OVERVIEW of FUNDING & POLICY for PUBLIC EDUCATION

FEDERAL

U.S. Congress

Sets certain school policies, most notably around testing, but plays a limited role overall. Funding that is supplied supports students with disabilities, high-poverty schools, and child nutrition.

11%

SHARE of funding for school operations (percentage of total)

STATE

Governor

Has the power of the bully pulpit, but limited influence beyond having the power to veto state budgets and appoint State Board of Education members.

North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA)

Senate & House of Representatives

Body most directly responsible for school funding and policies
Provides the majority of school funding by setting tax policy, determining how funds are distributed across districts, and establishing school spending rules
Sets majority of policies including learning standards and teacher pay scales
Has constitutional responsibility for providing a system of public education that adequately serves every child

65%

State Board of Education (SBE)

Supervises use of federal and state funds for public schools

State Superintendent

Department of Public Instruction (DPI)

Implements laws passed by NCGA and provides technical assistance to schools

COUNTY

Board of Commissioners

sets local taxes and determines how to use revenue for school expenses not provided by the state
has authority to provide additional funds to district
historically, counties have been responsible for funding facility maintenance and new school construction

School Board

carries out educational program and sets local policy according to parameters determined by DPI
hires district superintendent
manages financial affairs and provides strategic planning

24%

$ denotes governing body that generates funds for public education

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PUBLIC EDUCATION POLICY: The North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA)

The NCGA decides on the level and distribution of public school funding as part of the state budget.

- NCGA members are elected in even-numbered years and serve a 2-year term.
- At the beginning of a new term, the NCGA creates a budget for the next funding period.

House of Representatives 120 members
North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA)
Senate 50 members

LONG, SHORT, and SPECIAL SESSIONS

ODD-NUMBERED YEARS
A “LONG” session is for drafting the bi-annual state budget and typically lasts 6 months or longer.

EVEN-NUMBERED
A “SHORT” session only addresses issues (or new appropriations) that have arisen between budgets.

AS NEEDED
A special session can be convened if a specific need arises; a special session can also be called by the Governor.

The JOURNEY from BILL to LAW

START
bills can start on House floor or Senate floor

1st CHAMBER
INTRODUCTION first reading
COMMITTEE
SUBJECT MATTER
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES
AMENDMENTS
FLOOR VOTE
PASSING VOTE

2nd CHAMBER
INTRODUCTION first reading
COMMITTEE
SUBJECT MATTER
APPROPRIATIONS
RULES
AMENDMENTS
FLOOR VOTE
PASSING VOTE

CROSSOVER

hash out differences

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Is bill identical to what was passed in the first chamber?

NO
YES

BILL REJECTED
GOVERNOR

VETO
SIGN

ENACTED LAW

veto override requires 3/5 vote in each chamber

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