

2021 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PRIORITY

SCHOOL FUNDING

The state government in North Carolina is required by law to ensure that every school system has sufficient funds to provide every child with the opportunity for a well-rounded education as defined by the North Carolina Supreme Court and the laws of the state. Local governments also provide funds, but the state is required to make sure the total amount of funding is adequate and appropriate. The national average for per-pupil spending in 2019 was \$12,612 compared to NC's per-pupil spending of \$10,165. Over the past decade, per-pupil spending has declined by 6% in NC, resulting in our state's ranking of 6th lowest in the nation (WestEd 2019 report). North Carolina ranks 45th in school spending and 47th in funding.

NCPTA will advocate, encourage, and support initiatives that positively impact children at all government levels-- local, state, and federal. NCPTA will continue to promote, support, and advocate for robust and appropriate funding, highly qualified licensed and certified teachers, and administrators in all schools. We believe that every child should have access to a world-class education, allowing them to reach their full potential by facilitating academic and cultural excellence using scholarly research and proven methods led by educators.

North Carolina PTA will support initiatives as well as encourage and advocate for legislation and policies that:

- Support funding formulas that will provide the necessary operational funding for all schools.
- Allows for ample capital funding for all schools, including statewide assistance in the form of bond issuances or other programs to help fund and meet local capital needs.
- Support initiatives that will provide licensed and certified educators for every classroom and licensed administrators for every school.
- Support full funding of the Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Fund.
- Allows for the exemption of public schools from the state sales tax.
- Allows for the raising of teacher salaries to the national average.
- Provide an increase in per-pupil funding.
- Provide complete funding of the Federal funding program to support the requirements of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" program.
- Support efforts for the maintenance and total funding of the Low Wealth Supplemental Fund.
- Provide school districts with funds sufficient enough to guarantee the complete funding of all the funding formulas.
- Support legislation that further clarifies the process, procedure, and definitions related to the low-performing school process.
- Allows for increasing funding to replace every crumbling infrastructure (especially in rural areas of North Carolina).