

Governor	Senate
<b>EDUCATION</b>	
<p>Overall, Governor Cooper's budget increases education funding by <b>\$755 million</b> next year, and <b>\$1.13 billion</b> in 2018-19.</p>	<p>The Senate budget only calls for <b>half</b> of what the governor proposed for new education spending next year, at \$388 million. In 2018-19, the Senate budget only calls for <b>two-thirds</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed new education funding, at \$779 million.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget increases the budgeted state share of per pupil funding next year <b>by \$337 bringing it to \$6,418</b>.</p>	<p>The Senate budget <b>falls 40% short</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed per pupil funding increase, at only a \$202 increase.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>The Senate budget only increases average teacher pay <b>3.7% next year</b> and less than 10% over the biennium.</p>
<p>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>.</p>	<p>The Senate budget funds <b>less than half</b> of Governor Cooper's proposed teacher pay increase next year, with \$130 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 \$360 million.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget includes significant raises for <a href="#">every teacher at every experience level</a>.</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p><a href="#">Click here</a> to see an estimate of how teachers in your area would benefit from Governor Cooper's supply stipend.</p>	<p>The Senate budget includes <b>no money</b> to help teachers cover out-of-pocket classroom supply expenses.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper's budget provides an additional <b>\$20 million</b> in flexible funding for schools to hire instructional support 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>The Senate budget includes <b>no funds</b> for schools to hire additional support staff.</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>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 announced 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. The Senate included Teaching Fellows in their budget.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget provides an additional <b>\$97 million</b> in 2017-18 and <b>\$96 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>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>Governor Cooper’s budget invests an additional \$15 million—a <b>10% increase</b>—in recurring funds into Smart Start.</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>The Senate budget calls for <b>less than half</b> of Governor Cooper’s proposed investment in Smart Start.</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>
<b>JOBS</b>	
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget provides \$20 million 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 includes <b>\$250,000</b> for the Department of Information Technology’s broadband office.</p>
<p>Governor Cooper’s budget provides \$30 million next year to help fund infrastructure for ‘ready sites’—50 to 200 acre areas that could <b>help struggling areas of our state attract industry</b>.</p>	<p>The Senate budget does not fund Governor Cooper’s ready sites program.</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>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><b>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>Governor Cooper’s budget provides <b>\$12 million</b> in statewide mental health single stream funds <b>to 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 provides <b>\$250,000</b> per year for an opioid prevention pilot program in Wilmington.</p>