



## 2022 Enacted K-12 Education Laws

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## 2022 STATE BUDGET: [HB 103 \(S.L. 2022-74\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise indicated, effective July 1, 2022.

### Overview

- **General Fund:** Provides \$27.9 billion for FY 2022-2023 (7.6% increase from FY 2021-2022).
- **K-12 Education:** Provides \$11.3 billion for FY 2022-2023 (6.4% increase from FY 2021-2022).

### Salaries

- **Teachers:** Provides 4.2% average increase in FY 2022-23 (compared to FY 2021-22), including step increases on the salary schedule. Individual increases ranges from 2.5% to 7%.
  - For teachers with 0-5 years of experience, range is 6.1%-7.2%; increases annual starting pay to \$37,000.
  - For teachers with 15 or more years of experience, range is 0%-2.7%; except teachers in their 24<sup>th</sup> year receive a 6.6% raise.
- **Assistant Principals:** Provides average 3.4% raise as a result of pay tied to teacher salary schedule.
- **Principals:** Provides 4% across-the-board raise in FY 2022-23 (previously 2.5%); *See performance bonuses below.*
  - **Growth Column Calculation:** Between July 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022, the school growth scores from the three most recent available school years, up to the 2018-2019 school year, shall be used; between Jan. 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, the school growth score from the 2021-2022 school year shall be used.
  - **ADM:** Between July 1, 2022, and Dec. 31, 2022, ADM for the 2021-2022 school year shall be used; between Jan.1, 2023 and June 30, 2023, ADM for the 2022-2023 school year shall be used.
- **Non-Certified Personnel:** Provides greater of 4% raise (previously 2.5%) or \$15/hour minimum wage.
- **Central Office:** Provides 4% across-the-board raise (previously 2.5%).
- **Retirees:** Receive an additional 1% cost-of-living supplement for 2022-2023.

### Bonuses & Benefits

- **Principal Performance Bonuses:** Provides bonuses to principals whose schools perform in the Top 50% of school growth, with amounts to be paid by Oct. 31, 2022, as follows:
  - Top 5% – \$15,000
  - Top 10% – \$10,000
  - Top 15% – \$5,000
  - Top 20% – \$2,500
  - Top 50% – \$1,000
- **Teacher Performance Bonuses** (Sec. 7A.2.(a): Requires the State Board of Education to establish the “Growth-Based Teacher Bonus Program” to provide qualifying teachers with bonuses in January of 2023, based on data from the 2021-2022 school year.
- **Teacher Supplemental Assistance Allotment:** Provides \$70 million increase in recurring funds for Allotment created in 2021 State Budget to provide teacher supplements based on county’s respective tax base, median household income, and effective tax rate. (Revised net appropriation of \$170 million.)
  - Increases supplement cap per teacher from \$4,250 to \$5,000 in FY 2022-2023.
  - Increases tax base eligibility threshold, allowing Buncombe County to become eligible for funding in FY 2022-2023.

- **Low Wealth/Small County Signing Bonus:** Directs NCPDI to establish and administer a signing bonus program for eligible teachers and employers in the 2022-2023 fiscal year; program would provide state funds to match local funds on a 1:1 basis, up to \$1,000 in state funds.
  - Program is available for local school administrative units that receive either small county school system supplemental funding or low-wealth county supplemental funding in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.
  - A teacher who receives a bonus under this program is ineligible for another bonus under this program until July 1, 2025, at the earliest.
- **Employer Contribution Rate for Retirement:** Increases State’s employer contribution rates budgeted for retirement and related benefits from 24.19% to 24.5%.
- **Employer Contribution Rate for Medical Benefits:** Provides no change to the State’s employer contribution rate budgeted for hospitalization/medical benefits, which was set at \$7,397 by the 2021 State Budget.

### Student Enrollment

- **Average Daily Membership (ADM) Adjustments:** Increases recurring funding for ADM by ~\$7.3 million for an allotted ADM of 1,548,485 students in FY 2022-23; revision includes increased number of students in grades K-3 and 8-12.
  - **NOTE:** Unlike as provided for the 2021-2022 school year, an ADM hold harmless provision was NOT included for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Educator Workforce & Professional Development

- **Early Grade Literacy:** Provides \$14 million recurring and \$600,000 nonrecurring to the NC Department of Public Instruction for 9 full-time Regional Literacy Coach positions and 115 full-time Early Learning Specialist positions, to be assigned to each district.
- **Masters of School Administration Interns:** Provides \$6 million increase in funds to cover stipends for MSA interns.
- **Principal Preparation Programs Support:** Provides \$1 million in nonrecurring funds to High Point University and \$500,000 nonrecurring to Campbell University to support principal preparation programs at each respective institution.

### Student Health & Safety

- **School Safety Grants Program:** Includes an additional \$32 million in non-recurring funds for the School Safety Competitive Grant Program to support students in crisis, school safety training, and safety equipment in schools; revised net appropriation is \$41.7 million in FY 2022-23.
- **School Resource Officer (SRO) Grants:** Provides \$15 million recurring increase in SRO grants that school districts can apply for to place SROs in elementary and middle schools; revised net appropriation is \$33 million in FY 2022-23.
  - **SRO Grant Match In Low-Wealth Counties:** Increases the State match for SRO grants for low-wealth counties to \$4 per every \$1 in non-state funds; All other districts will continue to receive \$2 in state funds for every \$1 in non-state funds.
- **At-Risk Students Allotment:** Provides \$26 million in additional recurring funds to help schools cover school resource officer salaries in each state-funded high school; revised net appropriation is \$337.7 million.
- **School Safety Supplemental Funds:** Provides \$32 million in non-recurring funds to support students in crisis, provide school safety training, and purchase safety equipment for schools.
- **Feminine Hygiene Products Grant:** Codifies program and provides \$250,000 in recurring funds for grants to schools for feminine hygiene products for students.

## School Facilities Funding

- **Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBSCF):** Provides additional recurring and non-recurring funds to the NBSCF, largely funded through North Carolina Education Lottery receipts, for a total availability of \$431.3 million for Needs-Based Capital grants in FY 2022-23.
- **Public School Repair and Renovation Fund:** Provides \$50 million through this new fund created by the 2021 State Budget.
- **Directed NBSCF Grants to Prior Recipients:** Directs that needs-based facility grants be provided to 18 school systems located mostly in northeastern North Carolina that previously received NBSCF grants, and includes some awards of \$10 million or more, including in Washington and Camden counties.

## Child Nutrition & Transportation

- **School Nutrition Program Costs:** Provides \$3.9 million nonrecurring to provide free lunch for students qualifying for reduced-price meals in the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Transportation Fuel Reserve:** Provides \$32 million in non-recurring funds to support increased school transportation costs; DPI shall distribute these funds on a needs basis.
- **Driver Training Fuel Reserve:** Provides \$2.8 million in non-recurring funds to support increased fuel costs of the driver training program, including those incurred by third parties contracted by LEAs.
- **Driver Training Fund:** Provides additional \$2.8 million in recurring funds from the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund for driver training.

## School Technology & Internet Access

- **School Business System Modernization:** Requires NCDPI to establish a grant program to provide funds to eligible LEAs and charter schools to migrate their school business data to an off-site premises (cloud storage); requires all LEAs and charter schools to store business data at an off-site premises by June 30, 2023.
- **Interoperable Student Data Systems Study:** Provides \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds to myFutureNC to study the creation of an interconnected, real-time data system to facilitate communication and transition of students between public schools, community colleges, and universities.
- **Broadband Expansion Initiatives:** Includes an additional \$5 million (total \$20 million recurring) to expand broadband in underserved areas.

## Private School Vouchers

- **Opportunity Scholarships:** Allocates an additional \$56 million in recurring funds to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve, for a total of \$150.8 million; amount would cover an additional 5,800 students by 2023-2024.
  - Also expands student eligibility for program by increasing the requirements for receiving the vouchers from 175% of Free or Reduced Lunch (FRL) eligibility (\$89,840 for a family of 4), to 200% of FRL eligibility (\$103,000 for a family of 4).
- **Personal Education Student Accounts for Children with Disabilities Program:** Allocates an additional \$16.3 million in recurring funds, for a revised total of \$47.9 million.

## Miscellaneous Appropriations

- **Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Test Fees:** Provides additional \$3.9 million in funding to cover test fees for students enrolled in AP and IB classes.
- **Cooperative Innovative High Schools:** Provides supplemental recurring funding for 3 new Cooperative Innovative High Schools approved by the State Board of Education: Cabarrus Early College of Health Sciences, EDGE Academy of Health Sciences, and Wake Early College of Information and Biotechnologies; revised net appropriation is \$29.2 million in FY 2022-23.

- **Career & Technical Education Test Fees:** Provides \$8 million recurring increase in funds to cover CTE test fees for students; revised net appropriation is \$15.8 million.
- **CTE Grants Fund:** Provides \$3 million in non-recurring funds for a grant program for the modernization and support of CTE programs in grades 6-8.
  - Program prioritizes low-wealth counties with high populations of at-risk students or students with disabilities.
  - Up to \$2 million may be used for modernizing existing programs in middle schools; up to \$1 million may be used to fund ancillary items necessary for CTE programs.
  - Applicants must submit applications to NCDPI no later than January 15, 2023.
- **Pre-K Reimbursement Rates:** Increases the rate that childcare centers receive for providing NC Pre-K services by 5% for a total rate of 9% in 2022-2023.

### **Virtual/Remote Education**

- Incorporates some, and adjusts other, provisions from [Senate Bill 671: Virtual Educ./Remote Acad./Virtual Charters \(S.L. 2022-59\)](#).
- For 2022-2023 school year:
  - Allows PSUs to continue providing remote instruction for severe weather and other emergencies.
  - Allows schools assigned a school code before May 1, 2021, to continue providing virtual instruction in 2022-2023 school year.
  - Allows PSUs that submitted a virtual instruction plan to NCDPI for the 2021-2022 school year to continue providing virtual instruction according to that plan.
- For 2023-2024 school year:
  - Requires all LEAs to provide virtual instruction through an approved “remote academy” under the following conditions:
    - Each approved academy must receive a separate school code, with no options for a “school within a school” model for small cohorts of students to have full-time virtual instruction in an existing school;
    - No enrollment cap on participation in remote academies (House version of S671 capped enrollment at 15% per LEA);
    - Students can only be enrolled with parental consent;
    - Remote academies must submit remote academy plans and meet other requirements; and
    - School board or superintendent may reassign student to another school if that is deemed better for student learning.
- Extends the pilot program for two existing virtual charter schools by two years through 2024-2025 (rather than providing them with a 5-year charter for operations, as previously proposed).

### **Other Special Provisions (K-12 Policy Directives)**

- **Standards of Student Conduct (Sec. 7.7.(b)):** Requires governing bodies of public school units to consult with “teachers, school-based administrators, parents, and local law enforcement agencies” in the adoption of local student discipline policies; requires each public unit governing body to provide NCDPI with “a copy of its most up-to-date student discipline policies and Code of Student Conduct.”
- **School Threat Assessment Survey (Sec. 7.9):** Requires all PSUs to report by Nov. 15, 2022, to the Center for Safer Schools, on local “systems, policies, procedures, or precautions” taken in the PSU to minimize violence and threats in schools.

## HOUSE BILLS

### [HB 159: Education Law Changes \(S.L. 2022-71\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise noted, effective when it becomes law (July 8, 2022).
- **Section 1.2 Modify NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant Qualification Requirements.** Prohibits the Division of Child Development and Early Education at the Department of Health and Human Services from requiring an individual working towards an associate degree to complete a minimum number of semester hours per year to be eligible for employment as a teacher assistant in the NC Pre-K program. Expires December 31, 2023.
- **Section 1.3 Professional Development Support for Teachers of Children with Disabilities Ages 3-5.** Requires DPI to use funds received pursuant to section 619 of Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA), 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., in Budget Code 13510, Fund Code 1400 to add at least 13 full-time employee (FTE) positions to provide professional development and support to teachers in public schools who work with students with disabilities ages three through five, including preschool and kindergarten teachers.
- **Section 2.1 Remove Codified Reference to PowerSchool.** Removes the codified reference to PowerSchool. (PowerSchool is the current student information system used statewide by public and charter schools for storing and managing student data.)
- **Section 2.2 Modify School Crisis Kit Requirements.** Removes language requiring that school crisis kits include items recommended by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.
- **Section 2.4 School Nutrition Changes.** Makes changes to school nutrition statutes to align with federal guidelines and standards, including prohibiting the sale of sugared carbonated soft drinks until 30 minutes after the end of the school day.
  - Removes the following language: “Not more than fifty percent (50%) of the offerings for sale to students in high schools are sugared carbonated soft drinks” from statute. No longer requires snack vending in all schools to meet the Proficient Level of the NC Eat Smart Nutrition Standards, and instead requires snack vending in all schools to meet the standards for competitive foods and beverages established by the Food and Nutrition Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.
  - Allows the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt rules that impose additional restrictions on school nutrition services that are not inconsistent with federal guidelines. Makes various clarifying and technical changes. Repeals statute to provide clarity on school nutrition standards to LEAs participating in the National School Lunch Program.
- **Section 2.5 Extending Benefits of Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.** Grants the following to the children of inactive members of the National Guard and military reserve, if the member is required to move to perform military service related responsibilities: (i) for intrastate transfers between LEAs, the same services that are provided to children of active duty military under Part 1 of this Article and (ii) for interstate transfers, any services provided to children of active duty military under Part 1 of this Article, without requiring LEAs from another state to provide services to these children. Requires LEAs to attempt to coordinate on behalf of these children with LEAs from other states. Applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Section 2.6 Remove Reference to Regional Case Managers.** Replaces the terms “regional case managers” with “regional directors” in Read to Achieve statute that requires “regional case managers” to ensure that SBE standards are implemented statewide.
- **Section 2.7 Increase Funding Cap on Turnaround Coach Funding.** Continues the funding level of \$18 million for turnaround coaches that DPI can use to provide coaching support and professional development for principals and school improvement teams in LEAs. Authorizes up to 25% of the funds to be used for 28 time-limited or full-time equivalent positions (was previously \$2 million to be used for 20 positions) for DPI to support the activities set forth in this subdivision.

- **Section 2.8 Extend Principal License Exemption.** Extends the principal licensure waiver from August 31, 2022, to August 31, 2024. Includes waiver eligibility requirements for individuals in the process of becoming a licensed school administrator.
- **Section 3.2 Permit Community Colleges to Collaborate with Public and Nonpublic Schools for Certain Programs.** Makes technical changes to the statute permitting community colleges to collaborate with LEAs to offer cooperative innovative high school programs.
- **Section 3.4 North Carolina Principal Fellows and North Carolina Teaching Fellows Changes.** Makes technical and conforming changes to NC Principal Fellows and NC Teaching Fellows statutes.
- **Section 4. School Threat Assessment Survey.** Requires all PSUs to report to the Center for Safer Schools (Center) by November 15, 2022, information including,
  1. Systems, policies, procedures, or precautions to identify and address a student who may pose a risk of violence or other harm to themselves or others
  2. The number and nature of threats identified under this system
  3. The response to any identified threat and the result of that response
  4. Whether each school in the PSU has a School Risk Management Plan and the number of drills conducted under the plan
  5. Any other systems, policies, procedures, or precautions the PSU or school undertakes to minimize violence and threats.

Requires the Center, in consultation with DPI, to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by February 15, 2023, recommendations on a statewide system to identify and address school threats, additional funding to support the system, the information submitted to the Center by each PSU, and that information aggregated on a statewide level.

- **Section 5. Advanced Teaching Roles Changes.** Removes the requirement for the SBE’s initial evaluation report on the Advanced Teaching Roles program that would have been due on October 15, 2021, and now requires reports by October 15 in 2022, 2023, and 2024. Requires the SBE to provide annual reports on the program, beginning on October 15, 2025.
  - Authorizes DPI to use up to \$200,000 in each fiscal year of the 2021-2023 biennium for the SBE to contract with an independent research organization to perform these program evaluations. Effective June 30, 2022.

#### [HB 177: Extend Spiking Moratorium/LGERS Surety \(S.L. 2022-70\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: June 30, 2022.**
- Section 1. Extends the pension-spiking moratorium from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2023.
  - Also extends the deadline from April 1, 2022, to December 15, 2022, that a working group consisting of the Department of State Treasurer, NC School Boards Association, and other stakeholders may report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.
  - Prohibits the Retirement System from requesting an interception of State appropriations before September 1, 2023, pursuant to G.S. 135-8(f)(3), for unpaid contributions attributable to retirements that occurred between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.

#### [HB 252: Bail Bond/Bondsman Provisions/Other Changes \(S.L. 2022-73\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective December 1, 2022, and applies to forfeitures entered on or after that date.
- Section 3.(b) Strikes the following sentence in the statute subsection titled Notice of Forfeiture: “If notice under this section is not given within the prescribed time, the forfeiture shall not become a final judgment and shall not be enforced or reported to the Department of Insurance.” The deletion of this sentence removes the automatic prohibition on bond forfeitures from going into judgment and is replaced by other changes to make it conditioned on a motion to set aside being filed within 30 days of the clerk’s service of notice.

- Section 3.(c) Provides additional grounds for setting aside a forfeiture: Relieves the surety from liability if the notice of forfeiture is not mailed within 30 days “after the date on which the defendant fails to appear as required and a call and fail is ordered” and “a motion to set aside a forfeiture for the reason described in subdivision (8) of subsection (b) of this section is filed within 30 days of the date notice was given pursuant to G.S. 15A-544.4(d).” To incorporate a 30-day requirement for motions to set aside for bond forfeiture notices that were not served within 30 days, the following language is added, “A motion to set aside a forfeiture for any other reason in subsection (b) of this section may be filed at any time before the expiration of 150 days after the date on which notice was given pursuant to 15A-544.4(d).”
- The language limiting “Only One Motion Per Forfeiture” is amended to allow a second motion to set aside a forfeiture to be filed if a motion filed due to the clerk’s failure to serve notice within 30 days is denied. “The court refused to issue an order for arrest for the defendant’s failure to appear, as evidenced by a copy of an official court record, including an electronic record.”
- Changes the “Procedure When Failure to Appear Is Stricken” in cases where the court in which a defendant’s appearance was secured by a bail bond enters an order striking the defendant’s failure to appear recalling any order for arrest issued for that failure to appear, that court shall (was “may”) simultaneously enter an order setting aside any forfeiture of that bail bond.
- Section 3.(d) Clarifies that motions to set aside alleging that notice was not provided within 30 days can now be filed as motions to set aside pursuant to G.S. 15A-544.5. All other motions seeking relief from forfeiture alleging defects in notice are still required to be filed pursuant to G.S. 15A-544.8.

#### [HB 911: Regulatory Reform Act of 2022 \(S.L. 2022-75\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law (July 12, 2022) and applies to individuals seeking licensure on or after that date.
- Section 1. Makes a technical change to the teacher residency license requirements by replacing “local board of education” with “governing body of a public school unit”.

#### [HB 995: Greensboro Deannex/Weldon City Board of Education Pay \(S.L. 2022-33\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law (July 1, 2022).**
- Section 2. Deletes language saying that the Weldon City Board of Education (Board) receives the same compensation and expense allowances as the Halifax County Board of Education. Requires the compensation of the chair of the Board to be \$650 per month and the compensation of Board members to be \$550 per month. Beginning July 1, 2025, allows the monthly compensation of the Board chair and members to be increased by majority vote of the Board in an amount not greater than 4% in any four-year period. Beginning July 1, 2021, allows an expense allowance for the Board chair and members to be established by majority vote of the Board.

#### [HB 1056: Ret. & Treasury Admin. Changes Act of 2022.-AB \(S.L. 2022-14\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:**
- Section 1.1 and 1.2 Under the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System (TSERS), allows the Retirement System to correct errors for the “transfer benefit” to allow monies to be returned to supplemental retirement plans (the reversal would include lost earnings).
- Section 2.1 and 2.3 Makes the following changes related to the reporting of inactive employees under TSERS (**Effective Dec. 31, 2022.**)
  - Considers an employer who fails to report any qualifying employees for six consecutive months an inactive employer
  - Requires the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer to notify all employers who were reported as inactive by March 15 of each year



- Allows a reportedly inactive employer to apply to extend its inactive period for up to one year by June 30 of the same year by reporting satisfactory evidence of intention to hire an employee
    - Requires the Board of Trustees of the Retirement Systems to determine whether to grant applications to extend an employer’s inactive status by July 31 of each year
    - On October 1 each year, requires any employer on the most recent report of inactive employers that has not resumed reporting eligible employees and has not had inactive status extended to cease participation in the Retirement System.
- Section 3.1 If the Department of State Treasurer and the Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees stop offering the NC Public School Teachers’ and Professional Educators’ Investment plan, requires local school boards that continue sponsoring their 403(b) plan to designate another investment provider. If a local school board fails to designate another investment provider, allows the Department and Board to transfer the remaining assets to an individual retirement account selected in a vendor solicitation.
- Section 5. Clarifies that the provisions for long-term disability benefits that were in effect on July 31, 2007, will apply to any beneficiary or participant with at least five years of membership service as of July 31, 2007, who has not withdrawn contribution for such service.
- Section 7.1 Clarifies that the Local Government Commission can decline to review a LEA’s borrowing request under a guaranteed energy savings contract if the LEA did not submit procurement documents prior to sending out the request for proposal.
- Section 9.1 Except as otherwise provided, effective July 1, 2022.

[HB 1058: Ret. & Treasury Tech. Corrections Act of 2022.-AB \(S.L. 2022-16\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective July 1, 2022.**
- **Section 1.1-1.2** Makes technical and conforming changes pertaining to the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System (TSERS).
- **Section 4.3.** Makes conforming changes pertaining to the NC Teachers’ and State Employees’ Benefit Trust and benefits provided under that Trust.

**SENATE BILLS**

[SB 256: Rockingham Community College Board of Trustees \(S.L. 2022-10\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law (June 15, 2022).
- **Section 1.** Reduces the number of trustees elected by the Rockingham County Board of Education for the Rockingham Community College Board of Trustees from four to two.

[SB 265: Bond Info Transparency/LGC Toolkit II \(S.L. 2022-53\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, effective when it becomes law (July 7, 2022) and applies to bond orders introduced on or after October 1, 2022, and to contracts entered into on or after October 1, 2022.**
- **Section 1 and 2** Require local governments to provide additional disclosures regarding bond referenda. Before the public hearing on a bond order, requires the local finance officer to file with the clerk of the local board a statement of disclosure that includes (i) an estimate of the total amount of interest that will be paid on the bonds over the expected terms, (ii) an estimate of the increase in property taxes necessary to service the proposed debt, and (iii) the amount of two-thirds bonds capacity the unit has available for the current fiscal year. Requires the statement to explain that the information contained is preliminary and is for general information purposes only, that there is no assurance that the assumptions in the statement will occur, and the occurrence of certain assumptions are beyond

control of the local government. Requires the statement to be filed with the Local Government Commission, posted online, and maintained by the clerk of the local board.

- Sections 3 and 4 make corresponding changes to the publication notice of the bond order.
- Section 5. Allows the Secretary of the Local Government Commission to require a local government to report events that will or may have a material, adverse effect on the financial health, operations, or internal controls of the local government within 30 days after the occurrence of such events. Requires the Secretary to adopt a policy concerning that requirement.
- Section 6. Limits the types of contracts local governments included on the most recently published Unit Assistance List issued by the Department of State Treasurer, can issue without approval of the Local Government Commission: length of the contract is three or more years and contract amount is at least \$50,000. Clarifies that a contract exemption is not provided for local governments on the most recently published Unit Assistance List where the contract for motor vehicles equals or exceeds \$50,000.
- Section 7. Repeals a provision in the State Health Plan statute requiring interest to be charged to charter schools and local governments on late premiums.
- Section 8. Requires local governments that create a public authority or unit subject to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act to notify the Local Government Commission of its creation within 60 days.
- Section 9. Requires fidelity bonds for local finance officers to not be less than the greater of \$50,000 or 10% of the local government unit's annually budgeted funds, up to \$1 million. Prohibits a person who cannot secure the bond required by this section from assuming the duties for which the bond is required. Effective January 1, 2023.

#### [SB 496: DOI Omnibus Bill \(S.L. 2022-46\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law (July 7, 2022).**
- Section 6.(a) Requires LEAs to provide the Commissioner of Insurance with a list of all its insurable buildings, equipment and contents of the buildings, and their insurable values by October 1 each year. Requires LEAs to provide the Commissioner with copies of insurance policies when purchasing insurance from a duly licensed and authorized company. If a policy purchased from a company is cancelled, terminated, or changed, requires LEAs to notify the Commissioner within five days of the effective date of the cancellation, termination, or change. Makes technical changes.
- Section 6.(b) Requires LEAs to provide the Commissioner of Insurance with a list of all its insurable buildings against flood and their insurable values by October 1 each year. Requires LEAs to provide the Commissioner with copies of insurance policies when purchasing insurance from a duly licensed and authorized company. If a policy purchased from a company is cancelled, terminated, or changed, requires LEAs to notify the Commissioner within five days of the effective date of the cancellation, termination, or change. Makes technical changes.

#### [SB 671: Virtual Educ./Remote Acad./Virtual Charters \(S.L. 2022-59\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise noted, effective when it becomes law (July 8, 2022) and applies beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.**
- Section 1.(a) Adds language to existing statute to account for the creation of the new remote academies in Part 3A of Article 16 of G.S. 115C.

- Section 1.(b) Allows PSUs to continue providing remote instruction for severe weather and other emergencies, using the same number of maximum days or hours allowed during the 2021-2022 school year. PSUs with good cause waivers can use up to 15 days or 90 hours of remote instruction and all other PSUs can use up to 5 days or 30 hours.
- Sections 2.(a),(b),(d) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, creates a new process for LEAs to apply to the SBE for approval of remote academies:
  - Defines a remote academy as a public school whose instruction is provided primarily online to students in a remote location outside of the school facility.
    - States that remote academies may include any combination of grade levels.
  - States that a remote academy may satisfy the minimum required number of instructional days or hours for the school calendar through remote instruction.
  - Lists requirements for remote academy enrollment, including
    - States that students cannot enroll without parental consent.
    - Requires LEAs to make information available to parents identifying characteristics for successful remote learning and criteria for admittance.
    - Authorizes LEAs to reassign a student to an in-person school if the LEA determines that would better ensure academic success.
    - Requires remote academies to comply with statutory class size requirements.
- Lists requirements for remote academies and states that remote academies are subject to the same requirements as other public schools governed by local boards of education.
  - Lists what a remote academy is required to provide to enrolled students, including any hardware and software needed to participate, technical support, and access to available internet during instructional hours, evenings, and weekends.
  - Lists staffing requirements.
- Lists requirements for remote academy plans that must be submitted to the SBE for approval for a term of five years.
  - Allows a LEA to apply for renewal as a remote academy for additional five- year terms.
- Requires each approved remote academy to receive a separate school code.
- Requires the SBE to evaluate success of remote academies and report by November 15 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on these evaluations and any recommended statutory changes. The first SBE evaluation is due by November 15, 2024.
- Section 2.(c) For the 2022-2023 school year:
  - Allows PSUs assigned a separate school code by May 1, 2021, to continue providing virtual instruction.
  - Allows PSUs that submitted a virtual instruction plan to DPI for the 2021-2022 school year to continue providing virtual instruction according to that plan.
- Sections 3.(a)-(c) Allows a charter school that submitted a virtual instruction plan to DPI for the 2021-2022 school year to continue providing virtual instruction according to that plan through the 2023-2024 school year. Extends the pilot program for the State’s two virtual charter schools from 8 to 10 years, ending the pilot with the 2024-2025 school year. At the end of the pilot program, allows the two virtual charter schools to apply to the SBE for a charter renewal.

[SB 768: GSC Technical Corrections 2022/Additional TC \(S.L. 2022-62\)](#)

- **EFFECTIVE DATE:** Effective when it becomes law (July 8, 2022).
- Section 14. Makes technical changes to the statute requiring the inspection of schools for fire

hazards and the removal of hazards.

- Section 49. Makes a technical change to the statute limiting city requirements for street improvements related to schools.