

TO: Members of the Press  
FROM: Sadie Weiner, Governor Cooper's Communications Office  
DATE: June 21, 2017  
RE: GOP Teacher Pay Gimmicks

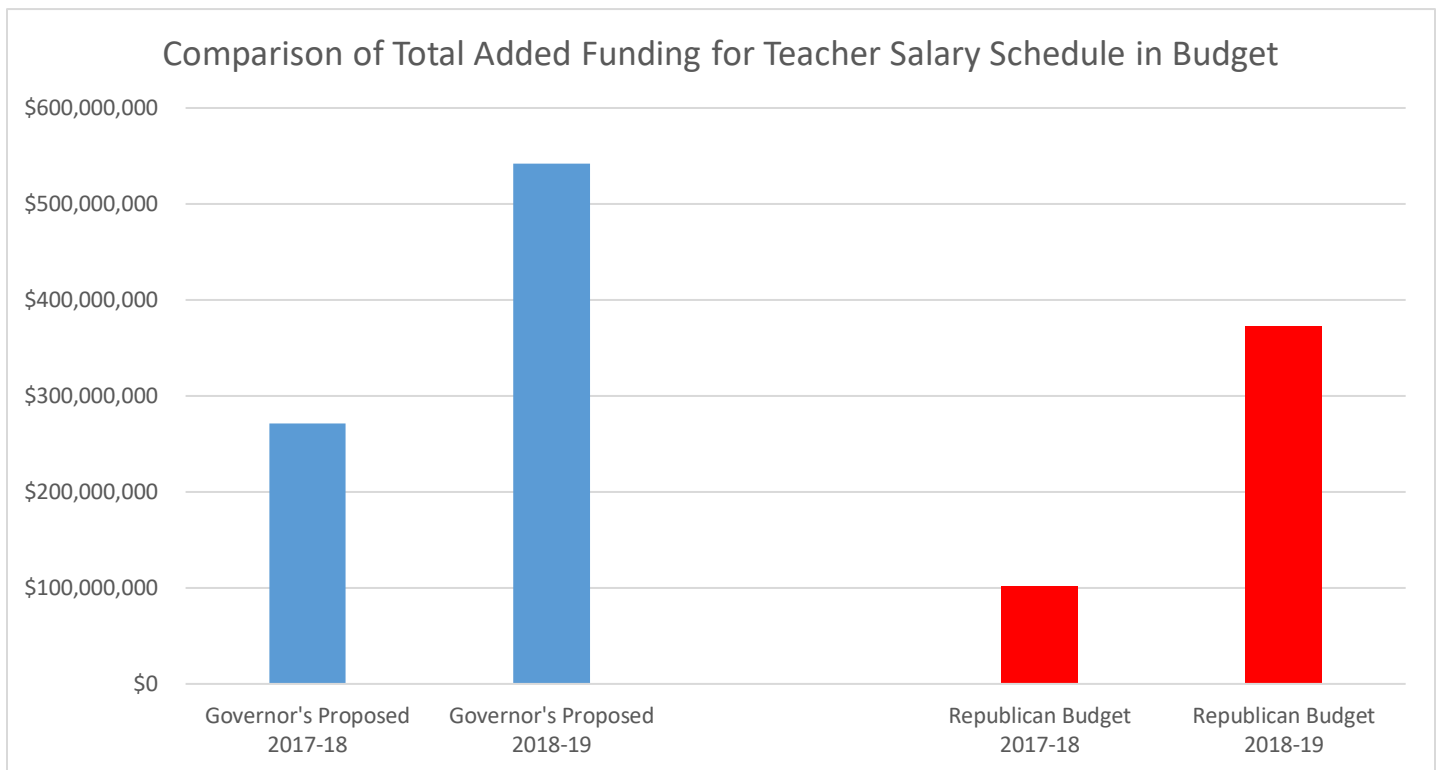
Republican legislative leaders are touting their teacher pay plan as similar to Governor Cooper's proposed pay raise plan. That's dishonest. In reality, Republicans are using gimmicks and fuzzy math to obscure the shortcomings of their plan.

**The Republican budget spends significantly less on teacher pay raises than Governor Cooper's proposed budget.**

Governor Cooper's proposed biennium teacher pay increase would be the largest in a decade. Republican legislators are claiming that their teacher pay plan comes close to meeting Governor Cooper's proposed increase. That's simply false, by hundreds of millions of dollars.

In 2017-18, Governor Cooper's budget proposed a \$270 million investment in increasing teacher salaries. The Republican budget allots \$100 million.

In 2018-19, Governor Cooper's budget proposed an additional \$540 million investment in teacher salaries. The Republican budget allots \$370 million.

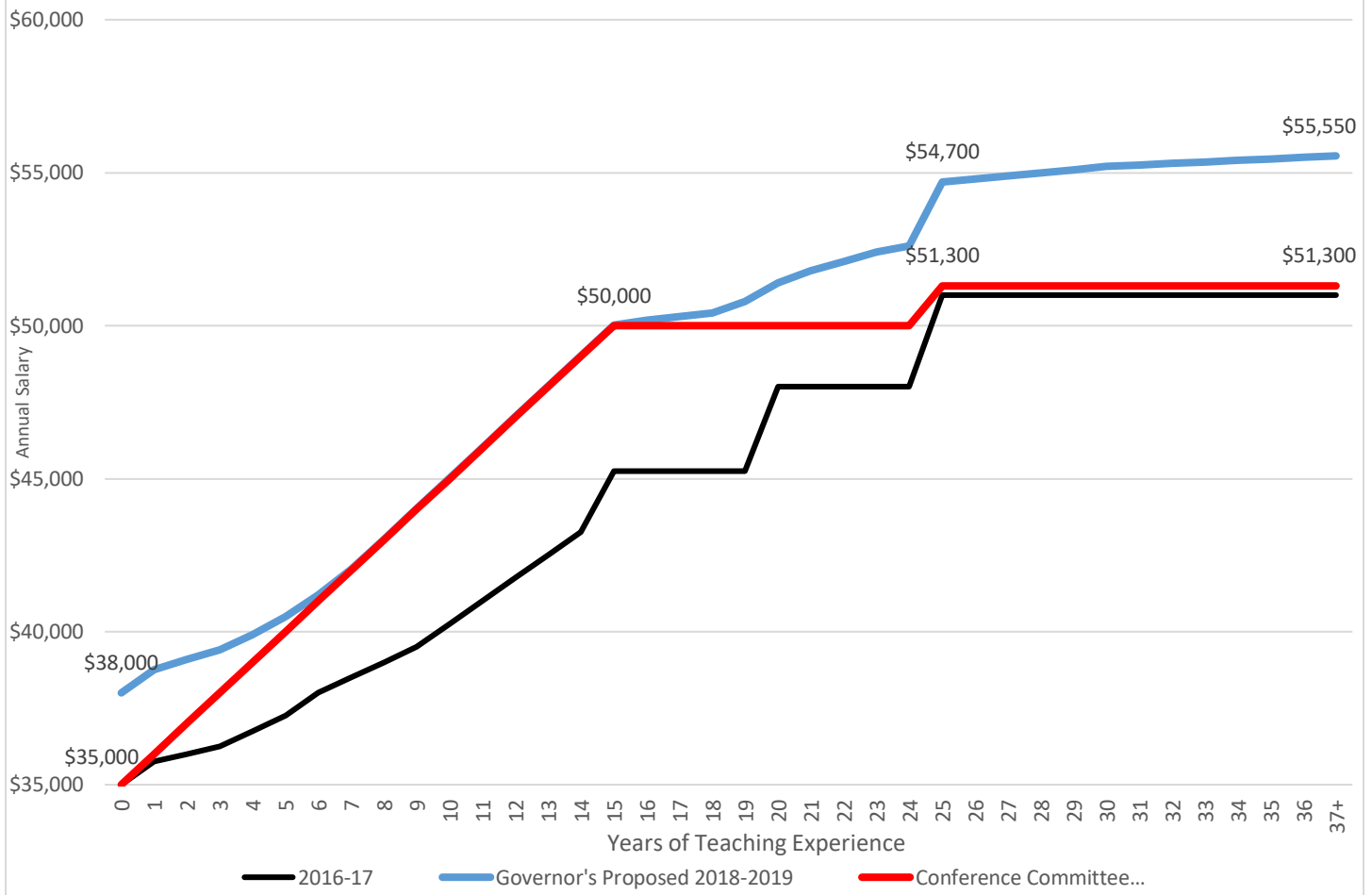


**The Republican budget leaves beginning and veteran teachers out of its pay raise plan almost entirely.**

The lowest raise Governor Cooper gives to any teacher on the salary schedule is more than 3%. The lowest raise the Republican budget gives to any teacher is 0%, and they give a 0.6% raise to teachers on 11 steps of the salary schedule.

First-year teachers will see no salary increase over two years under the Republican budget, compared to an 8.6% increase in Governor Cooper's budget. In other words, starting salaries for new teachers stay flat. Teachers with more than 25 years of experience will see a miniscule 0.6% increase—\$30 per month—over two years under the Republican budget, compared to an increase ranging from 7.5% to 8.9%—\$350 or more per month—over two years under Governor Cooper's budget.

## Comparison of Governor and Conference Committee 2017-19 Biennium Teacher Salary Schedule



### Bottom Line

Instead of being upfront about their lackluster teacher pay plan, legislative Republicans turned to budget gimmicks to try to pass it off as an investment comparable to the Governor’s proposal. Governor Cooper’s plan offered meaningful raises to teachers at every level and was part of a multi-year investment to get North Carolina to the national teacher pay average in five years. The Republican budget has no vision for keeping North Carolina competitive in the short-term or long-term, and it’s ultimately our students who will pay the price.



