

## Update on public education from Pricey Harrison's newsletter of May 15, 2015

### K-12 Education

- \* Increases K-12 school spending by \$269 million, or about 3.3 percent, adding new funds for charter schools and teacher bonuses. \$100.2 million of that goes toward school enrollment growth, which is expected to add 17,000 more students in the next school year. It also includes \$88.9 million next fiscal year to fund teacher assistants at the current level, offsetting a drop in lottery funds that have been used to avoid cuts in years past. This means that less than \$70 million of that \$269 million is actually increased education funding.
- Teacher assistants: "Advanced" teachers: The budget would direct \$5 million to begin a pilot program called "Elevating Educators," which would provide salary supplements for "advanced teaching roles" in which veteran educators earn additional pay for training and curriculum development roles.
- Teacher bonuses: For those who teach Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or career and technical education courses, \$4.5 million would be set aside for bonuses of up to \$50 per student who scores highly on end-of-course or industry certification exams.
- Charter schools: Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina, a charter school advocacy group, would get \$1 million to launch a pilot program aimed at fostering more charters in rural areas. The group would give out \$200,000 grants to new schools.
- Vouchers: contains \$7 million in additional funding for vouchers for private schools, despite the court challenge to its constitutionality
- Textbooks and technology: The budget would add \$50 million to buy textbooks, for a total of \$74.3 million for books, and \$21 million for establishing broadband access in public schools and supporting the state's Digital Learning Plan.
- New schools: \$2.3 million would go to eight new Cooperative and Innovative High Schools approved by the state last year.
- Doesn't include raises for teachers or school personnel but Leadership says that information will be released late Sunday or Monday.