



*State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor*

*Roy Cooper
Governor*

May 14, 2019

*20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301*

Legislators:

The opportunity to make up for neglected education and health care funding is now. With the unbudgeted revenue announced this month, North Carolina can move to rebuild its schools and help children learn.

As you write the budget, prioritize education:

- Give teachers the pay raise detailed in my budget, with an effective date of July 1, 2019. Include all teachers and give them opportunities for professional development.
- Provide better pay increases for non-certified school workers, such as teaching assistants and cafeteria workers.
- Focus on school safety--counselors, social workers, nurses, psychologists and other safety personnel such as SROs--at the levels in my budget and add more.
- Appropriately fund our University of North Carolina system at the levels in my budget and build on higher education, such as the NC A&T doctoral program, small college funding and capital needs.

And remember the importance of health care:

- Fund existing health care adequately at the levels in my budget without cutting short the Medicaid rebase during the transition to managed care.
- Invest in early childhood by supporting Smart Start, Pre-K reimbursement and child care subsidies for working families at the levels in my budget.

We have a unique opportunity here. Seize this easy choice to strengthen North Carolina's schools and health care. Let's show the nation that we are the public education leader and that businesses are making a good choice to locate here.

I look forward to working with you on this opportunity to move North Carolina forward.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper