



GREENSBORO, NC

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Rep. Pricey Harrison

Greetings,

Education is an especially critical service of government in North Carolina; a quality education for our young people is vital for the success of our state. I have shared overviews with you in the past few weeks of some key accomplishments in education from this past session. This week's newsletter provides a fuller accounting of our education budget, including those areas where we added money and those places where we made cuts to balance our budget. I am especially pleased that after 5 years of pushing for repeal of the 2005 budget provision providing a nearly \$10 million annual taxpayer subsidy to wealthy UNC System athletic booster clubs, we finally succeeded.

Public Schools

Prevented layoffs of any instructional personnel in K-12 by adjusting the lottery receipts budgeted for classroom teachers. Also redirected \$16.8 million from the Lottery Reserve and \$19.3 million in projected overrealized revenues - **\$126 million.**

Restored proposed cuts for assistant principals - **\$4.5 million.**

Provided on a nonrecurring basis for the purchase of replacement textbooks for emergency situations. The State Board of Education is charged with developing rules and guidelines for the allocation of these funds - **\$5 million.**

Eliminated 26 positions in order to find efficiencies and reduce redundancy in the Department of Public Instruction Technology Services area. The



reduction included departmental NC WISE positions, Offices of the Chief Information Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Technology Business Services, and Project Management. NC WISE replaces the Student Information Management System (SIMS), which North Carolina Public School Systems have used for almost two decades, reducing the need for personnel - **(\$2.8 million)**.

There was also significant legislation passed to reform low-performing schools ([SB 704](#)); to improve the graduation rate ([HB 1877](#)); and to identify and assist at-risk students earlier ([HB 1875*](#)).

Community Colleges

Fully funded enrollment growth to help pay for the 16 percent increase (34,118 students) in enrollment - **\$85 million**.

Provided funds for the purchase of instructional equipment and technology at all 58 colleges. These funds are in addition to the \$43.3 million included in the base budget for this purpose. Funds are to be distributed in accordance with the existing equipment formula - **\$4 million**.

Restored the reduction made to the Small Business Center allotment in 2009. This funding was added to each colleges' base allocation. With this restoration, the total funding available for this program will be \$5.75 million - **\$402,861**.

Provided funds to assist Minority Male Mentoring programs at community colleges. These funds will be distributed through a competitive application process - **\$900,000**.

Reduced funds, bringing the total management flexibility reduction for this fiscal year to \$36 million. The State Board of Community Colleges will distribute the flexibility reduction, accounting for the unique needs of each college. Each college will have the flexibility to adjust its budget to implement this reduction, but it shall not impact those activities directly involved in retraining displaced workers - **(\$22.75 million)**.

UNC System

Mandated a management flexibility reduction for the UNC operating budget with a priority on non-teaching related budget cuts. This reduction is in addition to the \$100 million management flexibility reduction already authorized - **(\$139 million)**.

Abolished 47 positions in the UNC system that had been vacant two years or longer - **(\$2.5 million)**.

Repealed the in-state tuition break for out-of-state student athletes - **(\$9.4 million)**.

Increased the UNC system enrollment growth funding to the \$53 million - **\$5.6 million**.

Repealed legislative tuition rates and restored the associated appropriation reduction - **\$34.8 million**.

Increased UNC need-based financial aid - **\$12 million**.

Increased funding to the Legislative Tuition Grant and the State Contractual Scholarship Fund for a 2.9 percent

growth in enrollment in FY 2010-11 - **\$4.6 million.**

* Denotes bills for which I am either a Sponsor or Co-Sponsor.

Notes

The North Carolina General Assembly has developed a \$13 million grant program to target students at risk of dropping out of school. Grants are for a maximum of \$175,000 and are given to innovative programs and initiatives that demonstrate the potential to be developed into effective, sustainable, and replicable dropout prevention and re-entry programs in middle schools and high schools. The deadline for the latest cycle of grants is Aug. 31. For more information, please visit

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/dropout/grants/applicants/2010/>.

This week Governor Perdue announced that North Carolina has received an additional \$115 million in five federal recovery grants to extend broadband connectivity in North Carolina. Combined with previous grants, North Carolina has received over \$255 million for broadband this year. These funds will help create jobs and promote economic development through expanded access to high-speed Internet in underserved areas. This week's grants are part of the second round of Recovery Act funding for broadband projects from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Agriculture. North Carolina has already received over \$140 million in recovery broadband grants.

Please continue to keep in touch with me regarding your concerns and questions. I appreciate knowing how my constituents are being affected and strive to enhance your quality of life and the lives of your families.

Cheers,

Pricey

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