

Food For Thought

"Happiness lies not in the mere possession of money. It lies in the joy of achievement, in the thrill of creative effort."

~ Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 - 1945)

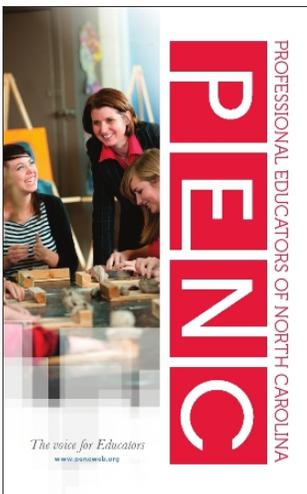
Our Mission

Our mission is to promote education reform for the benefit of all North Carolina children while ensuring the recruitment, development and retention of qualified educators.

Join or Renew

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Check out PENC's brochure:



Membership Form

Click [here](#) for a printable Membership Form.

Who We Are

To learn more about PENC, click [here](#).

Contact PENC

For a listing of PENC Staff, click [here](#).

PENC Legislative Update

Speaker Tillis Hosts Education Week at the House of Representatives

During the week of February 25, House Speaker [Thom Tillis](#) (R-Mecklenberg) welcomed Superintendents, and Principals and Teachers of the Year from across North Carolina for conversations about education. The meetings were "town hall" style events in the House Chamber encouraging candid interaction and discourse about the challenges in the classroom and obstacles to education innovation. PENC Members and past Teachers of the Year [Jennifer Facciolini](#), [Ann Pittman](#), and [Erika Tyner](#) participated in the February 28 session with their peers. PENC Executive Director Carol Vandenberg attended the meetings to hear the discussion topics, which ran the gamut from [teacher pay](#) and [tenure](#) to [Race to the Top](#) to [testing](#) to [teacher evaluations](#). Several House members attended the discussions, too, including former **PENC Board President [Jeffrey Elmore](#) (R-Wilkes)**.

Budget Discussions Move from K-12 to Community Colleges

The [Senate](#) and [House](#) Subcommittees on Education Appropriations continued to meet jointly. They concluded discussions on the K-12 budget and moved to discussion of the community college system funding. The discussion included of the changes triggered by North Carolina's participation in the federal Race to the Top program. Lawmakers questioned the costs and benefits of continuation of some of the features of the RtT grant award, including testing, evaluations and technology. These issues will be taken into consideration as the budget draft is developed. To read the materials considered at the budget meetings, please [click here](#).

Will Cursive Writing and "Times Tables" Return to NC Curriculum?

Cursive writing and memorization of multiplication tables would be added back to NC's Standard Course of Study beginning in the 2013-14 school year if [H 146](#), **Back to Basics** is approved by the General Assembly. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Pat Hurley (R-Randolph) and others and would restore the topics to the core subjects taught in elementary school. The bill was referred to the House Education Committee for consideration.

Please remember that just because a bill is filed or discussions occur, it does not mean that the issue or bill will necessarily make it to the point of becoming a law.
[What do you think?](#)

If you have questions or concerns, please share your thoughts and ideas with us.
 Contact us at penc@pencweb.org.

Submitted by Evelyn Hawthorne

For more information about the North Carolina General Assembly, [click here](#).

To identify and contact your legislator, [click here](#).

For information about specific issues, please contact PENC government relations consultant Evelyn Hawthorne at lobbyist@pencweb.org.