

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013**

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**SENATE BILL 656\***

Short Title:    Essential Funding for Public Schools.-AB (Public)

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Sponsors:     Senators Parmon, Robinson (Primary Sponsors); and Bryant.

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Referred to:   Appropriations/Base Budget.

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April 4, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ADDRESS FUNDING DEFICIENCIES AND NEEDED ENHANCEMENTS IN  
NORTH CAROLINA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART 1. FOUNDATIONAL FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**LEA ADJUSTMENT**

**SECTION 1.1.** The General Assembly finds that the funding formulas outlined in statutes for operations of the public schools are underfunded by three hundred seventy-six million one hundred twenty-four thousand two hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$376,124,279) due to the creation of the LEA Adjustment. The current level of the LEA Adjustment requires public schools to return four and six-tenths percent (4.6%) of funding appropriated by the General Assembly based on legislated formulas. These reductions must come from critical classroom based allotments that impair the public schools' ability to address the educational needs of their students. During the 2012-2013 fiscal year, public schools returned (i) funding for 4,300 classroom teachers and 444 career and technical education teachers and (ii) millions of dollars in funding for key support programs to implement the required LEA Adjustment.

There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year to reduce the LEA adjustment. It is the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the remainder of the LEA adjustment by the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

**TEACHER SALARIES**

**SECTION 1.2.** The General Assembly finds that North Carolina's teachers earn, on average, ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) less than the national average. Teachers in North Carolina have the third lowest salary in the 12 southeastern states. Salary steps for teachers in North Carolina have been frozen for over five years. Teachers in North Carolina have had a salary increase of only one and two-tenths percent (1.2%) in five years. A beginning teacher with a bachelor's degree in North Carolina has a base salary of thirty thousand eight hundred dollars (\$30,800) until that teacher has five years of experience. For these reasons, it is the intent of the 2013 General Assembly to provide a significant salary increase for teachers for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

**PART II. FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT LEGISLATED INITIATIVES**



**STANDARDIZED TESTS**

**SECTION 2.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for all eighth graders to take EXPLORE tests, all tenth graders to take PLAN tests, and all eleventh graders to take the ACT tests.

**COMPREHENSIVE READING INITIATIVE**

**SECTION 2.2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of fifty-two million five hundred fifty-four thousand twenty-three dollars (\$52,554,023) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of sixty-six million seven hundred eighty-seven thousand two hundred fifty-six dollars (\$66,787,256) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding to support (i) a wide variety of initiatives designed to work holistically to raise student reading achievement and (ii) some math instruction. These initiatives shall include a reading achievement plan, summer reading camps and extended learning opportunities, an alternative reading assessment, a reading plan for parents, tutoring for retained third graders, and progress reports for retained third graders.

**KINDERGARTEN ENTRY ASSESSMENT**

**SECTION 2.3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for kindergarten entry assessments for all entering kindergarten students beginning with the 2014-2015 school year.

**KINDERGARTEN DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING**

**SECTION 2.4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of seven hundred fifty-four thousand five hundred eighty-eight dollars (\$754,588) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for developmental screening of early language, literacy, and math skills in kindergarten.

**EVAAS**

**SECTION 2.5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of eight hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$850,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding to support the development and implementation of the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS).

**CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY**

**SECTION 2.6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding to accommodate technology needs in the public schools during implementation of the Instructional Improvement System. These technology needs include handheld devices, digital content, network infrastructure, and technology facilitators in each middle school. These funds shall be used to supplement and not supplant funding for textbooks and instructional materials used to acquire digital and hard cover classroom resources.

**TRANSPORTATION – FUEL SHORTAGE**

**SECTION 2.7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of twenty-three million dollars (\$23,000,000) for the 2013-2014

1 fiscal year and the sum of twenty-three million dollars (\$23,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal  
2 year to provide recurring funding to address the gap between budgeted and actual fuel costs.  
3

#### 4 **ADDITIONAL NCVPS STAFF AND OPERATIONAL FUNDING**

5 **SECTION 2.8.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
6 Public Instruction the sum of nine hundred eighty-nine thousand four hundred fifty-four dollars  
7 (\$989,454) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of nine hundred ninety-one thousand  
8 seventy-two dollars (\$991,072) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year for the North Carolina Virtual  
9 Public School (NCVPS) program. These funds shall be used to provide support for quality  
10 assurance processes and teacher effectiveness for the NCVPS program.  
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#### 12 **ADDITIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS STAFF**

13 **SECTION 2.9.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
14 Public Instruction the sum of three hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000) for the  
15 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$320,000) for the  
16 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for additional charter schools staff. These  
17 funds shall be used to increase the number of charter school consultants at the Department and  
18 to provide funding for the Charter School Advisory Council to conduct the business of reading  
19 and reviewing charter applications.  
20

#### 21 **SPECIAL STATE RESERVE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

22 **SECTION 2.10.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
23 Public Instruction the sum of one million three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,350,000) for  
24 the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of one million three hundred fifty thousand dollars  
25 (\$1,350,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for a special State  
26 reserve for children with special needs. These funds shall be used to increase the available  
27 funds to support local school administrative units and charter schools that serve high-cost and  
28 high-need students with disabilities who enroll during the first 60 days of school.  
29

#### 30 **NC TEACHER CORPS**

31 **SECTION 2.11.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
32 Public Instruction the sum of one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000) for the  
33 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for the North Carolina Teacher Corps  
34 Program.

35 The NC Teacher Corps, which is modeled on the highly-successful Teach For  
36 America program, places recent college graduates with connections to North Carolina as  
37 teachers in low-achieving schools in targeted partner school districts across the State. The  
38 program requires a two-year commitment from participants and provides intensive summer  
39 training, ongoing coaching and mentoring, and the ability to earn a North Carolina teaching  
40 license. These funds will be used to support 250 teachers in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.  
41

### 42 **PART III. FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT HAVE GREAT PROMISE TO** 43 **IMPROVE STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

#### 44 **STATEWIDE INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM**

45 **SECTION 3.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
46 Public Instruction the sum of six hundred twelve thousand one hundred twenty-five dollars  
47 (\$612,125) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of four million seventy-one thousand  
48 dollars (\$4,071,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for the  
49 Statewide Instructional Improvement System. These funds shall be used (i) to cover the  
50 contract for learning objects and content libraries that are typically sold with the Online  
51

1 Learning Exchange products for Science and Social Studies for grades K-12, (ii) for assessment  
2 items from Pearson's new "Next Generation" assessment item bank for English/Language Arts  
3 and Math for grades K-12, (iii) for assessment items that are typically sold with NWEA  
4 Formative Assessment item bank for Science and Social Studies, and (iv) for Open Education  
5 Resources (OER) for English/Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

## 6 7 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

8 **SECTION 3.2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
9 Public Instruction the sum of ten million six hundred thousand dollars (\$10,600,000) for the  
10 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for professional development. These funds  
11 shall be used to continue developing and supporting local capacity to ensure that all teachers  
12 and principals have ongoing access to efficient and effective training and materials that support  
13 their professional improvement.

## 14 15 **TURNING AROUND THE LOWEST ACHIEVING SCHOOLS**

16 **SECTION 3.3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
17 Public Instruction the sum of eleven million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$11,900,000) for  
18 the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding to turn around the lowest achieving  
19 schools. These funds shall be used to improve and sustain student academic achievement in the  
20 these schools by building capacity in the schools and their local school administrative units.

## 21 22 **INCENTIVES FOR LOWEST-ACHIEVING SCHOOLS**

23 **SECTION 3.4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
24 Public Instruction the sum of nine million dollars (\$9,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to  
25 provide recurring funding to reward and retain effective educators in hard-to-staff schools.

## 26 27 **REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMIES**

28 **SECTION 3.5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
29 Public Instruction the sum of eight million dollars (\$8,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to  
30 provide recurring funding for Regional Leadership Academies. These funds shall be used to  
31 increase the number of principals prepared to lead transformational change in the State's lowest  
32 achieving schools by continuing to fund the Northeast, Sandhills, and Piedmont Triad  
33 Academies.

## 34 35 **INDUCTION SUPPORT IN HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS**

36 **SECTION 3.6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
37 Public Instruction the sum of eleven million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$11,900,000) for  
38 the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding to provide coaching and support for  
39 newly certified teachers in the lowest-achieving schools to increase the likelihood that they will  
40 be successful and remain in teaching.

## 41 42 **TEACH FOR AMERICA**

43 **SECTION 3.7.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
44 Public Instruction the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) for the  
45 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for Teach for America. These funds shall be  
46 used to place and support 125 motivated, effective teachers in low-achieving school districts in  
47 North Eastern North Carolina.

## 48 49 **STUDENT SURVEY OF TEACHER PERFORMANCE**

50 **SECTION 3.8.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
51 Public Instruction the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the

1 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for a student survey of teacher performance.  
2 These funds shall be used to collect and analyze student perceptions about classroom culture  
3 and practices for use as one of multiple factors reflecting on teacher effectiveness and on  
4 helping teachers improve.  
5

6 **PART IV. FUNDING NEEDED TO SUPPORT THE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND AND**  
7 **THE SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF**

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9 **SUMMER SCHOOL INITIATIVE**

10 **SECTION 4.1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
11 Public Instruction the sum of four hundred thirteen thousand nine hundred four dollars  
12 (\$413,904) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of three hundred thirty-seven thousand  
13 seven hundred fifty-four dollars (\$337,754) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to (i) provide  
14 nonrecurring funding to replace old, worn, unsafe, and damaged dorm furniture at the Eastern  
15 North Carolina School for the Deaf for a new summer school initiative for the Eastern North  
16 Carolina School for the Deaf and (ii) recurring funding for the summer school initiative. The  
17 initiative shall consist of a six-week residential program for 100 students at the North Carolina  
18 School of Science and Math to host a six-week residential program and three sessions of a  
19 two-week deaf immersion program for 50 hearing-impaired students.  
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21 **CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

22 **SECTION 4.2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
23 Public Instruction the sum of two hundred seventy-four thousand five hundred thirty-eight  
24 dollars (\$274,538) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of two hundred thirty-eight  
25 thousand five hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$238,538) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide  
26 recurring funding for a career technical education program for students at The North Carolina  
27 School for the Deaf in Morganton.  
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29 **TECHNOLOGY FOR THE GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL**

30 **SECTION 4.3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
31 Public Instruction the sum of three hundred eighteen thousand seventy-three dollars (\$318,073)  
32 for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of five hundred six thousand sixty-eight dollars  
33 (\$506,068) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring funding for school technology at  
34 the Governor Morehead School. These funds shall be used for (i) one instructional technology  
35 support position, (ii) low vision and Braille technology, (iii) tablet technology, (iv) SMART  
36 boards, and (v) computer/laptop technology replacement.  
37

38 **SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE GOVERNOR MOREHEAD SCHOOL**

39 **SECTION 4.4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
40 Public Instruction the sum of eight hundred fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$858,000) for the  
41 2013-2014 fiscal year for the purchase of safety equipment for the Governor Morehead School  
42 and the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. Funds allocated to the Governor Morehead  
43 School shall be used to purchase (i) a campus-wide phone system that includes an auto-dialing  
44 system that will send messages immediately to the police or fire department in case of  
45 emergencies, (ii) a card-key access system for campus buildings, (iii) an update to the current  
46 fire alarm system, (iv) a campus-wide siren that will enable the school to notify all students and  
47 staff in case of emergency such as tornado and other severe emergencies, and (v) a  
48 voice-activated electronic lobby guard installed at the Lineberry Building. Funds allocated to  
49 the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf shall be used to restrict access to the campus by  
50 establishing a fence and a staffed guard house at the entrance to the school.  
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**1 PRESCHOOL AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS**

2           **SECTION 4.5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
3 Public Instruction the sum of four hundred thirty-six thousand two hundred forty-four dollars  
4 (\$436,244) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of four hundred thirty-six thousand two  
5 hundred forty-four dollars (\$436,244) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide recurring  
6 funding for preschool and early intervention programs at Governor Morehead School and the  
7 Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. These funds shall be used to (i) increase months of  
8 employment for staff to meet the federal mandate for year-round services and (ii) support a  
9 five-year replacement plan that refreshes laptops, printers, and toner cartridges.

**10**  
**11 PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE**

12           **SECTION 5.1.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.