



Food For Thought

"A man can stand anything except a succession of ordinary days."

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832)

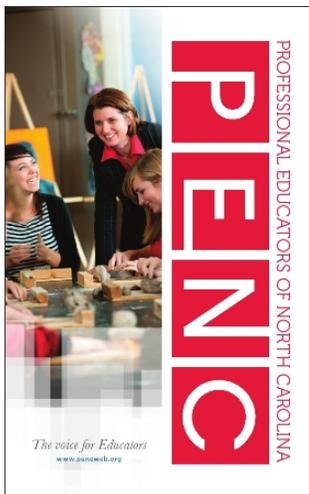
Our Mission

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

Click [here](#) to join or renew .

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

Education Issues Addressed by Two Branches of NC Government in One Day

March 19th was an active day for policy discussions that affect educators, students and their school communities.

Senate-proposed Education Reforms for 2013

Senator Phil Berger (R-Rockingham) held a press conference to announce his support for education reforms above and beyond what he spearheaded in 2012. During the press conference, Sen. Berger, the President Pro Tempore of the NC Senate, announced the introduction of [S 361](#), The Excellent Schools Act of 2013. The cornerstone of the bill proposes to eliminate teacher tenure, which has been a part of North Carolina's education laws for decades. Other proposed changes include modifications to the way teachers are prepared for the classroom, school performance grades and teacher performance. Because [PENC's legislative priorities](#) address a number of issues contained in [S 361](#), including teacher tenure, we are conducting a thorough analysis of the bill and will provide our membership with more in-depth information once it is available.

School Safety

Gov. Pat McCrory held a news conference in which he announced the creation of a [Center for Safer Schools](#), to be administered through the Division of Juvenile Justice. It will, among other tasks, provide a clearinghouse of school safety information to schools, law enforcement, youth-serving agencies, juvenile justice officials, community leaders, policymakers, parents and students.

In our [2013 Legislative Priorities](#), PENC expressed support for measures to improve school safety, including the presence of more School Resource Officers – trained law enforcement officers who specialize in working with children and young people. PENC noted that a [2006 study](#) conducted jointly between the NC Attorney General and the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety identified a number of strategies that contribute to safer schools, including SROs. PENC hopes to work with Gov. McCrory and continue working with state legislators to address school safety.

Deductions for Personal Leave ONLY when a Substitute is Hired

During the meeting of the House Education Committee, Rep. Bryan Holloway (R-Stokes) and Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke) offered [H 249](#), Substitute Teacher Deduction/Personal Leave. The bill would refund to teachers who use personal leave the amount deducted from their salary if no substitute was hired for that time off. [PENC's legislative priorities](#) included elimination of the substitute deduction entirely, but PENC supports [H 249](#) as a step in the right direction. The bill was approved with no dissenting votes and now goes to the full House of Representatives for consideration, possibly as early as March 20.

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 legislators, [click here](#).
 For information about specific issues, please contact PENC government relations consultant Evelyn Hawthorne at lobbyist@pencweb.org.

