes <b>\$20 million</b> to fund NC GROW, a program to allow recent high school graduates in good academic standing to attend community college for <b>free</b>.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see how many high school students in good standing with an unmet financial need in your area could be helped by NC GROW.</p>	<p>The Senate budget <b>does not</b> include a plan for tuition-free community college.</p>	<p>The House budget funds <b>only 10%</b> of what the governor proposed for a <b>severely limited</b> program to help pay tuition for a very small number of students.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides \$5 million for the Best and Brightest Scholarship, providing \$10,000 per year for four years to students who commit to teach in a North Carolina public school after graduation.</p>	<p>After Governor Cooper proposed the Best and Brightest Scholarship, the Senate budget funded a similar NC Teaching Fellows program, which provides \$6 million from the NC Education Endowment Fund for \$8,250 forgivable loans for students who commit to teaching math, science or special education.</p>	<p>After Governor Cooper proposed the Best and Brightest Scholarship, the House budget funded a similar NC Teaching Fellows program, which provides \$6 million from the NC Education Endowment Fund for \$8,250 forgivable loans for students who commit to teaching math, science or special education.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides an additional <b>\$95 million</b> in 2017-18 and <b>\$91 million</b> in 2018-19 for North Carolina's Community College system.</p>	<p>The Senate budget provides <b>less than half</b> of Governor Cooper's funding for community colleges in 2017-18 at \$42 million, and less than two-thirds in 2018-19 at \$62 million.</p>	<p>Unknown until full House budget is released.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget <b>eliminates the NC Pre-K waitlist</b>, by adding an estimated <b>4,668 at-risk kids</b> to Pre-K over the next two years. In 2018-19, North Carolina would have an estimated 31,687 children in NC Pre-K—the highest total in 10 years.</p>	<p>The Senate budget only adds 2,350 new pre-k slots, leaving thousands of children on the waitlist.</p>	<p>The House budget answered the governor's call to eliminate the Pre-K waitlist.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget invests an additional \$15 million—a <b>10% increase</b>—in recurring funds into Smart Start.</p>	<p>The Senate budget calls for <b>less than half</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed investment in Smart Start.</p>	<p>The House budget offers very limited additional funding for Smart Start, with \$5 million—a <b>third of the governor's proposed increase</b>—and only for a reading initiative.</p>

<p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see how Governor Cooper's additional Smart Start funding could help a program in your area.</p>		
<p>Governor Cooper's budget begins to reduce funding for vouchers, which send taxpayer dollars to private and parochial schools.</p>	<p>The Senate budget drains public school funding by increasing voucher money for private schools by \$10 million next year and \$20 million dollars in 2018-19.</p>	<p>The House budget drains public school funding by increasing voucher money for private schools by \$10 million next year and \$20 million dollars in 2018-19.</p>
<b>JOBS</b>		
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides <b>\$20 million</b> next year to help <b>expand access to broadband in rural areas</b>, including a \$14.5 million grant program to pay for middle and last mile projects across the state. High-speed internet access is crucial to help North Carolina's rural areas compete in a global economy.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see a list of some projects that could compete for Governor Cooper's rural broadband grant funding.</p>	<p>The Senate budget doesn't provide funds for middle and last mile broadband projects, including only <b>\$250,000</b> for the Department of Information Technology's broadband office.</p>	<p>The House budget doesn't provide funds for middle and last mile broadband projects, including only <b>\$250,000</b> for the Department of Information Technology's broadband office.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides <b>\$30 million</b> next year to help fund infrastructure for 'ready sites'—50 to 200 acre economic development areas that could <b>help rural areas of our state attract industry</b>.</p>	<p>The Senate budget does not fund Governor Cooper's ready sites program.</p>	<p>The House budget does not fund a 'ready sites' program.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides <b>\$20 million</b> next year for the Site Infrastructure Development Fund, to help create large economic development sites (e.g. 'Megasites') and attract large employers.</p>	<p>The Senate budget provides \$2.5 million and \$10 million from the Utility Fund for the Site Infrastructure Development Fund, for a total \$12.5 million investment—<b>less than two-thirds</b> what the governor sought.</p>	<p>The House budget provides \$5.7 million and \$7 million from the Utility Fund for the Site Infrastructure Development Fund, for a total \$12.7 million investment—<b>less than two-thirds</b> what the governor sought.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides <b>\$5 million</b> for Main Street Solutions, a fund to support small business in rural areas and revitalize downtowns. For every \$1 invested by the state, more than \$6 are invested by the local community.</p>	<p>The Senate budget provided <b>less than 10%</b> of the Governor's suggested funding with just \$450,000 for Main Street Solutions.</p>	<p>The House budget provided <b>20%</b> of the Governor's suggested funding for Main Street Solutions, with \$1 million for from the Utility Fund.</p>

<p>The Governor’s budget provides \$3 million for the One NC Small Business Fund, to offer early-stage technology development grants for small businesses that receive federal awards.</p>	<p>The Senate budget does not provide any funding for the One NC Small Business Fund.</p>	<p>The House budget includes \$1 million for the One NC Small Business Fund from the Utility Fund.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget converts the Film Production Grant program back into a <b>Film and Entertainment Tax Incentive</b>, recruiting good paying film jobs back to North Carolina.</p>	<p>The Senate budget continues the film grant program.</p>	<p>Unknown until full House budget is released.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget calls for the reinstatement of the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, which <b>could help more than 200,000 families pay for child care</b>.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see how many families in your area could be helped by the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit.</p>	<p>The Senate budget does not provide a child care tax credit.</p>	<p>Unknown until full House budget is released.</p>
<p><b>GOOD GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, MENTAL HEALTH, OPIOIDS</b></p>		
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget provides \$7 million to allow North Carolina’s Law Enforcement Officers to <b>retire after 25 years of service</b>.</p>	<p>The Senate budget <b>does not</b> provide funding to allow law enforcement officers to retire after 25 years of service.</p>	<p>Unknown until full House budget is released.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget provides <b>\$12 million</b> in statewide mental health funds to <b>help combat the opioid crisis</b>, and <b>\$2 million</b> to enhance local law enforcement’s efforts to fight opioid abuse.</p>	<p>The Senate budget <b>cut more than \$100 million</b> statewide from mental health offices. The Senate budget <b>cut education programs</b> in Democratic districts to provide <b>\$2 million</b> per year for opioid prevention pilot programs in Republican districts while this epidemic ravages the whole state.</p>	<p>The House budget cuts tens of million dollars statewide from mental health next year and provides even less opioid funding than the Senate, funding only a <b>\$100,000</b> annual increase in funds for opioid overdose treatment <b>and \$250,000 annually for a law enforcement pilot program in Wilmington</b>.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget offered a <b>2% or \$800 raise (whichever is greater) for state employees and a 1.5% bonus for retirees</b>, as well as \$150 million for retiree health care liabilities and targeted increases to bring state employees who’ve served at least five years close to market value for their positions. Governor Cooper’s budget also included</p>	<p>The Senate budget offered a raise <b>25% smaller</b> than Governor Cooper’s and <b>does nothing for retirees</b>, who are being left behind by Republican lawmakers. The Senate budget also <b>cut 70 corrections officers</b>.</p>	<p>Unknown until full House budget is released.</p>

<b>\$18 million for corrections officers.</b>		
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