



Food For Thought

"Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle."

~ Plato (427-347 BC)

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

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Who We Are

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

Contact PENC

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

PENC Legislative Update

House Releases Its Budget Plan

The NC House released its changes to [S402, Appropriations Act of 2013](#). House members met in topic-specific committees to consider the budget in pieces and plan to finish their budget work by June 13. The Senate will then receive the House's plan for consideration and is expected to move it to a conference committee to resolve differences between the different versions. **The documents considered by the House Committee members can be found [here](#).**

House Education Spending Plan is Very Different from Senate's

The House plan does not propose the same broad reforms offered by the Senate. Notably absent from the House's plan is the Senate's proposal to eliminate tenure. The House plan also includes a salary increase of 1 percent, but not until the second year of the biennium in 2014. The Senate plan includes no salary increase.

The House budget includes the provisions included below.

- Reduction in Teacher Assistants by 4 percent in FY 13-14 and 5 percent in FY 14-15. Funding for teaching assistants will be based on student headcount in grades K-3. This cut is significantly less than the one proposed in the Senate budget.
- Phase out of supplemental funding in FY 14-15 for new Master's level, six year degree level or Doctoral level prepared teachers. Provision exempts instructional support personnel whose positions require a Masters degree for licensure. The House plan protects educators who earned those degrees and are receiving the supplements prior to the 2014-2015 school year. **PENC is working with House members to allow teachers enrolled in Masters, six year or Doctoral programs by the fall semester of 2013 to receive salary supplements.**
- Modification of the School Grading system implemented last year. The House budget would implement methodology for determining the grades that PENC believes would be a fairer measure of a school's performance.
- Funding of almost \$7.8 million in FY 14-15 to reduce LEA flexibility cuts.
- Funding for Private School Vouchers - \$10 million in FY 13-14 and \$40 million in FY 14-15.
- Creation of and funding for a Task Force to consider implementation of merit or performance pay. **PENC would have two members on the Task Force.**
- School Safety – funding of \$12 million in FY 13-14 and FY 14-15 for more School Resource Officers in elementary and middle schools and installation of panic alarms in public schools. The bill was amended in subcommittee to provide an additional \$4 million in each year for school psychologists and counselors, who are instrumental in identifying in-school threats and problems before they get out of control. **School Safety was a primary item on PENC's legislative agenda.**
- ACT Assessments funding for the complete testing suite. \$7.5 million in FY 13-14 and FY 14-15.
- AP/IB funding to include funds to cover test fees and incentive bonuses for teachers whose students pass AP/IB tests. \$1.5 million in FY 13-14 and almost \$16 million in FY 14-15.
- Career Technology Education – funding to defray student fees for tests leading to industry certification and for incentive bonuses to LEAs on the basis of number of students certified in high value fields identified by the State Board of Education and the Department of Commerce. Funding of \$1.2 million in FY 13-14 and more than \$7 million in FY 14-15.
- Reinstatement of the Teaching Fellows program. A new class of Teaching Fellows could be recruited in FY 14-15.
- Preservation of NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching.

House members will consider the changes to **S402** in the full Appropriations Committee on June 11 and are expected to debate the bill in the House Chamber June 12 and 13. The compiled version of **S402** is expected to be available for public review at www.ncleg.net during the evening of June 9.

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.

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